

REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP ON FOREST AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Accra, Ghana, 28 – 30 January 2002

***A PROPOSAL FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION
ON FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY¹
AMONG THE CBD, UNFF, AND THEIR PARTNERS***

Wednesday, 30 January, 2002

I. Background

SBSTTA 7 of the CBD welcomed the offer of the Government of Ghana to host a workshop to explore opportunities for collaboration among the CBD, UNFF and CPF (VII/6/4). With generous financial assistance from the Government of the Netherlands, this workshop was held in Accra, Ghana, 28-30 January 2002.

The workshop was attended by experts from twenty countries and seven international organisations, two NGOs and one from the Indigenous Community.

II. Overall Conclusions

The workshop recognised that forest biodiversity conservation and sustainable use is an integral and essential part of sustainable forest management. Current efforts to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in forests are inadequate, and forest biodiversity is being lost. Both the CBD and the UNFF have important and complementary roles to address this problem. Urgent action is needed. Collaboration between the UNFF and CBD can strengthen their ability to support and guide immediate and effective action by governments and other bodies. Such collaboration will also facilitate the integration of forest biodiversity considerations in national development programmes, which will be vital for effective implementation of the CBD.

While the workshop focused on collaboration between the CBD and UNFF, it was recognised that there are many other bodies addressing issues of relevance to forest biodiversity (e.g. other members of the CPF, UNFCCC, CCD), and collaboration with these bodies is also important.

The workshop identified a general basis for collaboration, and also some immediate actions that would greatly increase collaboration between the UNFF, CBD and CPF members.

The workshop therefore recommends that:

1. The following basis for effective collaboration to the CBD and UNFF be approved;
2. UNFF and CBD launch collaboration on forests and biodiversity by developing collaborative actions for the items on the list proposed by this workshop but recognizing that other possible areas for collaboration could be added;
3. The four collaborative initiatives on ecosystem approach in the context of sustainable forest management, on cross-sectoral impacts, protected forest areas, and on facilitating integration at the national level especially NFPs and NBSAPs as contained in section III of

¹ A defined by the Convention on Biological diversity (article 2):

this document to the CBD and the UNFF, be considered, further developed and adopted for immediate action;

4. The CBD COP at its sixth meeting invite the CPF member bodies to support the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity, recognising the shared objectives of CBD and UNFF; and

5. The UNFF and CBD convene a small group to review, in two years time, progress in collaborative work, and to recommend future collaborative initiatives.

6. This report be submitted for consideration at the Second meeting of UNFF in March 2002 and to the Sixth meeting of CBD COP in April 2002.

Basis for collaboration

The objectives of the UNFF and CBD are complementary and there are, therefore, significant similarities in the work items that the two are asking countries to implement. The shared objectives and the similarity of work areas provide a strong basis for collaboration.

The CBD and UNFF are different in nature (e.g., one is a convention and the other a forum), generally draw their delegations and implementation efforts from different agencies, and in some cases appear to maintain different underlying philosophical emphases. They can therefore operate in different ways, and influence different areas of work. Collaboration between them can therefore provide added strength to the overall work, by drawing on and exploiting this diversity.

Both entities have a potential work programme that is greater than the available resources. Unnecessary duplication of effort should be avoided, and sharing of effort achieved wherever possible

National level

Implementation of commitments made by countries under the CBD and UNFF mainly involves actions taken within a country. Implementation at the national level to achieve the shared objectives of the UNFF and CBD needs to be increased.

It is clear that achieving greater integration and collaboration between the implementing agencies at a country level is vital. A range of collaborative mechanisms has been used by many countries. These include:

1. joint strategies or policies
2. coordinating committees at political and/or technical levels

National commitment and political will, including through effective governance and adequate financial resources, are essential components to achieve an increased level of implementation.

Regional level

Specific forests, forest ecosystem types and populations of species are frequently shared between more than one country. Cooperation between countries that share these resources is essential. In addition, regional cooperation where there are common management concerns, conditions, cultural and political relationships or other similarities is important.

Existing regional instruments and processes should be encouraged and supported to develop closer collaboration and increase the focus on forests and biodiversity in their work. The international community should increase its support for regional collaborative processes that can, therefore, address forests and biodiversity in an integrated way.

International level

The CBD and UNFF operate at the international level. Areas of particular importance in that respect are to encourage and facilitate implementation and integration at the national level, increasing the financial support for implementation work and making it more effective.

There should be international assistance for the development and implementation of integration mechanisms at the national level. That assistance might include financial resources or technical assistance. It could be delivered internationally or through regional cooperative processes.

At the international level, it is desirable to ensure effective collaboration between the CBD and UNFF². Effective communication in each other's meetings and joint workshops are possible ways to achieve this. The CPF also provides a mechanism for enhancing collaboration on activities addressing common goals of the UNFF and CBD.

Recognizing that much of the work of UNFF and CBD will be undertaken outside a formal collaborative process, a general approach is suggested that both would apply to its work to ensure that (i) the work will positively contribute to shared objectives wherever practical and (ii) the work undertaken in one entity will not adversely affect the work of the other. Possible guiding elements of such an approach are:

1. The work of the UNFF and CBD should promote communication and collaboration at all levels (international, regional, national, and secretariats), including increasing the recognition of the shared objectives and relative roles
2. The conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity are significantly affected by other sectors (e.g., agriculture, road building, mining), and both the CBD and the UNFF should promote intersectoral cooperation between those sectors and the CBD and UNFF.
3. The work of each body should support building capacity at all levels that would support the long-term achievement of the objectives of both.
4. Cooperation between biogeographic and other regional groups of countries with similar forest ecosystems should be promoted by both UNFF and CBD, as a way to build long-term capacity.
5. CPF members and funding bodies should, when considering forest-related projects, ensure that forest and biodiversity issues are fully integrated, and will achieve the shared objectives of the bodies.

The CBD is identifying some potential global priorities (such as protected areas), and could work jointly with the UNFF to promote and facilitate concerted global effort to achieve those. The CPF members could play a key role in this work.

² Note that work of the CBD and the UNFF may be undertaken by a range of bodies or mechanisms. In the CBD this might include COP, SBSTTA, the Secretariat and ad hoc expert processes. In the UNFF this might include country-led intersessionals, work of expert groups and the meetings of the UNFF and the Secretariat. They may also work through the CPF and the proposed CPF Network.

Financing Implementation

Both the CBD and UNFF have a potential work program that is quite immense; and which will require significant resources at the national, regional and global level for effective implementation.

This makes it imperative that existing source of financing through multilateral financing institutions (such as the World Bank, Regional Development Banks, GEF etc.), bilateral agencies, as well as national financing be applied and channeled more effectively. This would require that some of the existing finances be expressly targeted towards the need for greater collaboration and integration of forest and biodiversity programmes in countries' financing and development programmes. In this regard, CBD should look at its guidance to the GEF, and UNFF should invite CPF and its members to ensure these objectives are captured.

The CBD and UNFF should look for ways to facilitate the effective flow of existing resources to forests and biodiversity, and attract new sources of funding. CPF should be invited to explore this issue in a paper, which could also contribute to the UNFF expert group's work on finance and technology transfer.

Attracting Financing: A Proposal for a Consortium³

The workshop also considered the importance of attracting financial support to undertake the proposed collaborative initiatives. Understanding that these initiatives could benefit from broad political support, financial partners and from existing and new sources of funding – both public and private – the workshop proposed that the UNFF and CBD consider innovative financial approaches, in particular through the CPF and the UNFF Expert Group on Finance and Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies.

The workshop further proposed that the CPF be invited to work with concerned/interested parties to develop a proposal, for example a Consortium approach, to attract financing for collaborative initiatives on a case-by-case basis particularly where those initiatives would benefit developing countries.

Proposed Areas For Collaboration

The workshop identified a small number of areas where more concrete collaborative work should be undertaken. Collaborative projects should be chosen by taking into account two factors:

1. Whether the work is a priority for the CBD or a focus of the UNFF; and
2. Whether collaboration would materially assist the work.

The overall aim of collaborative projects should be to facilitate actions that will make a substantive difference for forest biodiversity on the ground.

Collaboration would be most likely to materially assist the work in the following circumstances:

³ The concept of a Consortium is based on approach which would facilitate a group of independent financial partners with a common desire to invest in an initiative

- Where one entity is intending to undertake work on an issue, and may be able to make minor alterations to its process to allow it to provide products of use to the other entity.
- Where the two entities have different approaches on an issue, and that has potential impacts on national implementation. It would be useful to explore further these differences with a view to developing possibilities for synergy.
- Where the two entities are both interested in the same issue, but have different skills, and could jointly address the issue, providing both an increase in overall input and greater overall efficiency.
- Where increased political support would advance the objectives.

The workshop identified the following areas for collaboration. The workshop also prioritised these, and they are presented in the following order resulting from the discussion:

1. Forest protected areas
2. Issues related to sustainable forest management (as the term is used in the UNFF) and the ecosystem approach (as described in the CBD)
3. Integration at the national level, especially NFPs and NBSAPs
4. Monitoring, assessment and reporting
5. Addressing cross-sectoral impacts on forest biodiversity (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, water, industrial development, transport, mining)
6. Valuation of forests and their goods and services
7. Facilitating the development of improved governance, e.g. land tenure, law enforcement, and community based management.
8. Article 8(j), traditional forest-related knowledge and access and benefit sharing
9. Developing approaches for regional/bilateral cooperation on transboundary ecosystems or biogeographical regions.
10. Addressing the relationship between forest biodiversity and climate change.

A number of these items were further elaborated, to identify more specifically the way in which the collaborative work could be undertaken. The result of that work is contained in section III.

There is a range of ways in which collaboration could be carried out. Some possibilities are:

- Technical processes of one entity could draw on expertise from the other, and could provide products for both entities
- Developing position papers for use by both UNFF and CBD
- Joint intersessional processes designed to solve specific problems

The workshop recognised that the CPF member bodies should support the work of the UNFF and CBD on forests and biodiversity and that countries should encourage the members of the CPF to agree to that request.

There are only a limited number of ways in which the international community can support and guide national implementation. These can be broadly represented as:

- Providing financial support
- Providing technical guidance and support
- Increasing political commitment for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

In future identification of collaborative areas, it is important to identify which of these approaches will be most effective in overcoming barriers to implementation.

III. Four proposed collaborative initiatives:

A. Ecosystem approach in the context of sustainable forest management

What to achieve:

The activities as identified in the revised work programme on forest biological diversity as recommended by SBSTTA at its seventh meeting under Programme element 1., Goal 1., Objective 1 (clarification of the concept and development of guidelines for application, pilot areas, C&I, etc.)

- mechanisms to make operational the ecosystem approach in the context of sustainable forest management (SFM)

Mechanism (for the first two activities):

1. a discussion paper developed under auspices of CPF involving: CIFOR, CBD, FAO, IUFRO, UNFF, and C&I processes, and drawing on concrete national or regional experiences
2. inter-sessional country-led initiative under auspices of both the UNFF and CBD, at both regional and global level
 - highlighting case studies and national successes

Timing:

1. Outcome of the country led initiative discussed at SBSTTA8 and UNFF3
2. Endorsement of the concept and the guidelines by UNFF3 and COP7

Impacts on forests: - better management of forests if integrated approach is applied, strengthened multi-functionality of forests

B: Cross-sectoral impacts

What to achieve:

Reduce negative impacts of other sectoral policies on both forests and biodiversity and better exploit potential synergies through improved collaboration among relevant agencies at national level and at international level

Mechanism:

1. UNFF and CBD Secretariats to develop a common position paper for discussion at WSSD in order to ensure that forests and biodiversity are fully considered in the WSSD decisions related to issues such as poverty, health, water, globalisation, finance... highlighting:
 - Examples of negative and positive interactions
 - case studies and best practices
2. Develop guidelines for national and international agencies by a consultant, in consultation with CPF, under TOR co-written by Secretariats of UNFF and CBD
 - identifying ways to combine NFP's and NBSAP's and integrate them into national development plans, PRSPs and NSSDs
 - Discuss and approve guidelines at UNFF3 and CBD COP7.

Comments:

-if you apply the ecosystem approach as an overarching planning tool, you will effectively should have full cross-sectoral integration

-a wide range of sectors should be addressed including eg., agriculture, mining, energy, water, transport, industry, tourism, trade, etc.

Difference to forests:

- positive impacts of other sectoral policies on forests and biodiversity

C. Protected forest areas

What to achieve

Action to significantly increase the effectiveness and adequacy of protected forest areas.

Mechanism

Three proposed collaborative CBD and UNFF activities:

1. A UNFF and CBD intersessional meeting on identifying options for priority forest areas for protection or improved protection through:

- o A review of available scientific and technical literature, data and assessments on the status of forest and forest biological diversity at the international, regional and, as much as possible, national level
- o Sharing countries experiences having identified, establishment, including legislation, and management of protected areas

Who should be involved?

CBD AHTEG experts
FAO
CIFOR
Millennium Assessment
ITTO
IUFRO
UNESCO-MAB
CI, IUCN, WCMC, WRI, Greenpeace
Country-level experts
Indigenous Forum on Biological Diversity

2. Five UNFF- CBD regional meetings on forest protected areas:

- o Assist governments to identify priority areas at the regional level, such as for protecting hotspots, establishing corridors and transboundary protected areas
- o To suggest ways and means including financial resources
- o Identification of opportunities and obstacles to establishing priority areas for protection
- o Sharing countries experiences having identified, establishment, including legislation, and management of PA
- o Built in the context agreed in the intersessional meeting as proposed above

3. Develop and facilitate country initiatives to identify and effectively establish and manage protected areas:

Precondition:

- A consortium of financial and technical partners (public and private) wishing to invest
- Utilisation of CBD and UNFF to promote and facilitate the matches between countries and partners

Elements

- Financial support
- Capacity building
- Needs assessment
- Institutional strengthening
- Technology transfer

Benefits for forests

This activity would provide significant additional protection of ecologically important forests, including old growth and primary forests and fragile forest ecosystems.

D. Facilitating integration at the national level especially NFPs and NBSAPs

What to achieve:

By integrating planning for biodiversity and forests within national planning frameworks, to:

- Enable NBSAPS to effectively impact on sectoral programmes such as NFPs.
- Explore relationships between IPF/IFF proposals for action and the possible elements for a work programme on forest biological diversity

Mechanism:

CBD, UNFF and CSD should build into their reporting requirements questions related to integration, in order to emphasise the importance of the issue and increase national focus on it.

1. Collaboration between the secretariats to prepare collective ideas on how this might be done within their reporting processes.
2. Discussion at the relevant meetings of the entities (COP 6 for CBD, and UNFF in 2004) leading to agreement on how to include this in the reporting requirements
3. Implementation in accordance with the timetables of the entities.

UNFF and CBD will provide information to CSD in Johannesburg on the integration of the two processes, based on information from national reports, this workshop, etc.

Secretariats work together to develop a possible statement, to be considered by COP 6 and UNFF 2 meeting.

Develop a common understanding of how financing strategies for sustainable forest management can include a full consideration of the decisions of the CBD.

1. UNFF working group on finance would discuss the issue as a significant agenda item, and invite appropriate CBD representatives to be involved in those discussions, with the objective of developing a clear process for achieving the common understanding.
2. The common understanding would be adopted by the relevant individual agencies (World Bank, UNDP and relevant CPF members).

Funders (e.g. GEF, World Bank, bilateral aid agencies) should develop transparent procedures to allow them to ensure that any project they fund would be compatible with both the NBSAP and the NFP

1. CPF members who are funders would work to develop procedures for their funding activities and test them.
2. CPF would then identify ways to encourage other funders to adopt similar procedures.

CPF should identify means to provide technical and financial assistance for integration processes within countries.

Multilateral and bilateral assistance for national efforts, through

- PROFOR
- National Forest Programme Facility
- GEF
- Bilateral aid
- Regional cooperation work

Countries should develop biogeographic regional technical cooperation (including sharing of experience, potential voluntary review processes, technology transfer, etc) related to this issue, with international assistance.

Develop a review process to identify impediments to the funding of regional cooperation mechanisms, and to identify solutions to those impediments.

COP and UNFF should call on existing biogeographical regional processes to explicitly address the issue in their work.

To encourage the incorporation of an indicator, under the criteria for policy in any set of indicators for sustainable forest management, related to the integration of NBSAPs and NFPs.

CPF would approach appropriate regional indicator processes to seek their inclusion of this issue in their material.

Benefit to Forests:

The benefit to forests from such an initiative would be a more complete regional and local biodiversity associated with forest types.