

Expert Meeting on the Governance of Forests and REDD+ gathers stakeholders in Rome

The UN-REDD Programme, Chatham House, FAO and the World Bank organized the Expert Meeting on Governance of Forests and REDD+, held on 19–20 May 2011, at FAO headquarters, Rome. The meeting drew together a variety of participants, including government officials from donor and recipient countries interested in forest and REDD+ governance; experts drawn from international institutions and academia; national and international civil society organizations; and the private sector.

The meeting aimed to encourage coordinated provision of information and assessment of REDD+ and forest governance. To this end, it launched two new guides to assist practitioners: Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance, emerging from the 2010 Stockholm Symposium on Forest Governance Indicators, led by the World Bank and FAO, and draft Guidance for the Provision of Information on REDD+ Governance, developed by UN-REDD and Chatham House. The two guides offer consistent and complementary guidance for providing information on REDD+ and forest governance, drawing from practical experience and existing initiatives in this field.

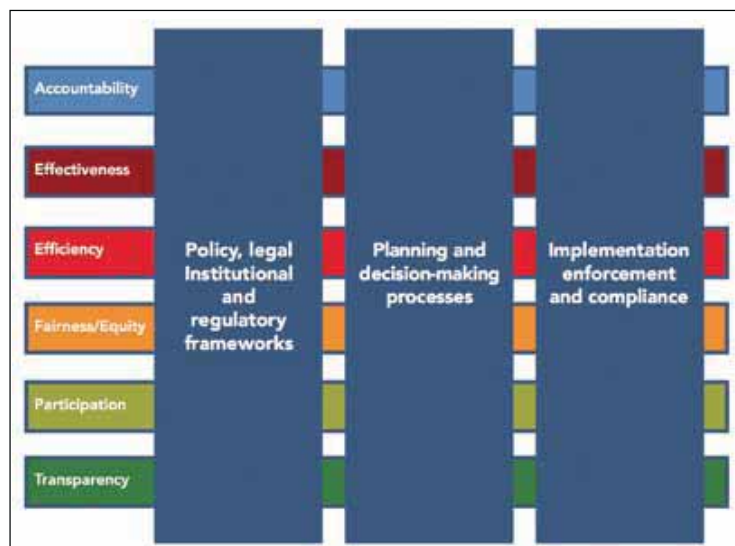
Presentations introduced the documents themselves, and described the relationship between them and how they could be used in a complementary way. Participants were given the opportunity to comment and ask questions.

A key theme of the meeting was to consider, more generally, the governance information needs of different stakeholders, including governments, the private sector and local communities. Users' perspectives were addressed among working groups,

and a separate panel discussion highlighted the work of governments and civil society organizations and explored how the documents would be useful for their activities. For example, Filippo del Gatto, from Madera Verde (Green Wood) in Ecuador and Global Witness, explained how the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance could help his work with the Center for International Forestry Research PRO-FORMAL project in Ecuador, most notably to find identifiable elements ("subcomponents") of local political economy and commodity chain governance, and design indicators for their analysis and measurement.

The main outcomes of the meeting were:

- A significant contribution of the documents is to propose a common language and common concepts for all those interested in assessing and providing information on governance;
- The documents have a wide range of applications, from advocacy work to government-led reforms;
- Ownership, created through participatory processes, will be key to their successful application;
- There are already several opportunities for early use of the documents: Participatory Governance Assessments for REDD+, International Development Law Organization (IDLO) e-training courses, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade of the European Union (EU FLEGT) and REDD+ Facilities, national forest programmes, and the Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research (FOPER) project of the European Forestry Institute; and
- Participants made the following recommendations to the lead agencies:
 - > Further develop the documents, including their dissemination and communication (e.g. through an e-network and/or Web site);
 - > Further analyse synergies among initiatives and encourage coordination between existing tools;
 - > Organize a "community of practice" to collect and share information on country best practice;
 - > Support in-country actions through training, capacity-building and pilot application.

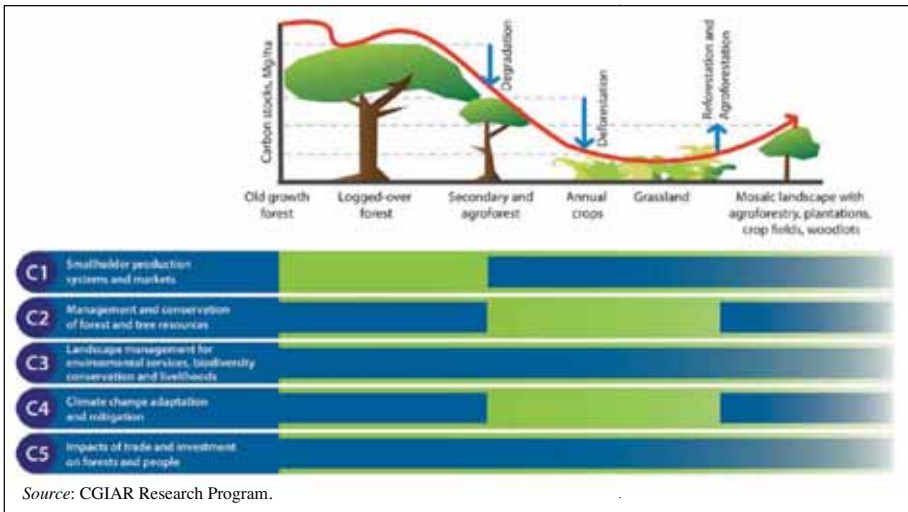


Source: Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance.

Pillars and principles of good forest governance

Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance: www.fao.org/docrep/014/i2227e/i2227e00.pdf

Draft Guidance for the Provision of Information on REDD+ Governance: www.unredd.net/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=5336&Itemid=53



CRP6 components within the forest and land use transition curve

Introducing CRP6, a new approach to forestry research

A new initiative is poised to influence the management of 1.8 billion hectares (ha) of forests. The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has included forests and trees in its new research portfolio and has appointed the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to lead the area. CGIAR Research Program number 6 (CRP6) is Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: Livelihoods, Landscapes and Governance. CRP6 involves partner centres Bioversity International, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture and the World Agroforestry Centre. The programme is based on global comparative research and stands to benefit millions of the world's poorest people.

The initiative will target 46 percent of global forest cover, 1.3 billion ha of closed forests and 500 million ha of open and fragmented forests. It is expected to:

- save between 0.5 and 1.7 million ha of forest from deforestation each year;
- lead to the adoption of ecologically and socially sustainable production and management practices in 9.3–27.8 million ha of managed forests; and
- reduce carbon emissions by between 0.16 and 0.68 Gt CO₂ a year.

Research will target approximately 500 million people living in or close to forests in Africa, Latin America and Southeast Asia, and will contribute to:

- better production and management options that benefit at least 3 million producers and traders and their families;
- increased conservation of tree diversity that benefits at least 2 million producers;
- production and management technologies that raise the productivity of target groups by at least 50 percent;

- the doubling – at least – of incomes from forest and agroforestry products for target households;
- more funding for climate adaptation programmes that benefit an additional 60 million people;
- an increased supply of REDD+ credits worth between US\$ 108 million and US\$ 2 695 million per year; and
- a significant increase in women's access to forest benefits.

Tropical forests are the agenda at the Summit of the Three Rainforest Basins

The relevance of tropical forests in contributing to the livelihoods of people and conserving biodiversity is well known. The three rainforest basins (Amazon Basin, Congo Basin and forests of Southeast Asia) represent 80 percent of the world's tropical forests and are home to two-thirds of terrestrial biodiversity. The countries sharing these resources face similar challenges in finding an appropriate balance among conservation of forest biodiversity,

Heads of States or their representatives present at the summit



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mitigation of climate change and achievement of economic and social development. To overcome these challenges, a sound cooperation among these countries is essential.

The first proposal in this regard was made in 2006 in Bali, Indonesia, by the Government of the Republic of the Congo, followed in 2010, also in Bali, by a proposal by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. To put the proposals into practice – to take stock of what is happening in the tropical forests of these crucial regions and to generate momentum for their sustainable management – the Summit of the Three Rainforest Basins was held, hosted by the Republic of the Congo.

In the lead-up to the summit, three UN agencies were contacted to produce background documents for the summit. FAO and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) were asked to prepare a publication on the state of forests in the Amazon, Congo Basin and Southeast Asia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare a Draft Cooperation Agreement, and the United Nations Environment Programme to submit a Draft Declaration of the Summit. *The State of Forests in the Amazon Basin, Congo Basin and Southeast Asia* stressed that the potential value of the many goods and services provided by rainforests clearly outweighs the benefits that can be obtained from almost any alternative land use. “[T]he value of tropical forest services ...could reach many thousands of dollars per hectare,” wrote Eduardo Rojas-Briaies, Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department and Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of ITTO.

The summit took place in Brazzaville from 29 May to 3 June 2011. About 600 people were in attendance, including Heads of States or their representatives, ministers and media. The summit comprised three segments: the Experts segment, the Ministerial segment and the Presidential segment. Presentations were given by participating organizations on thematic issues related to forest development, including REDD+ and poverty alleviation, green economy and innovative financing for sustainable forest management. The presentations aimed to facilitate a common understanding of critical issues, opportunities and challenges facing the countries of the three rainforest basins.

A review of the Draft Declaration was conducted at the Experts segment. An updated version was submitted to the Ministerial segment, where it was reviewed and finalized. It was presented to the Presidential segment, where it was adopted by the Heads of States or their representatives.

Delegates agreed that there was a need for more consultation among the countries, prior to discussion and signature of the proposed Draft Cooperation Agreement.

Heads of States or their representatives agreed to take concrete steps to promote dialogue and cooperation among their countries and mandated their ministers in charge of forests to prepare an action plan accordingly. A follow-up committee, Bureau de Brazzaville, was set up, led by the Republic of the Congo, and

including the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Guyana, with technical support of the United Nations agencies and WWF. The mandate of the Bureau de Brazzaville is to finalize the wording of the Draft Cooperation Agreement, taking into account the comments and remarks of the experts, and to gain the support of the countries for its adoption at the Rio+20 Summit, at the latest.

The President of the Republic of Guyana, H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo, was nominated to act as a goodwill ambassador of the three rainforest basins.

For more information on the summit and its background documents, see www.3bassinsforestiers.org/en/.

First Africa Drylands Week explores potential for development

“ [T]he trees in drylands sustain the land and have come to mean the difference between living in abject poverty and a sustainable livelihood. ”

Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The First Africa Drylands Week was held in Dakar, 10–17 June 2011, back to back with the global observance on 17 June of the World Day to Combat Desertification. The theme was *towards a global vision and partnership on sustainable land and climate risk management for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative*. The First Africa Drylands Week was a contribution to the International Year of Forests and to the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification.

The event was organized by the African Union Commission, the Earth Institute of Columbia University, the European Union, FAO, the Government of the Republic of Senegal, the Millennium Development Goals Centre for West and Central Africa, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Wallonie-Bruxelles International. Over 17 partners and more than 200 scientists, technical specialists, development actors, NGOs, policy-makers and donors came together to explore the challenges posed by land degradation, desertification, climate change and poverty in the circum-Saharan region.

Field trips showcased desertification issues and projects on the ground. One itinerary took participants to the regions of Kébemer, Linguere and Louga to visit various project sites. Projects included the dune fixation project and its management for tourism, which is being implemented by the Forest Service (Senegal) in partnership with NGOs and private sector organizations, and the Acacia Operation project (see Box, page 66), which was implemented by FAO with such partners in Senegal as the Forest Service, local women's groups, the private sector and local communities.



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Farmer growing beans around an Acacia senegal

Gums, resins and livelihoods

Sahelian countries have been severely affected by drought and desertification, with an adverse impact on important production systems such as cattle-breeding, agriculture and woodlands.

Tree species producing gums generally belong to the Acacia genus, which is spread throughout the African continent, and, particularly, in arid and semi-arid areas. In addition to producing gums, fodder and firewood, Acacia species contribute to favourable conditions for agriculture by protecting crops against heavy rain and wind erosion, by buffering extreme climatic conditions and by restoring soil fertility.

FAO, in collaboration with its partners in Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, the Niger, Senegal and the Sudan, and the Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA), and funded by the Government of Italy through the Trust Fund for Food Safety

and Food Security, successfully implemented the Acacia Operation project. The goal was to support food security, alleviation of poverty, and control of soil degradation in the arid lands of these countries that produce gums and resins. The approach was to strengthen the capacity of the countries to address these problems through the improvement and restoration of Acacia agrosilvopastoral systems, and through the sustainable development of the resin and gum sectors.

Achievements of the project were many. In total, 13 240 ha of Acacia were restored. Agrosilvopastoral systems were established, and gum and resin production improved. Local people were empowered through an intensive capacity-building programme on use and application of technology; establishment of nurseries and plant production; agriculture production; and the harvesting and processing of gums and resins. Information exchange, training, technology transfer and quality control of gums and resins were improved through strengthening the organization and management of NGARA. A ten-year programme for gums and resins producer countries was elaborated.

For more information, visit www.fao.org/forestry/aridzone/62998/en/.

The week featured plenary and world café sessions, as well as working groups. Among the themes addressed were:

- rehabilitation of degraded lands and fighting sand encroachment in arid zones;
- the science and practice of re-greening the Sahel;
- small and medium enterprises – value chain of dryland products; and
- initiatives and processes for sustainable land management (contributing to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).

Building on Africa's successes locally, nationally and regionally, participants reinforced, throughout the sessions, that efforts to address current and future challenges must include an Africa-wide alliance. The alliance should include poverty-reduction strategies, based on the Millennium Development Goals. Strategies should be aimed at transforming local community livelihoods and environment through such best practices as farmer-managed natural regeneration and other agroforestry systems led by local communities; rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forests and lands; integrated soil and water management; sand-dune fixation; and urban and peri-urban forestry.

“ The combined effects of land degradation, deforestation and soil exhaustion are particularly severe in arid and semi-arid lands. They are driven by overexploitation of forests, trees, bush and grazing land, inadequate management of soil and water resource as well as poverty and limited development opportunities and exacerbated by climate change. ...There are many major successes that have already been achieved providing [an] excellent basis on which to build. ”

From the Statement from the participants of the First Africa Drylands Week

The First Africa Drylands Week demonstrated renewed solidarity and unity throughout the circum-Saharan region. Participants recommended the organization of a Second Africa Drylands Week to maintain the momentum and commitment to transform these ecosystems during the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.

For more information on the First Africa Drylands Week, visit drylandsforum.wordpress.com.

Inaugural APEC Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry is held in Beijing

The first Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Forestry was convened 6–8 September 2011, in Beijing. The theme of the meeting was enhanced regional cooperation for green growth and sustainable forestry development.

Participants included all 21 APEC economies, including 9 ministers, leading international forestry organizations and representatives from industry associations and the private sector.

President Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China opened the meeting.

The meeting included discussion on, among others, new opportunities and challenges facing forestry in Asia and the Pacific, wise use of forest resources to improve livelihoods and promote sustainable development, strengthening forest governance and management, and enhancing cooperation to achieve growth for the forest sector in the region.

Recognizing the roles of resource and energy constraints, climate change, loss of biological diversity, poverty and food insecurity, the meeting adopted the Beijing Statement on Forests and Forestry. The statement takes into account the diversity among APEC economies and development needs. Fifteen points of commitment are elaborated, supporting green growth, sustainable forest management and rehabilitation. Among the commitments are to strengthen further political commitment in support of sustainable forest management, forest conservation



APEC forestry ministers unveil plaque commemorating formal operations of the Asia–Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

and forest rehabilitation; to strengthen international cooperation on sustainable forest management; to strengthen cooperation among APEC economies on forest policies and management and to encourage these economies to enhance afforestation, reforestation and tree-planting programmes; and to strengthen outreach programmes to raise public awareness about forest-related issues.

The full Beijing Statement is available at www.apec.org/Meeting-Papers/Ministerial-Statements/Forestry/2011_forestry.aspx.