# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 12 Recent developments in global issues and**

## **processes related to forests (2014-2015)**

## **Part 1TranscriptsDuration: 00:13:41**

### Slide/Screen 1:

This is lecture 12, the last one in Module IV, actually the last lecture in this course. It is about the recent developments in global issues and processes related to forests, and I'm talking about the year 2014-2015. Of course as I mentioned before, this will be updated every few years, see what is happening. The idea is that to just inform you as a student user of this course, what is happening in the world now. Let me go back to the first lecture why are we worried about the global issues related to forests? Because this is a small world, it's a global village, you have to be convinced that anything happening at the global level will affect you, your country and the local level. Any job opportunity outside of your own country, even in your own country in the forestry or related fields we need your to be aware of what's happening in the forestry. Gone were the days that people would go and start a joke without knowing really what's happening outside their countries. Most of the foresters and related fields, they graduate from the university in one country, and they work in others, so that's ehy I convinced that anybody working in the field of forestry or related to it should know what's happening outside.

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Well I will start by what are the challenges internationally to forest policy development. We talked about so many good things about the forests, the forests are very important for everything, economic use, bioenergy use, socially, and how can we safeguard the forests, how to implement sustainable forest management, what is needed for that, that's great but the picture is not as rosy as it looks, there are some challenges facing developing a good forestry policy, what is it. I just picked up six of them. First of all, there is a declining political support to forestry around the world. It's not a general thing, there are certain countries certain places, the political support of forests compared to something like climate change, although forest is very important for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, but what you hear is mostly about the propaganda about and it's correct, I'm not debating that but forestry, climate change, biodiversity and so on, and the political support to forest around the world, it is really declining. It's not looked anymore as a source of income, so there is no income to the government if the minister of finance is not getting enough money from a sector, it takes a secondary priority. As I say only in some countries. Other countries, they are on the top of agenda. Globally, forests are on the top of the environmental agenda, so don't be discouraged I just want to refer to this. Also, there are emerging issues and shifting priorities. Countries, there are things coming every day you have something coming, it will take the grammer out of forestry issues, and the priorities of the countries, it changes all the time. Some countries now, they say OK, the most important thing is to feed our people, you know we don't have enough food. Although they may not admit it, but they shift this. All the foreign aid goes to food or health or education, very little is going to forestry. So the priorities shift. You change the government, there is a new priority. Another problem for us in forestry sector is the fragmentation among sectors and agencies. Everybody in the country is concerned about the forests but very few people are doing something about it in many countries, I'm not talking about every country, but sector of forests are sometimes agriculture, environment, finance, social sciences, whatever, and the agencies dealing with these are many in many countries. Also beside the decline in international support, there's a decline in national budget for forest development. Many countries when they do the devolution or they send the central government, put the provincial governments or state governments in charge of the forest, they don't get them the money to manage the forests. So what these states or provinces do, they go and cut the forests to create money, to generate money so that they can manage it. And the national budget also, there is a bit difficult because if it's not showing huge amount of income to the government, they may not have a top priority. Also there is a decreasing investment in sustainable forest management and donor support. There is some fatigue now, not everybody's paying for the forests. And investment if not making money for the big investors, it's not good. They go and visit somewhere else. Yet I must admit also there are so many countries who are socially responsible and they spend a lot of money on forest management. Another problem is challenging we have is the multi-stakeholders in decision making. Forest is everybody's bayg, everybody in the country and globally is talking about the forest. But this could get some problems because there's a lot of conflict of interests between governments, for example, I'm not saying it's a global thing but it happened in many countries. Even in some international forum, you find this conflict in the interest of governments, private sector, the investors, and the people who live in the forest and part of the work of harmonizing or looking at the forest policies around the world,try to get these people to talk to each other in favor of the forest.

### Slide/Screen 3

Let me just use one example which is now picking up a lot of dimensions is the landscape approach. The idea is that, forest cannot be managed or dealt with alone, it's part of the landscape, the landscape what we see around. The definition of landscape is an easy one, we're using a simple one, it's an area of land and the people depending on or relating to it. OK so the land, this is production or management or existing system on the land and the people, so it's the land and the people, that's the landscape. For example you look at the mountains, there is a landscape mountain, there are the hills, river lakes, plants and animals and human elements such as farms, houses, roads and their cultural and spiritual values. See it's a whole component of all from the mountain hills, agriculture and forest land to the people who live in the forest.

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This landscape approach, what is it, how do we approach now, we're moving now as I say the basic principle for this is that forest, it cannot work alone. We have to work with other sectors in a landscape arrangement. So the approach is to integrate policy for multiple land use within a given area to ensure equitable and sustainable use of land while bolstering measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. So we do all of these together, looking at the resources and the people under the idea of mitigating climate change and other things, but climate change is the thing. Everybody is talking about mitigating climate change is going to happen and affecting everybody. So we try to put these under mitigating climate change in order to attract more attention but basically we manage it as a landscape. So the idea again is to balance the competing demands on land by looking at the land holistically, not just the pieces of area in agriculture, a piece there in forest, a piece there as a watershed, a piece there as we are developing a new city, a piece there to allocate it, dwelling for indigenous people and so on. We have to look holistically. And while we are looking at this, we should look at the internal and external variables that affect the land use, because land use is not only affected by what the people need in the same location, there are external factors, somebody coming from outside buying this whole piece of forest and turning it into agriculture or turning it into biofuel production. So this land use is affecting externally and internally, especially when look at it from forestry and agriculture, those are the most two visible sectors or land use systems that we have to worry about. And the problem in the past and continuing for some time now and may continue in the future is to consider that the governments, even the local governments if the population look at forestry and agriculture separately. Now we need to determine in a landscape form.

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You look at the approach again from the historical point of view that within the landscape, the sectors are segregated. And this ice, this fragmentation leads to isolated management decisions. To make it simpler that you have different systems of land use within a landscape, this part agriculture, this part next to it is left as a natural forest, a third part is planted forest. But we look at them, the management of these components, these pieces of land and the people there working on them or living on them are the decision related to these are segregated, it's isolated from each other. Those who plan for the forest part do not talk to the agriculture unfortunately, and the agriculture part do not talk to the people who are there, they don't consider what they want and now this is all changing. So this landscape approach recognizes the interconnections between different land uses and stakeholders and integrates them into joint management processes, that is the idea. You have to look at them as a continuum, as a whole, not as separate sectors. The land uses should not look at them as a whole, and especially the stakeholders and the people, how to integrate them into the management process, let me just look at it again or say it again. You have, in a landscape you have different land uses, and these different land uses and different stakeholders. So there is an interaction between the two. Those who are farming don't worry very much about forests; those who live in the forest do not want to deal with agriculture except to buy their crops or do something like that. But again we need to do this in an integrated management process.

### Slide/Screen 6

Well, why is it so significant, why it is so important? If you deal that with the landscape, you see in the picture even some of the land the grazing land that was burnt, was forest that was burnt and turned into grazing land, that's bad land use, you need the animals, you need the grazing but you need to have some kind of policy to arrange this or to deal with it. Why it's a significant? You look at the opportunities to formulate and implement policies to address global environmental challenges. As I said at the beginning, we put this under the umbrella of addressing global warming, global environmental problems, and because this is the most visible now and we need to formulate our policies and implement them with regard to this, just this should be our background. Also as foresters we must recognize that any action that we deal with the forest, we have to consider other sectors. We cannot do our forestry decision, management decision separate from agriculture, from watershed management, from all of these.

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[End of Module IV, Lecture 12, Part 1]