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# Asia-Pacific forestry focus

ADDRESSING THE FORESTRY NEEDS OF ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES AND SOWING SEEDS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

## Regional and international dialogue and partnerships

The international forest policy dialogue initiated at the Rio Summit in 1992 gave focus to the importance of managing forests sustainably, an essential element overall of a sustainable development. The dialogue has since continued through the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The UNFF currently provides the central point for international arrangements on forest management worldwide and

for strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management.

Turning international dialogue into action requires the collaboration and support of a huge number of international and regional institutions. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) brings together 13 international organizations to provide support to UNFF. These international initiatives are complemented by a plethora of regional institutions and related commissions.



## IPF/IFF and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) collectively identified more than 280 proposals for action. The proposals aim at promoting multidisciplinary action consistent with the Forest Principles and Agenda 21, Chapter 11. They include measures to be taken at national, regional and international levels. Although most of

the proposals are of particular relevance for action at the national level, they also contain linkages to international forest regimes, which need to be considered during implementation.

Under the partnership for the implementation of the IPF proposals for action, FAO was assigned as the leading agency in four areas: national forest programmes (nfps), assessment

of multiple benefits of all types of forests, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and fragile ecosystems affected by desertification and drought, and impact of airborne pollution on forests.

