# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 5 General principles governing the negotiation process, negotiation in practice, and forest diplomacy Part 2 Transcripts Duration: 00:11:22**

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[Module II: Lecture 5 Part 2]

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### Now if we look at the obstacles for compliance by countries, it's not as smooth as it sounds, when I describe it, it's not this easy. There are so many, they call hack-up or something like it doesn't go right. In most of these cases or these obstacles, are not foreseen or not or when they are foreseen they're sometimes just intentionally overlooked until the rushes of formulating an agreement or an instrument proceeded. First obstacle would be the high cost of implementation. Countries, many countries do not realize how much would cost to implement of an agreement to implement, for example sustainable forest management. If you are going to sustain your forests, of course if you have 1% of your country area in forest, it is not a country with 99% or 80%, there is a lot of costs. Another thing that many countries face is that you agree on something as a country or group of countries, something at the U.N. and internationally and then you try to translate it to the local level to make local legislation to implement it, it may be difficult. Again, you may agree on reducing deforestation by 20% annually, by 15% and then you come to your country and say, OK as a country we need to do this and then you'll find it's very difficult because you need a law, you need a legislation to implement that. A third obstacle is the lack of financial and technical capacities for compliance. Many countries agree, especially the developing countries, even some rich countries they agree on a certain ratify of certain convention and then it comes to implementation and say, this is going to be very very difficult because we don't have either the financial capacity or the technical capacity, we don't have people to implement it. And finally some of the obstacles is related to monitoring compliance as we said in the last lecture you have to monitor compliance. It is not enough that the countries sign on the agreement and then say, OK we are doing this, you have to monitor to see the countries compliance or not.

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### Who is negotiating these things? We call them "the cast of characters”. The cast of characters is not to the government because as I say, it's a sovereign country we are dealing with and the government is sovereign, so they have to deal with it at the government level because it's a national issue. So these are the prime actors, the government personnel, whether the technicians or diplomats, and the government sought what to do. They host meetings and workshops nationally and sometimes internationally to invite everybody to negotiate and discuss, as I say, takes years and invite the local population to participate, the indigenous people and so on to be part of it, this is obligatory by the way now that you have to have stakeholders’ participation and all of these. The government cannot negotiate at all, all the people should be involved, not the whole population or a hundred million or one billion but there are some selected people to represent the communities. Then some governments may provide some financial support for the negotiation during the negotiation process. Even before in the preliminary negotiations, some countries provide money for developing countries to participate in the negotiation. And then some countries when they are negotiating an agreement, they commit financial and technical support, they put this in the budget, before they sign so that they know the parliament is going to give them the money, the minister of finance is going to give them the money. The other major player in this is the international organizations like FAO, the World Bank, the UNDP, the UNEP, all these some of the major NGOs they are part of the process because they have what we call "political cloud", they have connections, they have the technical known help, and they have projects in these countries and they know what is going on, so countries come to them to back up the process and mostly to set the agenda, where to go, how to start and so on.

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Also some of the players are supposed to be the scientists also are doing research. If we are talking about deforestation, if we are talking about sustainable forest management, these are scientific issues and the scientists should be there. You see that I put two question marks because in many cases scientists are not included in this process, unfortunately. So most of these negotiations are, not most, some of them are not based on scientific facts. Then we have the fourth party which is very important, the NGOs, these are very strong and NGOs, we will be talking about them later on. They vary, some very highly qualified, very well-established, and others are just one person or one family NGO. We will be talking about these. Some of them are significant, some of them are insignificant, some of the NGOs are very good, they have very good input in the process, others just go there for, as I say, to be there. And they are important in raising awareness on environmental issues among the population. NGOs are supposed to be working with the people. They take the message from the governments, from the international organization to the local communities, that's very important because most of the local communities are not really worried about environmental issues. If you go to a very poor forest area and there are poor people, and they talk to them about the greenhouse gas emissions, well guess they may listen to you because they are quiet but their worry is about the health, finding food, educating their children and have you know other facilities. So you need NGOs to ensantifice them, make them aware of this process, and on the other hand, many NGOs have a very political pressure, they are quite political, they are very focused, someone of them, they even can, you know, enter and organize governments, we know quite a few around the world, they're so strong that the governments have to be very worried about them and the private sectors as well, they have to push the government to take action, and that's a good job. Then there are other civil society representatives, they are the private sector because they have the stakeholder, you have youth, and you have women, you have so many groups of society that they have an action to be taken to.

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If we talk about the features of the negotiation just very briefly, when we talk about the environment negotiation, there is always a drift between interests of the North and the South, that's very unfortunate but you can see in all the negotiations that are related to the environment. The North would say, OK, you stop deforestation because we want clean air and the South say, you have deforested your land, your countries a lot, and now we can use our forests for economic growth and you're denying us. I'm just simplifying this, but there is always a drift. Then why there is a polarization, why you have the North against the South? or the two camps? This polarization stems from the different distribution of finance. Usually the North is quite rich, the South is not so rich, and those rich, they have demands, those poor countries they have other demands not necessarily coincide with the rich's demands. The natural sources aren't the same. There's a lot of natural resources in developing countries and those countries are aware that not everybody is happy that they are deforesting their land. They don't want to deforest it but it's a source of income, so that's there. Also there is a big difference in technical capacity, most in the North, there is a technical capacity to implement in the South not too much, then the domestic priorities. What are the interests of the people living in the country? Again in the North the interest of the people is different from the South somehow we all live in the same world but there are different priorities. Priorities in developing countries, poor countries, for the people who have to find food and live. In the North there's a lot of food, there is over production of food, overconsumption of food and people don't worry about these very much. Not that they don't worry about the poor people. In fact they do worry about them but domestically, the issues are different. And finally if you look at the negotiation, you live in the negotiation, I lived in it for 20-25 years, find most of the decisions, most of the actions is taking what we call "behind closed doors", it's a informal form. Why? Because when the country sit in front of each other, each country has its flag, so have other countries. Each representative speaks on behalf of his or her country, that's a country issue. When they meet behind closed doors without really what we call, the flag of each country, there's a lot of communication, a lot of dialogues, and it's much easier. So this is the way a negotiation is done. You have a formal session and then you go to an informal session. Informal session there is a discussion; there is a lot of facilitation, there is a lot of negotiation, a lot of bargaining, give and take, and then they come at the end with some agreements that they are same people discussing formally.

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So this is the end of the way that the agreements are negotiated, implemented in general and was some about the agreements related to forestry, in particular we will be following this again. Thank you.

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[End of Module II, Lecture 5]