



UNFF 10 Analysis

Right holders group messages in UNFF 10 outcome

Family forestry, local forest communities and indigenous peoples of tropical forests made a real impact on the outcome of the 10th session of United Nations Forum on Forests.

The session was organised in Istanbul, Turkey from 8th to 19th April 2013 and the theme was “Forests and Economic Development”. One important example of our impact was that family forestry, community forestry, indigenous forest peoples with particular emphasis on secure tenure rights were strongly included in the resolution of the session.

During the two weeks, the International Family Forestry Alliance, IFFA, as well as our partners in the Global Alliance of Community Forestry, GACF, and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest, IAITPTF, were very visible. Representatives from our organisations were speakers in side events as well as in the plenary. The work was recognised in final resolution texts that highlighted the importance of stakeholder participation and secure tenure rights in achieving sustainable forest management.

Our organisations and other Major Groups were welcomed to participate in the forthcoming review of the “international arrangement of forests”, which is the term used to describe how forest politics under the present UNFF umbrella will be managed in the future. This includes civil society participation and how a developed Multi Stakeholder Dialogue will look like. The fruitful CPF collaboration between 14 UN related organisations chaired by FAO is another important aspect for the future arrangement. The new international arrangement of forest will be decided in the next session of UNFF in 2015.

In the future several options will be discussed. One option is to establish a legally binding treaty on forests and perhaps a forest convention. Another option could be to give UNFF a coordinating role within the international arrangement on forests and have legally binding agreements at the regional level. This may perhaps be influenced by the outcome of the European negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe, which may conclude at the upcoming ministerial conference of Forest Europe in Madrid in November 2013.

The whole system of international forest politics may be at a critical juncture with the need for a roadmap for a review of the system up to the next UNFF session in 2015. This review must form a

solid base for decisions made in 2015, deciding the future of UNFF and the whole international arrangement on forests, including central or regional legally binding treaties.

In the discussion some delegates reminded the Forum that sustainable forest management is not only about money, but technology transfer and capacity building as well. This will include communication, education and exchange of knowledge and experience. International Family Forestry Alliance together with its right holder's group partners will have a central role to play to support these functions and enhance the implementation of sustainable forest management on the ground.



Link to the IISD summary and analyses

<http://www.iisd.ca/vol13/enb13187e.html>



Link to UNFF 10 documents

http://www.familyforestry.net/artikkel.cfm?ID_art=3989

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