# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 9 Mandates and activities of forestry-related international organizations addressing forestry issues (Part 2) Research Organizations, NGO’s and others**

## **Part 2TranscriptsDuration: 00:13:06**

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Now we move to non-governmental organizations and just give you some examples. These are the major non-governmental organizations or bodies, let's say. Non-governmental organizations, there is a lot of talk about them now, there's also some facts from NGOs around the world because there are some major ones that once you see on this screen and there are some others, they call themselves NGOs and it could be one person, two person, or one family and it's insignificant. But some of them are very vocal around the world. Some of the NGOs, most of the NGOs, international ones, are very very strong and very well qualified, well in doubt, well with people, resources, human resources and finance, and they have great impact around the world. That's one side, the other side there are some weak governments.

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The one that is very much related to forestry is the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, IUCN. That's very important. There is a new name for it now. It's the first environmental organization in the world, back many many years. It's a conservation network for about 1200 member organizations, 11,000 voluntary scientists and experts, of course most of these are members of IUFRO as well. The current program of IUCN is to mobilize communities working for biodiversity conservation, this are the areas what they work. Biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and poverty reduction in common efforts to halt biodiversity so the objective is to halt biodiversity loss and apply nature-based solutions to conserve biodiversity, it's mainly looking at the biodiversity conservation, enhance resilience of ecosystem, strengthen equity, reduce poverty and in order to improve the wellbeing of the people on this planet. So this is a very noble objective or aim of the IUCN program, but you can see it's covering almost everything related to forest and other sectors.

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There are three areas where they focus their work: Valuing and conserving nature. That is the idea to put a value on nature, it could be ocean, it could be forest, it could be grassland, it could be peat forest whatever. Just put a value and try to conserve it. And this is the heart of IUCN working on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both tangible and intangible values of nature, this is a new dimension that we haven't talked about yet. They put a value on it. If you want to enjoy the forest biodiversity, somebody wants to walk in the forest, go to eco-tourism in the forest, there is a value whether it is tangible you can translate it into money, or intangible that you just enjoy. So the work is, or part of work is to put value on this, not necessarily collecting money but put value. Second program is related to the effective and equitable governance of nature's use, also that's a very very serious business. IUCN is looking at the relationship between people and the nature, right? because natural also, is mainly about people, people live in nature, use the nature, enjoy it and so on. And when you try to use the components of nature, forests, oceans whatever, there's the rights and responsibilities that should go to the people who live near the forest, or in the forest system, as well as the political economy of nature. Nature is not just loose left to everybody to deal with. There's a lot of political economy there, countries, there are institutions and there is money to be spent and earned in this nature. And finally, one of the program areas, the third area for IUCN is deploying nature-based solution to global challenges in climate change, food and development. That is also a very serious business when you look at there are solutions based on nature, nature solution, solution based on what's happening in nature and you from a local or national level, you project this to the global challenges on climate change, which we talked about, and food and development. You see now, you can see a language in international organization. They are combining the challenges to climate change with those for food and development.

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Then we look at another major international organization that everybody enjoys, everybody all hear about, knows about, it's the WWF or the World Wide Fund for Nature, one of the richest organizations in the world working with nature, working with environment, with conservation and so on. That is richer than many U.N. organizations in terms of staff and funds budget. It is the world largest independent conservation organization. It has a membership support. People can be members online, there are more than five billion supporters around the world, and WWF has projects in more than 100 countries around the world.

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The work of WWF evolved over the years from they were starting, there were much more of that, advocacy like Greenpeace and so on. They moved from working and saving the species and landscapes to address the threats and the forces that impact the species and landscapes, so they moved from conserving these to looking at what are the threats, recognize that the problems facing the planet is more complex and urgent, ok. So that's much more realistic, instead of, say let us save the ways, that is very important. Let us save the certain species, great. Let's save the panda that you see here, excellent work but nature is more than that. Actually, there is more needed because we have to look at the threats, not say that they are threatened, but what are the threats that impact these components of the ecosystem and realizing that this is much more complex than simple thing and that's why they look into it. They have a new strategy now in WWF that puts people at the center and organizes work around six key areas, ok. So now they're moving not just the nature, as nature, the ecosystem that the forests, the oceans whatever, they're looking at the people as well, they organize the work around six key areas: forests, marine, freshwater, wildlife, food and climate and look at the combination in, look at the spectrum of the work of this organization. So they are moving from looking at the species conservation and protection to the problems facing them, impacting them and now they organize the work in some very important areas, ranging from the forests, oceans to the freshwater, wildlife, food and climate. The trick here might be that how are they going to work in these comprehensively because it's not used to work on these as individuals.

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Another very famous organization, also very rich. It has a lot of impacts around the world, it's the World Resource Institute. It's a global research organization but not strictly research, it's research and advocacy and providing opinions and consultancies and so on. Its mission is to move human society to live in ways that protect earth's environment and its capacity to provide for the needs and aspirations of current and future generations. It's another ways, it's a modified mission from sustainable development.

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Now we come to another group of institutions working together, it's just like IUFRO but these are international intergovernmental organization, they were, it's called the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, so it's a partnership, it's a collaboration. Collaboration, it's an informal voluntary arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with programs on forests. What happens is that, when UNFF was established and we will talk about this later on, the United Nations Forum on Forests, when it was established in 2001, the decision by the United Nations general assembly based on ecosoc decision was to establish this United Forum on Forests and in the meantime requested the heads of agency at that time was 11 and then became 13, organization to support the work in the United Forum on Forests voluntarily, and that's why these 14 organizations got together. I was one of them chairing this group from the date it was established for 6 years and just to bring the 14 organizations to work together in support of the International forestry which is very great work.

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Other major groups with impact on forest discussions, forest agreements, forest implementation, forest advocacy and so on included. These are groups, kind of accredited by the United Nations to participate in international maintenance. You have the women groups, you have children and youth, then indigenous people group, the workers and trade unions, business and industry, the private sector, also they have the seat around the table, and farmers and small forest landowners. These are kind of the stakeholders in the forestry discussions around the world.

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And this is the end of lecture nine. I've listed the URLs for the seven or eight organizations I mentioned, you can also again visit some of them online and see get more information about their work, see what is latest, remember that this information I gave you in this lecture and the previous one is until the end of 2014, I'm sure by the time you take this course, there would be some new formation and most of these organizations, they produce publications whether in hard copies that you can write for, you can get the book almost all of the them are free, I would say 90% are free, or you can download it from online, the official online. You can see pictures, you can see videos, you can look at their work and also it's an opportunity to look at their sites to see if there is any employment, job employment. They always post vacant posts or positions on their site.

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Thank you, this is the end of lecture nine of Module III.

[End of Module III, Lecture 9]