

Independent Assessment of the International Arrangements on
Forest (IAF): October 2013 – September 2014



Independent Assessment of the
International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)



Extract of the Report
of the Team of Independent Consultants

CLI Interlaken+10 in support of the UNFF
3 February 2015



Purpose of the Independent Assessment

- ⇒ Provides an independent expert input to AHEG
- ⇒ Analyses whether the IAF (in all of its 5 components):
 - Remained relevant and appropriate to its mandate,
 - Secured tangible achievements,
 - Was efficient and effective in its mandate since 2000,
 - Had any impacts on development and sustainability of actions.
- ⇒ Make recommendations for a future arrangement (including some “thinking out of the box”).
- ⇒ 5 experts, one from each UN region;
2 co-facilitators (WEOS, G 77) to link to UNFF11 bureau



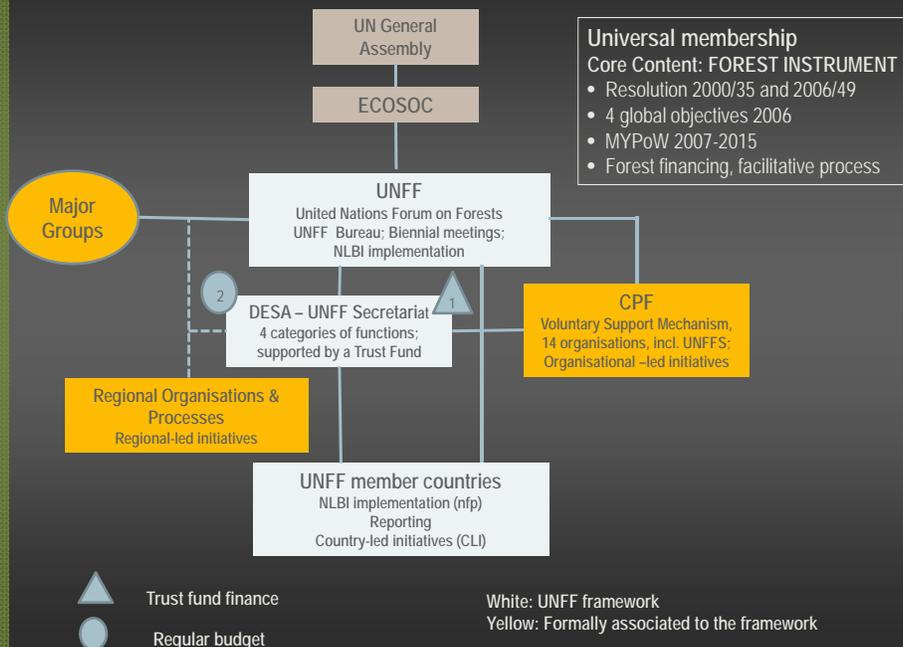
Scope of the IAF

- ⇒ Promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests...
- ⇒ Strengthen long-term political commitment (“to this end”)

Purpose of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)

- ⇒ Promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests, at the national, regional and global levels
- ⇒ Provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development
- ⇒ Facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements

The current institutional arrangement of the IAF





IAF: Achievements 2000–2015 (I)



- ⇒ Promoted a universal approach to SFM (“all types of forests”) and its implementation (FI) →
- ⇒ Upheld interest in a comprehensive view on forests in international development agendas, as well as the Rio Conventions →
- ⇒ Consensus building, dialog platforms (CLIs...), communication →
- ⇒ Supported by a “development-policy” platform with leverage: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) →
- ⇒ Supported streamlining of forest reporting requirements →
- ⇒ Analytical work & outputs on critical forest issues, reporting →
- ⇒ Facilitative process, Sourcebook on forest financing →
- ⇒ Increased interactions with regional level →
- ⇒ Promoted the engagement of major groups →



IAF: Achievements 2000–2015 (II)

Strengths and weaknesses: based on the perception of a party

Milestones:

- Agreement on the **NLBI and the Global Objectives** on Forests 2007
- Formulation and implementation of a **Multi-Year Program of work 2007-2015**
- Integration of forests in the **sustainable development summits** (Rio+10, Rio+20, “*The Future We Want*”, SDG process)
- **Forest finance**, facilitative process – AHEG, GEF5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive, GEF6 on SFM, LFCC/SIDS → No mainstream funding
- **Communication**: International Year on Forests, International Day on Forests; SDGs and other UN processes; (however absence of mention of IAF in the NY Declaration on Forests)

Areas for improvement in the main IAF policy fields

(i) to (iv) as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2000/35)

- (i) Promote management, conservation and sustainable development...
 - Comprehensive understanding on SFM; implementing globally agreed resolutions/guidelines on forests at country level
- (ii) Strengthen long-term political commitment...
 - Engagement for a comprehensive SFM approach (countries, institutions, major groups) and quality of reporting on SFM progress
- (iii) Promote implementation of internationally agreed actions...
 - Stewardship of forests in national policies (economic policies, environmental policies, other sectoral policies)
- (iv) Global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development...
 - Better coordination on forest-related issues ("umbrella" function)
 - Strengthen the institutional framework of a future IAF ("convening")
 - Integrating SFM in the broader post-2015 development agenda/SDG

Main policy challenges to tackle for a future, post-2015 IAF (I)

(1) Implement a global forest policy agenda in support of broader development processes:

- High level policy forum on forests with improved convening power
→ "Assembly", "Special Envoy"
- Member countries' engagement in Policy dialogue + SFM implementation
- Major groups' involvement and engagement
- An efficient and effective UNFF Secretariat
- Financing SFM: upfront; policy and measures; sustained funding

(2) Reaffirm a FI+ and extend it with clear goals to 2030 (SDGs as core)

- FI+ and SDGs (Addendum to the FI and strategic plan)
- Global Objectives on forests (amend, add, define concrete targets?)
- From NLBI to FI+ with improved positioning and understanding.

(3) Strategic (rolling, adaptive) planning (based on SDGs, FI+, GOFs)

Main policy challenges to tackle (II)

(4) Strengthen Science/Policy/Implementation Interface

- An enhanced CPF or a more formal arrangement?

(5) Strengthen Regional Interface

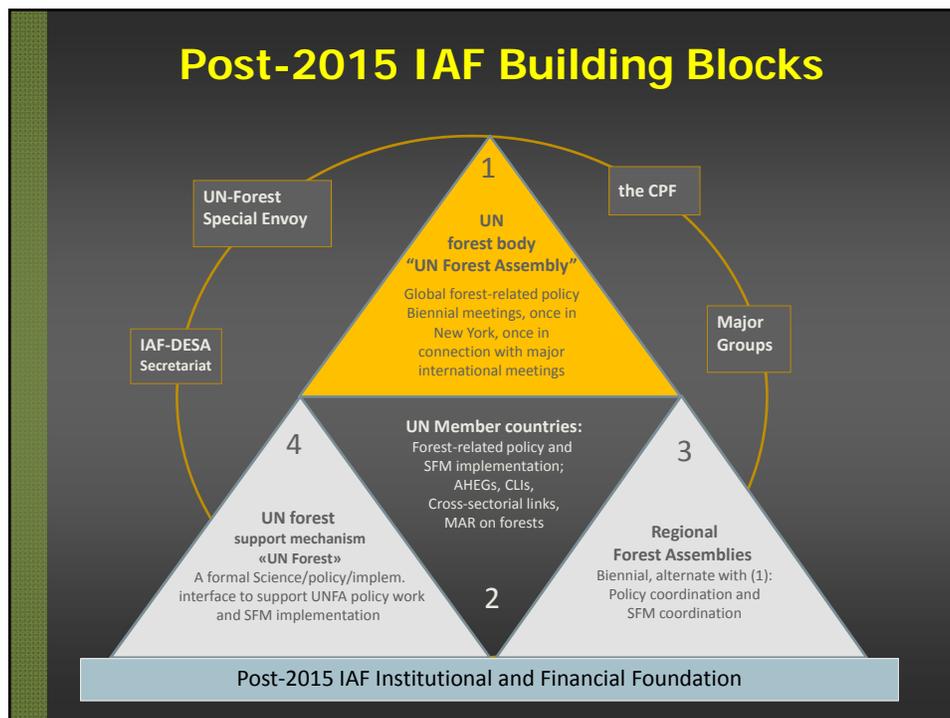
- Regional Liaison for policy and SFM implementation, Facilitative process

(6) Strengthen Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR) on forest policy implementation (FI+)

- Streamlined standardized reporting and data sharing
- Efficient MAR triggers engagement, commitment, funding and achievement

(7) Adequate financial resources

- Linking to new funding mechanisms: REDD+, Green Climate Fund, a funding Instrument linked to the SDGs



Rethinking: the future for IAF → «global forest governance»

- (1) Shift to a more **affirmative** language and approach
- (2) Broaden the conceptual basis of the **land-use “forest”** within the wider landscape →SDGs
- (3) Shift emphasis from preparing resolutions towards **clear commitments**
- (4) Increase **leverage** of a science/policy/implementation interface to improve effectiveness of international forest-related processes
- (5) Increase opportunities for **meaningful participation** by multiple stakeholders



Post-2015 IAF: Forests in the broader development agenda

- ⇒ Comprehensive **Stewardship** for forests in international development/environmental/economic agendas (“policy”) → global forest policy harmonization (“umbrella”)
 - Address the fragmentation of global forest policy
 - More commitment in global forest policy, on all level of sustainability
 - Increased coherence between UN-Processes and others (IAF, UNFCCC, REDD+, CBD, and other initiatives such as NYDF, Bonn Challenge, etc)
 - A clear voice on forests in the UN
- ⇒ Policy support for **SFM implementation** in regions and countries → “sustainably managing all forests globally by the year 2030”
 - Common international comprehension/definition of SFM
 - National commitment for a comprehensive approach of SFM
 - Clear understanding on the use of financing instruments, such as GEF, GCF, FCPF/UNREDD etc and a possible SDG financing mechanism
 - A monitoring/compliance mechanism to support financial options.

