# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 6 Non-legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests (NLBI on Forests), International Arrangements on Forests, and National Forest Laws in support of SFMPart 2 TranscriptsDuration: 00:11:49**

### Slide/Screen 1:

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### Slide/Screen 2

Now once we have this agreement back in 2005, ratified by 2007, what can we do at the national level? OK, we have four global objectives that we agreed on as nations under the U.N. and now we take it down to our countries and try to institute measures to make it successful. So they agreed what is the vehicle to implement these four objectives of the treaty. Countries looked at the national forest programs, any national forest policy, program, strategy, any instrument in the country that plans for forests. For sure we call it, or for convenience we call it National Forest Programs and this could be as I say, the planning, the strategy, what else. So these national plans are vehicles for coordination of cross-sectoral policies, that's very important. This means that yes we have a plan for forestry but this is not going to be successful and this we coordinate with national plans for agriculture because agriculture is the biggest consumer of forest in terms of deforestation. People cut the forests to have agriculture, we're not against that but there should be coordination and policies, energy and so on. So there must be some coordination of the national policies. Also part of our national forest programs to develop network of protected areas. Protected areas should not be left alone, they should be part of, if it's a forest protected area, it should be part of our forest national plans. You just cannot protect the forest by zoning it or putting offense around the forest and you go home. No, you have to be managed as sustainably as a forest. Then we have to protect the forests from threats to its health and vitality, that's important. You know you cannot leave the forests unprotected. You can say this is a protected forest which means nobody can go there and cut trees but this is not only that protections by beyond the desk. You have to protect the forest from its health, from all the threats whether insects, fires or whatever. Then we should take environment impact assessments for all the projects that are undertaken in the forest. Why? Because you do a full project in the forest like you build a dam, for example, sometimes these dams would have reverse effects on the forests. They flood the forests, they get the people out and so on. So before we do any major projects related to forest or in the forest you have to do environmental impact assessments.

### Slide/Screen 3

The national forest laws should be revised around the world in order to implement sustainable forest management and international commitments because these are old laws in most countries. Old laws that may not be related to what we're talking about now. This is the integration between economic, social and environment vehicles. We are not talking about, we do not talk about sustainable forest management 20 or 30 years ago. We're talking about sustainably. We get more from the forest on a continuous base but now we have to change old laws and our regulations are by laws to accommodate sustainable forest management.

### Slide/Screen 4

What are the laws that can support sustainable forest management at the national level? We have to orient the laws, we have to modify the laws, we have to rewrite the laws so that they can accommodate local and private forest management because you have this in many countries you have forests owned by the state, owned by the communities or by the sector and we need to harmonize these. We need to look at the environmental function of the forest. Forest is not only to go and extract timber and non-timber forest products. There is an environment function reducing emissions, we should control the fires and so on. Then we have to do our rethink and replan of forest management strategies or forest plans in the light of this agreement. In the past some countries they planned the forest so that they can exploit them to the maximum. Now they have an agreement to reduce deforestation and enhance reforestation and afforestation. Enhancing, increasing the area of protected forest and so on. So it's supposed to be, must be part of the plan. The forest utilization contracts, the new one has to be in compliance with the agreement at the international level. We have agreed that we support sustainable forest management, we have agreed as countries we signed on implementing sustainable forest management and then we have forest utilization contracts, concessions to take care of that. We will have to change our strategies as countries to cater for our commitment at the international level. We have to look at trade, also. You know, we talk about illegal logging, where would these illegally logged forests go? It goes into trade so we have to look at trade as well because trade if illegal, timber is supporting the illegal harvesting or illegal logging so is not only the foresters responsible for that, it’s the trade, the minister of trade, the minister of economics and so on, the customers, the cost guards, all these people are responsible policing, even the Interpol now is part of the, looking at the illegal trade in forest laws. If there's nobody to buy illegally logged timber nobody's going to cut it. OK, so that's the idea. And finally we have to look at the forest tenure regimes. In many cases we implement or decide ideas about sustainable forest management in a forest without really paying attention to the people who live there, who owns the forest. We must look at this very seriously. It's not, if the community owns the forest or the community lives there without owning the forest in some countries, you cannot implement sustainable forest management because they don't own it, why should they care about it so the tenure, the ownership, the management, the community management are very important for success of this treaty.

### Slide/Screen 5

If we are going change the laws related to sustainable forest management based on the non-legally binding instrument that we are talking about, we need to as I say, change the laws and this would require public notice because you can't change the laws on your own, it's not only the parliament to the government to the ministry, you have to notify the people at all the stages. People who live in the forest count the days that the government imposes laws on the people. It's not working anymore so you have to involve the people and give them opportunities to comment on the law. Of course you need to train them, to educate them to some capacity building so that they know what we are talking about. Then we have to have public meetings to discuss these publicly. Again some people may think that this is naive, this is not needed. No, this is the crucial point that makes a difference between successful implementation of sustainable forest management and failure. Because you cannot ignore the people who live in the forest anymore. It's impossible. You can have the best treaty the best convention in the world, negotiate it for 10 years and then will come to implementation without involving the local population that will faill. So that's why you have to discuss this in public meetings and you have to have plans and get the people involved in these preliminary plans. In the new forest laws to implement what are agreed on internationally, you have to have incentives for the private first to be involved there. We remove over-regulations, get the parliament, this is where the money is, this is what the people who are using the forest, the private sector, big companies and they must be involved, they must have some incentives because if you want to implement sustainable forest management, if you want to increase the protected areas in areas owned by the private sector, you have to give them an incentive, you have to give them something in return. If a company owns or has a concession for a million hectares and you want to reserve 12%, 120000 hectares that costs money. The government, the private sector pay for that. So what is the incentive? What is the tradeoff? What do you do to them to allocate this land that they have concessions in or they own even to protect it which means not to utilize it extensively? Then we have to remove the over-regulation that is the goal and so on that we have to make it a little bit compatible with the company policy. Once we have the national laws that comply with or to implement the international agreements, we may need to tweak it, tweak the laws' attributes. You know changing the laws a little bit so that you know where the areas of law enforcement, certification, in order to just make sure that these products are coming from sustainably managed forest and there are third party certifications now and legal verification about the outcome.

### Slide/Screen 6

So this is in general the international agreement on forests that we have now, the non-legally binding instrument and all types of forests. Remember this is all types. It is not only for developing countries, it is not only for the tropics, it's for all types of forests even in the dry land. And then we talk about how to move this from the international level to the national level, what are the means and ways to implement it, what are the obstacles for implementing it, what are the incentives for good implementation.

### Slide/Screen 7

[End of Module II, Lecture 6, Part 2]