

Comparative Analysis of CBD Forest-related Report: FAO, UNFF, ITTO, and UNFCCC

Second meeting of the Collaborative
Partnership on Forests Task Force on
Streamlining Forest-related Reporting

24th-26th February 2003

Forest Reporting under the CBD

- Non periodic; originates after COP decision VI/22 (2002).
- Compliance –oriented; it does not measure on progress made
- Qualitative information
- Two versions:
 - voluntary (comprehensive). For COP 7 (2004).
 - mandatory (abbreviated, used for this analysis) as an integral part of the Third National Report by Parties. For COP 8 (2006).

Forest Reporting under the CBD

Report format based on the Expanded Program of Work on Forest Biological Diversity

➤ Three Program Elements

1. Conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing
2. Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment
3. Knowledge, assessment, and monitoring

➤ Program Elements contain different

Goals : Objectives : Activities

Comparative analysis with:

- *FAO* Quantitative assessment of forest resources (biophysical, socio-economical)
- *UNFF* Qualitative assessment of compliance/implementation of previously adopted activities by countries
- *ITTO* Quantitative/qualitative assessment of progress on achieving sustainable forest management through C&I (producing countries)
- *UNFCCC* Quantitative assessment of changes in greenhouse gas emissions / sinks by contracting Parties

Comparative analysis. I.

Thematic overlap

CBD's Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity

Element : goal : objective : activity

- All 3 *Elements* of PoW on Forest Biological Diversity are linked to specific variables/criteria in all of the examined questionnaires
- At least one Program Element (# 2) had its 3 goals linked to one of the examined questionnaires (ITTO).

Comparative analysis. I.

Thematic overlap

- **FAO:** Mostly linked to Program Element 1
Conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing
- **UNFF:** Mostly linked to Program Element 2
Institutional and socio-economical enabling environment
- **ITTO:** All 3 Program Elements more evenly represented (# 3: knowledge, assessment and monitoring)
- **UNFCCC:** No overlap

Comparative analysis. II.

Overlaps in type of questions asked and their format

UNFCCC, FAO

ITTO, UNFF

LOW

HIGH

- *Degree of overlap in extent and format of questions asked*
- *Potential for streamlining*

FAO data is quantitative, UNFCCC report does not relate to CBD questionnaire

UNFF and ITTO ask questions that relate to specific activities and objectives of the CBD Program of Work on Forest Biological Diversity

Comparative analysis. III. Timing

Temporal differences in periodicity and thematic emphasis across questionnaires (and geographical balance)

- FAO's FRA: 5 and 10 yr cycles (thematically consistent over time).
- UNFF: At yearly UNFF sessions, but a different set of the 16 UNFF elements being reported (thematically inconsistent over time).
- ITTO: questionnaire directed to producer ITTO member countries (not global in scope but thematically consistent over time).

Harmonization-streamlining

- Broad similarities in overall thematic scope. Highest potential for streamlining with UNFF and ITTO based on high similarity with CBD's goals, objectives, and activities within PoW.
- Intrinsic differences in reporting timing. A “one time” reporting event for CBD; other reporting cycles do not necessarily overlap in time and scope of questions across agencies.
 - ▶ *Linkage to data and information that may prove obsolete.*

Harmonization-streamlining

- In the medium term, CBD could refer Parties to existing UNFF's information filled for UNFF 3, both for its National (2005) and Voluntary (2003) reports.
- Future CBD reporting on forests could lead Parties for using linkage tools and mechanisms based on the work of the CPF Task Force.