# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 3 Global effective policies to promote SFM and Linkages between international, national, and local forest management policiesPart B TranscriptsDuration: 00:11:11**

### Slide/Screen 1:

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Second part of this lecture is about the linkages between international, national and local forest management policies. As I said, whatever happens internationally has a bearing on the national policy and even down to the local policy. With sustainable forest management, it is generally internationally agreed that the best way to implement sustainable forest management is to go for multiple purpose approach, which means that you don't look at the forest as a solo source of timber or non-forest products, or just as a forest. You have to manage the forest in a way that it is compatible with other potential uses. So sustainable forest management covers different sectors. It's not only agriculture, it's not only forestry but includes agriculture, water, energy, mining and so on. You have to look at those. Sustainable forest management captures the multiple benefits of the forest. We said that it is based on economic, environmental and social pillars, so you have to look at these multiple benefits. There is economic benefit, selling something; environmental benefits like protecting the environment, enhancing the environmental value or reducing the greenhouse gases, mitigation and so on; and of course the social cultural part should not be forgotten because forests are people. It cannot be treated in isolation. So you look at these parts individually, you are not going to reach sustainable forest management because the results of collective policies to encompass, or to include all these three pillars, it's much more effective than looking at these inside those different aspects of sustainable forest management. You will find this in many countries that there's a policy for the economic use, there's a policy for the environment, there's a policy for social aspects and in some cases they don't coordinate among themselves which does not lead to a sustainable forest management. So the basic unit to implement this is the forest management unit. This could be small or large depending on the country, but it is the basic unit to implement national forest policies. So you have a national forest policy to achieve sustainable, to implement sustainable forest management or to manage the forest sustainably and the national policy but you have to keep in mind that there is interdependency between management strategies at the local, national, and international level. You have to look at the national policy. At your national policy you have to look at the international agreements related to forest. And because if the country's the signature to the international agreement, this international agreement, the elements of the international agreements must be reflected in the national policies. And the elements of the national policies must be reflected at the local level. That's why there is a continuum from international to national to local. Otherwise, if you are locally managing your forests even without paying too much attention to the climate change, your may decide to burn a part of the forest that's not what your country has signed on.

### Slide/Screen 3

So there are so many international agreements as we will discuss later on in details, as you see in the picture, this is a photo I know it's taken in the food and agriculture organization during one of the international meetings related to forest and this is where you get all of the members with the flags there and they are sitting there on discussing International forest issues. So there are certain agreements, treaties, and conventions already signed like the United Nation Framework Convention on climate change, the convention on biological diversity, the CITES is to protect endangered species, the non-legally binding instruments on forest, we will talk about all of these agreements, international agreements later on in this course, you will hear a lot about how are these formulated and how are they discussed and implemented. Bu in any case, all these agreements, all these conventions they come down to the local level to be implemented. In other words, your government may sign, or most likely they have signed the convention on biological diversity with all the requirements all the obligations of the convention. The government signed and your parliament has ratified this so become an obligation that you have to do this work, you have to protect endangered species, for example, animals or birds. You don't protect these in the government office, or in the prime Minister's office because there are no, most likely no endangered plants or no endangered animals live there. What happens is that the government and the parliament of the government sign, the parliament ratifies it then it comes to your at the local level to implement, and that is where the actual value of this agreement would come down to the local level, and the vehicle to implement all these national, international conventions is called the National Forest Programs. In fact in forestry when they agree to do something about non-legally binding agreement, they said the best way to implement it is through National Forest Programs. It's a framework developed by each country, say nationally that's how we're going to do at our national level, and there's a program but it reflects all the international agreements. And as I say, this is the way or the best way to implement the non-legally binding instrument on forest. So you formulate national forest plans or national forest programs or national forest policies, they are all different names for the same thing. Basically want you to take the international agreement and try to domesticate it, try to turn the agreement the closest into national policy programs or activities.

### Slide/Screen 4

When you do this you must have a consensus of the local population. You see in the picture local population, they're looking at what in Guinea, you see the people who are looking at the map government says this is national plan, this is where we are going to implement our forestry activities. And there must be a consensus. People who live in the forest like these people, they must agree that you come and say, this piece of land we will keep it for timber extraction, other pieces are going to be protected, a third piece is going to be a watershed and so on. That is just over-simplification of the plan. But the people who live there must have a saying as we see they are and this process has to be transparent, everybody should know what is going on inclusive, you don't exclude people, you say I don't like this tribe, I don't like this forest community, I don't include it, no would not work, it has to be inclusive and participatory. When you formulate the national forest plan or program, everybody should participate. Participate, not just by being invited to sit down and say nothing, they have to have a say in this plan otherwise they were not abide by. And in order to see if this national plan has been implemented or not, you will go to something called the criteria and indicators, and I think another course in this series is going to talk in details about the criteria and indicators, just to show if the forest is managed sustainably or not.

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The challenges that we have are quite a few, but if we are going to formulate a national forest program to implement sustainable forest management reflecting the international agreements, there is a lot of ambiguity about terminologies, What is national, it's national, I am here in the local area, why should I worry about there is a lot of ambiguity about terminologies, What is national, it's national, I am here in the local area, why should I worry about the national level? What's the program? There is quite a bit of understanding what's the program. Is it a stepwise process of managing the forests, prescriptive one that is the bit about it. Should we get a book to implement without participation, that's also not. So this has to be explained very well to the population. It's not like you get the instructions from the capital to implement. Population should be included and you explain to them what it is to be, why do we call it a national plan when it comes to local implementation and the most important is that you have to talk beyond the forests. Yes, you implement this in the forest, but as I was saying that there is the agriculture sector, food production, there is the mining sector, there is the water sector, there is the energy sector, there is the livelihood and social aspects, there is health of the forest and health of the people, these all have to be included into the national forests program or policy.

### Slide/Screen 6

And finally this is another short list of readings if you want to have more information about what I have been talking about in this lecture, you can consult these references. Thank you and next time we meet for second module.

### Slide/Screen 7

[End of Module 1, Lecture 3, Part B. Thank you for watching.]