# 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 1 TranscriptsDuration: 00:11:09**

### Slide/Screen 1:

Now lecture number six, Module II, based on previous lectures four and five, we will give a very good example of the International Instruments related to forest which is the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests known for short as NLBI on forests and we will follow with the international arrangements of forests and the national forest laws in support of sustainable forest management, this is the lecture number six.

### Slide/Screen 2

Why do we need an instrument or a treaty or an agreement on forest? First of all, there is no integral regime that views forests in a holistic way. Forest are scattered all over. We don't have any instrument in forestry unlike the environment climate change, unlike biodiversity, unlike desertification, scientists, all of these they have their own agreements, genetic resources for agricultural and food. We in forestry, we did not have an instrument that brings all of these together. In fact the UNFF, the United Nation Forum on Forests, identified at least 40 legally binding instruments related to forests. Forest is everywhere in about 40 agreements but there's no one for forestry or there was no one for forest specifically. That's why after a long time of negotiation, actually between 1992 and 2005 that there was a global political will, a particular will to a comprehensive multilateral forest agreement to fill these gaps. Finally the countries got together after 17 years of discussions and so on, got together and they say, well OK, let us have an agreement on forests which was a little bit difficult to achieve.

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What is this instrument? This instrument follows the same procedures I described in lecture four and five, more or less the same for about 7 years, no, 13 years of discussions. And finally the United Nations forum on forests in a meeting in 2006 recommended these non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests after the very lengthy negotiation and drafting, discussions and so on. So that means start a game. The UNFF recommended in 2006 after long negotiations to the economic and social council of the U.N. to approve or endorse a non-legally binding instrument of all types of forests in which the Ecosoc took it to the U.N. general assembly and the general assembly endorsed this and issued this agreement as a U.N. general assembly restitution. Why non-legally binding? Because it was very difficult due to the fact as I mentioned before, it was very difficult to have a legally instrument in forests but in actual effect the non-legally binding instrument has the same power, more or less, as legally binding. The issue here is the implementation. So we have the agreement to talk about the implementation later on, but it was very good to have disagreement after very long discussions, and I lead through discussions, this was something that unbelievable because of the diverse interests in forests and related subjects. OK. What are the preliminary objectives of the instrument, the countries agreed on? First of all, we as a forest community, countries, we have to strengthen political commitment and action on sustainable forest management. That's the main objective that we need to have an instrument that its objective was number one to strengthen political commitment and action for sustainable forest management. Then at that time we had the millennium developing goals and some other international policies. So as a forest community, we wanted to enhance the contribution of forests to global development goals. These are goals for global development agreed by the U.N. and we, as a forest sector wanted to contribute to that. Another objective is to provide a framework for national action and international corporation. All the countries, they need the treaty agreed internationally by almost all the U.N. member countries so that they can formulate a framework for national action, national action will be under these general principles and objectives of the non-legally binding instrument on forests and it's a vehicle for international corporation.

### Slide/Screen 4

Then they have decided on, UNFF decided that all the countries, members of the UNFF which are practically all the countries in the world, I think about 297. All these states agreed on global objectives, back in 2005, to be achieved by 2015, actually this year and two weeks in January 2015, there was a big meeting in New York and the UNFF experts are looking at what has been achieved and in May 2015, there will be a review of achievements of these commitment that countries make 10 years ago. Maybe by September when this lecture will be ready, I think we can talk about it. They looked at three “Global objectives on Forests" to be achieved by 2015, that was 10 years ago.

### Slide/Screen 5

First of all, the global objective number one is to reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, means reducing deforestation, including protection, restoration - protection of existing forests, restoration of degraded forests, afforestation - planting new trees, reforestation - regenerating all the forests that had been harvested, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation which is a big problem in the world.

### Slide/Screen 6

Global objective number two is to enhance forest-base economic, social and environmental benefits. We agreed in the first lecture that there are three functions for the forests, economic function, social function and environmental function that's the treaty or the agreement of the instrument, one of its main objectives is to enhance the forest contribution to this including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people. You can see in the picture, these are forest dependent people, communities and one of the objectives of these treaties is to enhance their livelihoods.

### Slide/Screen 7

Thirdly, to increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide because you may recall that countries agreed in the past under the United Nations Convention on biological diversity to set aside about 12% of their forest in state, forest holdings as protected areas and one of the objectives in the instrument on forests is to increase this area worldwide and increase the areas of sustainably managed forest and the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forest. So the idea is to hold the country's plates, although wanted to increase the areas of protective forest, increase the area of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

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Objective number four which is an over-arching objective is to reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management. It's the money, these cost money. Implementing all of these would cost money. The foreign aids or donors of money we have a very diplomatic term for it, we call it "Official Development Assistance", ODA. People don't talk about, you know, donor countries and recipient countries anymore. We don't want to differentiate between those who have the money and those who receive the money. We have a diplomatic decent word we call it "Official Development Assistance". So this has been declining in the last two decades so the idea hoping around the objectives of the non-legally binding instrument is to get the countries to increase this amount of money, they donate to other developing countries. And not only that but to mobilize new money coming from all sources including the governments of the rich countries, including the private sector and everywhere that money can contribute to sustainable forests management.

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[End of Module II, Lecture 6, Part 1]