

MOVING FORWARD

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME 2010–2011





Cover image:

©FAO/Sean Gallagher. Oyuntugs, a volunteer forest ranger and member of the Altansumber Forest User Group in Mongolia, on an outing with her horse. FAO project GCP/MON/002/NET: Capacity Building and Institutional Development for Participatory Natural Resources Management and Conservation in Forest Areas of Mongolia responds to a direct request from the Ministry of Nature and Environment of Mongolia to support the Government's effort to involve the local population in the sustainable management of Mongolian forests with the aim of stopping and reversing the ongoing degradation of the forests of Mongolia and contributing to poverty alleviation through the development of a model of local-level forest management.

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FOREWORD

In this 2012 edition of *Moving forward*, FAO Forestry is pleased to present a selection of the work it undertook in the 2010–2011 biennium for the benefit of the global forestry community.

The FAO Forestry Programme encompasses a vast range of activities and projects, of which this booklet presents only a sample. In all regions of the world, the Programme is helping to implement sustainable forest management and boost the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

It does this, in part, by improving information on forests. In 2010, for example, FAO published another of its acclaimed global forest resources assessments, which has been a key element of its work since the Organization's inception. In 2011 it also released the results of the first-ever global-level remote sensing survey of forests.

Information is not an end in itself but the necessary basis for the sustainable management, conservation, restoration and governance of forests. FAO Forestry is therefore working hard at ground level, too. For example, recognizing the importance of small and medium forest enterprises in food security, poverty alleviation and employment, FAO Forestry is encouraging, with increasing success, their establishment and growth. Acknowledging, too, the important role of forests in climate change, FAO is helping its member countries, through UN-REDD and other initiatives, to prepare for the on-the-ground implementation of REDD+. Promoting the role of forests in water and soil protection, and realizing their significant potential for preventing and reversing desertification, are some of FAO Forestry's other key priorities.

The global forestry community celebrated the International Year of Forests (IYF) in 2011. FAO Forestry made a strong contribution to the success of the year, principally by supporting countries in their communication efforts. Urban societies require increasingly sophisticated communication tools and, among other things, FAO Forestry helped to strengthen countries' capacity to use such tools in forest outreach. High-profile opening and closing events for the IYF in New York and Rome were accompanied by the launches of important publications, including *State of the world's forests 2011*.

Eight regional forestry commission meetings were held in the course of the biennium, several slightly earlier than in the past because of a revision of the work plan of FAO governing bodies. Some, such as that of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission in Beijing, which attracted high-level keynote speakers and an exceptionally high number of participants, were held in conjunction with regional forestry weeks. Forestry governing and statutory bodies met throughout the biennium and continued to make important decisions to shape the work of FAO in forestry.

In 2011 we celebrated the centenary of *Silva Mediterranea* in the unique setting of the Palais des Papes in Avignon, France. Joint activities around the Mediterranean have increased dramatically in recent years, thanks to a partnership, which *Silva Mediterranea* helped to instigate, called the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests.

Indeed, partnerships are increasingly bearing fruit in forestry. As recognized by the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, UN-REDD is one of the most advanced examples of "delivering as one" – a meritorious partnership between United Nations agencies. In the pages of this booklet you will find many other examples of effective partnerships in action.

Sadly, a unique woman who fought all her life for the preservation and restoration of tree cover in Africa, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai, died in late 2011. In her memory, the

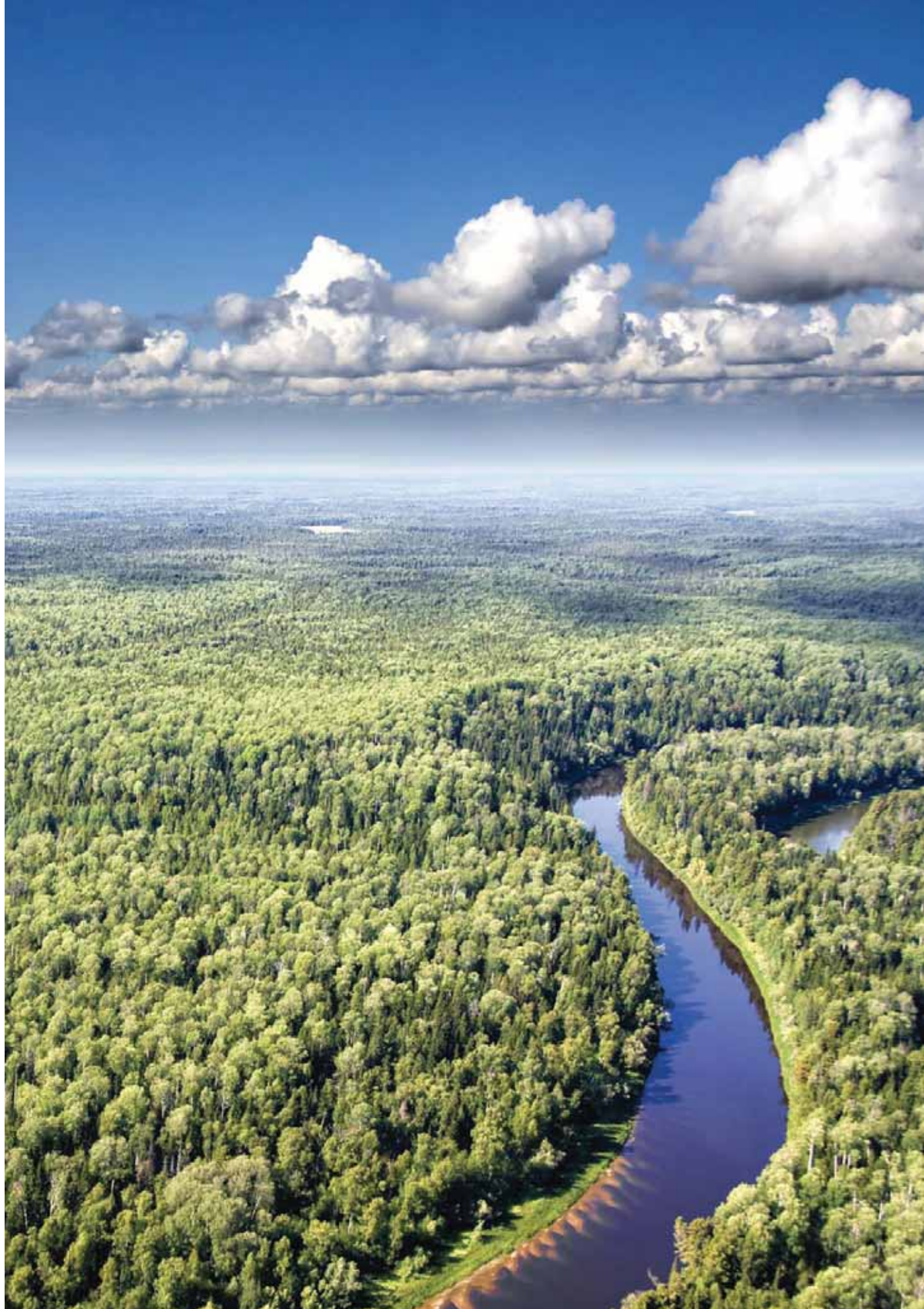
Collaborative Partnership on Forests has established the Wangari Maathai Award, the first of which will be presented during the Twenty-first Session of the Committee on Forestry in September 2012.

FAO Forestry continues to work hard to help its member countries. Its delivery of projects increased by 160 percent between 2008 and 2011; despite growing budgetary restrictions in many donor countries, FAO Forestry is one of the areas of the Organization to have obtained an increase in extra-budgetary resources. A recent evaluation of the FAO Forestry Programme will help strengthen it further.

The achievements described here are just some of the highlights of the work of FAO Forestry. I believe – and a recent survey of country representatives indicates they also believe – we are making a vital contribution to the sustainable management of the world's forests and helping to improve the lives of forest-dependent people. With the help of our partners, we will continue to move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, flowing letters that appear to read 'ER' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

EDUARDO ROJAS-BRIALES
Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department





FRAMEWORK

THE FAO FORESTRY STRATEGY

FAO's Strategy for Forests and Forestry, which was endorsed by the Committee on Forestry in 2009, is aligned with ongoing reforms in FAO and in particular with the Organization's framework of results-based management. The Strategy for Forests and Forestry outlines three global goals for society and six organizational results, which form the structure of this booklet.

GLOBAL GOALS FOR FORESTS AND FORESTRY

1. Decision-making across sectors is informed, better coordinated, transparent and participatory.
2. The benefits from trees, forests and forestry are increasingly widely recognized and appreciated.
3. Forest resources are increasing in a majority of countries and ecosystem services are increasingly recognized and valued.

ORGANIZATIONAL RESULTS

1. Policy and practice affecting forests and forestry are based on timely and reliable information.
2. Policy and practice affecting forests and forestry are reinforced by international cooperation and debate.
3. Institutions governing forests are strengthened and decision-making improved, including involvement of forest stakeholders in the development of forest policies and legislation, thereby

enhancing an enabling environment for investment in forestry and forest industries. Forestry is better integrated into national development plans and processes, considering interfaces between forests and other land uses.

4. Sustainable management of forests and trees is more broadly adopted, leading to reductions in deforestation and forest degradation and increased contributions of forests and trees to improve livelihoods and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
5. Social and economic values and livelihood benefits of forests and trees are enhanced, and markets for forest products and services contribute to making forestry a more economically viable land-use option.
6. Environmental values of forests, trees outside forests, and forestry are better realized; strategies for conservation of forest biodiversity and genetic resources, climate change mitigation and adaptation, rehabilitation of degraded lands, and water and wildlife management are effectively implemented.



ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and the Pacific
APFC	Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
CBED	Community-based Enterprise Development
CBFM	community-based forest management
COFO	FAO Committee on Forestry
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
EFSOS	European Forest Sector Outlook Study
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFF	Forest & Farm Facility
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IYF	International Year of Forests
MA&D	Market Analysis and Development
NFP	national forest programme
NFP Facility	National Forest Programme Facility
RAF	FAO Regional Office for Africa
RAP	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest stocks in developing countries
RFC	Regional Forestry Commission
RLC	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SMFE	small and medium forest enterprise
SOFO	<i>State of the world's forests 2011</i>
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
VPA	voluntary partnership agreement



PROVIDING TIMELY AND RELIABLE INFORMATION

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CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS 2011

The United Nations General Assembly invited FAO to support the International Year of Forests 2011 (IYF), which had the theme “Forests for People”. FAO investment in communicating the messages of the IYF reaped great rewards. For example, an outlay of US\$35 000 in an IYF “spot” generated free air time on international and national news channels worth US\$3.46 million. Videos were produced in Ecuador, Mongolia, the Philippines, Rwanda and Senegal to showcase important FAO technical project work. Other products developed by FAO, such as an application for iPhones and iPads, a special edition of *Unasylva*, and an IYF communication toolkit, helped bring the IYF to life globally. FAO Forestry launched its flagship publication *State of the world's forests 2011* (SOFO) at the IYF opening event in New York. In providing a holistic view of the multiple ways in which forests support people's livelihoods, SOFO helped to deliver one of the IYF's most important messages – that forests make a huge contribution to livelihoods and the alleviation of poverty.

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IN PROVIDING A HOLISTIC VIEW OF FORESTS, STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2011 HELPED TO DELIVER ONE OF THE IYF'S MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGES – THAT FORESTS MAKE A HUGE CONTRIBUTION TO LIVELIHOODS AND THE ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY.

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FAO regional offices also worked to increase the visibility of the IYF. For example, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific displayed banners, started an educational initiative called “Kids to Forests”, and organized the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. The Regional Office for Africa dedicated two editions of the journal *Nature & Faune* to the IYF, and held tree-planting events in Zimbabwe. In Geneva, IYF opening and closing events were held; a stakeholder consultation meeting was organized; a video and several publications were released to help celebrate the IYF; and a tree-planting day was held on Earth Day. FAO Forestry also supported the establishment of forest communicators'



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FRA 2010 HAS ALREADY BECOME AN ESSENTIAL REFERENCE FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE STATUS OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS AND IS BEING USED GLOBALLY TO SUPPORT POLICIES, DECISION-MAKING AND NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING FORESTS AND FORESTRY.

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networks in the regions, including by holding a workshop on the topic in Peru and a meeting on forest communication in China during the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests produced thematic press releases related to monthly themes, mainly linked to United Nations-recognized days. Of the 20 themes, FAO was the lead agency for six: forest and water; managing risks to forests under climate change; forests and tourism; urban forestry; forests and food security; and forests and mountains. At its IYF closing event in December, FAO launched a new publication, *Fruit trees and useful plants in Amazonian life*, a joint production of FAO, the Center for International Forestry Research and People and Plants International, and presented other IYF products.

ASSESSING GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES

In cooperation with its member countries, FAO has monitored the world's forests at intervals of five to ten years since 1946. *The Global forest resources assessment 2010* (FRA 2010) is the most comprehensive assessment ever made of the world's forests. It covers 233 countries and areas for the period 1990–2010, evaluating the status of forests and showing trends in more than 90 key variables of sustainable forest management. Aspects of forests addressed in the report are: the extent of forest resources; forest biological diversity; forest health and vitality; productive functions of forest resources; protective functions of forest resources; socio-economic functions of forests; and the legal, policy and institutional

framework guiding the conservation, management and use of the world's forests.

FAO worked closely with countries and forest assessment specialists in the design and implementation of FRA 2010. The effort involved more than 900 contributors, including 178 officially nominated national correspondents and their teams, an advisory group, international experts, staff of FAO and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and consultants and volunteers from around the world.

FRA 2010 has helped to harmonize definitions and classifications, streamline reporting on forests, improve data quality, increase the transparency of reporting, and boost national capacity in data analysis and reporting. It has already become an essential reference for those interested in the status of the world's forests and is being used globally to support policies, decision-making and negotiations involving forests and forestry.

IMPROVING WOOD-ENERGY DATA FOR BETTER POLICY-MAKING

A major objective in energy policy in Europe and beyond is to increase the share of renewable energy in overall energy consumption: in several countries, ambitious targets have been agreed and incentives have been put in place. Most countries have reliable information on current and expected wood fibre supply and demand for wood and paper products. Wood energy statistics, however, are often scattered between entities and integrated within statistics on other renewables and waste energy, and they typically focus on consumption

and transformation rather than the underlying supply and origin of the fuel. Developing reliable statistics on the sources and uses of wood energy is thus a highly cross-sectoral and complex exercise.

The UNECE/FAO Joint Wood Energy Enquiry is addressing this information gap by providing a framework for dialogue and cooperation between wood-energy stakeholders. The Enquiry generates specific information on the origin and amount of wood energy consumed by different users, helping decision-makers to meet renewable energy targets and sustainable forest management commitments and to reduce conflicts in the use of wood fibre for energy and materials.

The UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section supplements its analytical work with capacity building. For example, with the support of the French Ministry of Agriculture, Food Processing and Forests, the French Ministry of Sustainable Development, and the FAO Forestry Department, over 60 participants from 23 countries and eight international organizations met in Paris, France, in 2012 for a UNECE/FAO workshop aimed at improving wood-energy data for better policy-making. Such discussions and the sharing of experiences are feeding a growing network

of correspondents and experts at the national and international levels that, with ongoing assistance, is creating a continuous cycle of data improvement.

OPEN FORIS: INNOVATIVE SOFTWARE TOOLS FOR FOREST INVENTORY AND MONITORING

As part of its technical support for member countries, a team at FAO headquarters is developing a software application to help implement multipurpose forest inventories. Known as Open Foris, it is the most comprehensive collection of software tools for forest inventory and monitoring to be made freely available to local, national and international institutions for the collection, analysis and dissemination of forest resource data.

The United Republic of Tanzania is one of five countries receiving funding from Finland and technical expertise from FAO in implementing their national forest inventories using Open Foris. As part of the United Republic of Tanzania's comprehensive national forest inventory, field teams organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism have been collecting wide-ranging biophysical, social, economic and management data from more than 3 400 locations through-



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out the country, and thousands of pages of data are now being entered into databases for analysis. Ecuador, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia are receiving similar assistance as part of FAO's support for national forest monitoring and assessment.

Another feature of the software development work is the Open Foris Geospatial Toolkit, which provides a set of advanced tools for processing remote sensing and other geospatial data. The Geospatial Toolkit is allowing countries to link their forest inventory data with data from satellite images and helping to generate in-country remote sensing expertise.

All software tools in the Open Foris application are "open source", meaning that in addition to being free-of-charge they can be customized and extended without outside support or special permission. Such an approach encourages institutions to share their innovations for the benefit of others.

The open-source approach is already beginning to bear fruit. As the Open Foris community grows, the availability of support and substantive contributions from partners is increasing.

IDENTIFYING SCENARIOS FOR THE FUTURE OF EUROPEAN FORESTS

Europeans have high expectations of their forests, which must meet increasing and sometimes conflicting environmental, social and economic needs. Policy-makers must balance a wide range of uses, from biodiversity conservation to carbon storage and recreation, while also supplying wood for energy and other uses.

Sector outlook studies are a major component of the integrated programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission; they map out possible and likely future developments in the forest sector to assist evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making. *The European forest sector outlook study II* (EFSOS II), published in 2011, is the latest in the series of these studies.

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OPEN FORIS IS THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE FOREST INVENTORY AND MONITORING APPLICATION FREELY AVAILABLE TO LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

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The intention behind EFSOS II is to help policy-makers and other stakeholders to make well-informed choices by providing them with objective analysis and showing them the possible consequences of decisions in a structured

and objective way. The report presents five scenarios to 2030: 1) no change in policy; 2) emphasis on carbon sequestration for climate change mitigation; 3) emphasis on wood energy to increase the share of renewable energy; 4) emphasis on biodiversity conservation; and 5) emphasis on the development of innovative approaches. Under Scenario 1, the consumption of forest products and wood energy will grow steadily and wood supply will expand to meet this demand. Forest area is expected to continue to expand, increasing by about 12 million hectares by 2030. In 2030, demand for wood will be 20 percent higher than in 2010, with slower growth in the forest products industry and faster growth in the energy sector.

According to EFSOS II, under all scenarios Europe will remain a net exporter of wood and forest products. Projections also show a steady rise in the price of forest products and wood over the period, driven by expanding global demand and increasing scarcity in other regions.

A range of other studies complement EFSOS II in providing information of use to forest stakeholders. *State of Europe's forests 2011*, for example, is a comprehensive report on the situation and management of pan-European forests and related policies and institutions. Jointly prepared by the UNECE, FAO and the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Oslo in collaboration with the European Forest Institute, the report spans the 46 FOREST EUROPE signatory countries and the European Union (EU) and is the product of work by hundreds of forest inventory

and policy experts. It provides an overview of the status of and trends in forests and sustainable forest management in Europe in the period 1990–2010 and offers a clear picture of the interactions between forests and society.

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THE INTENTION BEHIND EFSOS II IS TO HELP POLICY-MAKERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO MAKE WELL-INFORMED CHOICES BY PROVIDING THEM WITH OBJECTIVE ANALYSIS AND SHOWING THEM THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF DECISIONS.

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THE APPROACH CULMINATED
IN A NATIONAL CONSENSUS
ON PRIORITY AREAS FOR
INCREASING PROGRESS
TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE
FOREST MANAGEMENT.

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REINFORCING POLICY AND PRACTICE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND DEBATE

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SUPPORTING THE FOREST INSTRUMENT

In May 2007, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) adopted the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, commonly known as the Forest Instrument, as a means of boosting the implementation of sustainable forest management and enhancing the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests.

Since then, FAO Forestry has been working to strengthen the capacity of developing countries to implement and report against the Forest Instrument.

A systematic approach to implementing the Forest Instrument was piloted in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines, with support from FAO and funding from the Government of Germany. The approach involved awareness-raising and a participatory assessment of the Forest Instrument's measures. It culminated, in each country, in a national consensus on priority areas for increasing progress towards sustainable forest management, such as strengthening forest law enforcement, financing sustainable forest management and ensuring community benefits. The participatory assessments also included thorough inventories of ongoing forest-related initiatives in the country, enabling a greater focus on the identified

priority areas, including for donor support.

This pilot approach has demonstrated the usefulness of the Forest Instrument as an overarching policy framework for the forest sector and as a basis for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management, with national forest programmes serving as platforms for its implementation. It has also helped to increase the credibility of forest policy processes.

Based on this experience, FAO, in collaboration with the UNFF Secretariat, has strengthened the capacity of an additional 60 developing countries to implement the Forest Instrument and to report to the UNFF on progress.

ASIA-PACIFIC FOREST POLICY THINK TANK

The Asia-Pacific Forestry Week in Beijing in 2011 was notable for, among other things, the launch of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank. The idea evolved in the region in response to the noted absence of a unique Asia-Pacific “voice” in global forest policy debates and because of a strong view that the region should lead rather than be reactive to international developments in forest policy.

FAO has backstopped the process that gave rise to the Think Tank. Expert consultations in Manila, the Philippines, helped to crystallize the concept into more formal action by defining the scope of the initiative and its potential structure. A key aim of the Think Tank is to maximize the benefits of sharing experiences and evaluations – invariably, components of one country's forest policies are suited for adaptation by others, but too often such opportunities are missed and valuable time is lost in “reinventing the wheel”.

Thirty of the region's brightest and best forest-policy practitioners were invited to be foundation members of the Think Tank, and

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the response has been uniformly positive. The Think Tank now has a stock of intellectual capital, and efforts are under way to secure financial support for its work.

The first tangible product of the Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank will be a series of policy briefs, commencing with an analysis of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (known as Rio+20) and their implications for forestry in the Asia-Pacific region. Down the track, the Think Tank will produce detailed multi-country policy studies and provide training for regional forest policy analysts and on-demand country policy assistance.

STRENGTHENING SYNERGY BETWEEN FORESTRY STATUTORY BODIES

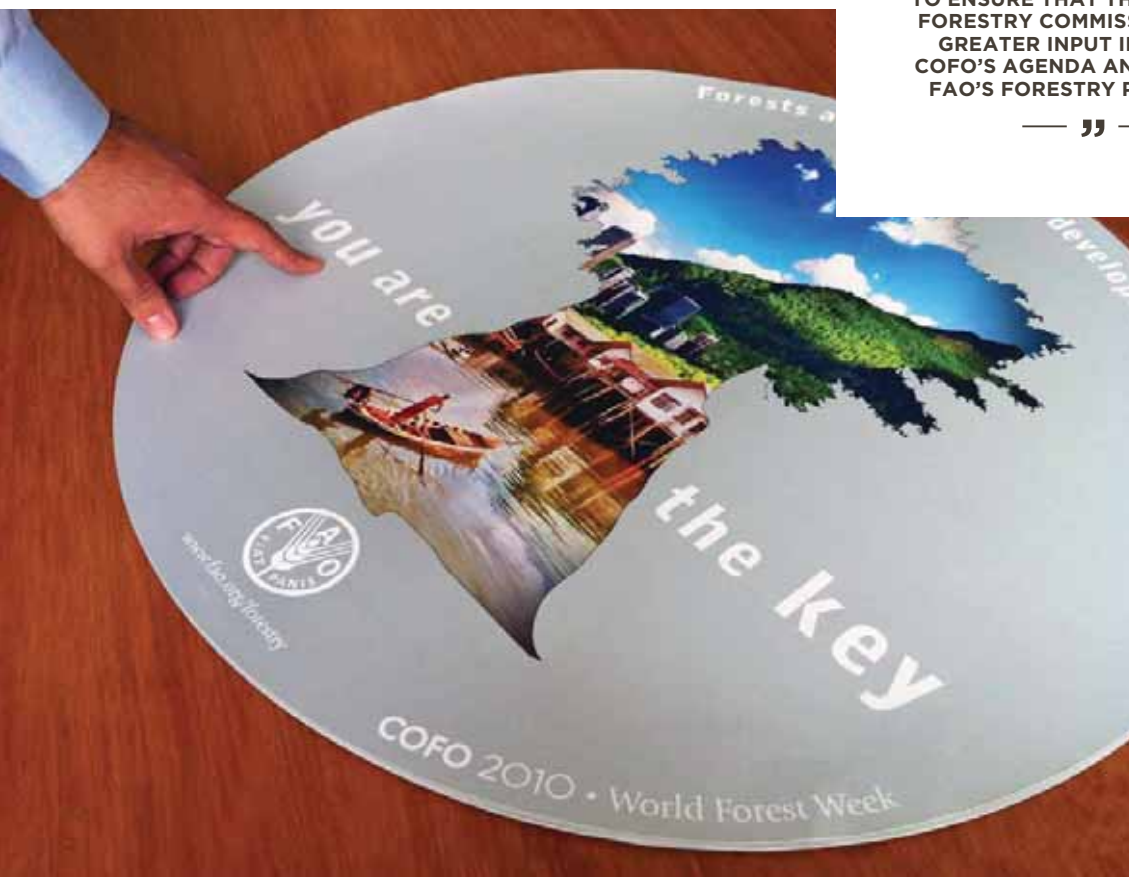
The regional forestry commissions (RFCs) and the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) continued to serve as major fora for regional and global discussions on forest issues during the biennium. The Twentieth Session of COFO was held in October 2010; it attracted more than 640 participants, who were also able to attend over 30 World Forest Week events. That session of COFO made far-reaching decisions, including several that shaped the agendas of subsequent meetings of the RFCs. All RFCs met in the course of 2011–2012, with sessions in Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Near East held in conjunction with forest weeks. The session in the Asia-Pacific region, which had over 1 500 participants, was particularly influential.

One of the challenges for FAO is to enable its various statutory bodies to work together in a way that maximizes the benefits the Organization generates for its members. With this in mind, the Steering Committee of COFO has developed a mechanism to ensure that the RFCs have greater input in setting COFO's agenda and deciding FAO's forestry priorities. This mechanism also acts to keep each RFC informed about and able to build synergistically on the recommendations and priorities of other commissions. The agenda of COFO's Twenty-first Session was developed in this way.

To further align the work of the various bodies, the most recent RFC sessions were scheduled so that they could feed into both COFO and the respective FAO regional conferences. Forests were on the agendas of all the regional conferences, either as part of reports of the regional technical commissions or as dedicated agenda items; the Regional Conference for Europe discussed forests for the first time in its history.

This improved coordination among FAO's various statutory bodies is a major step towards implementing the Organization's new governance structure and achieving greater transparency in its operation.

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**THE STEERING COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY
HAS DEVELOPED A MECHANISM
TO ENSURE THAT THE REGIONAL
FORESTRY COMMISSIONS HAVE
GREATER INPUT IN SETTING
COFO'S AGENDA AND DECIDING
FAO'S FORESTRY PRIORITIES.**
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**FAO FORESTRY HAS DEVELOPED
 GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE
 POLICY FORMULATION AND
 IS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN
 THE CAPACITY OF COUNTRIES
 TO IMPLEMENT INCLUSIVE
 PROCESSES.**
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CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FORESTRY AND FOREST INDUSTRIES

FOSTERING STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN FOREST POLICY

Developing an effective forest policy requires inclusive stakeholder participation in its formulation and implementation. In response to increasing demand for support in this area, FAO Forestry has developed guidelines for effective policy formulation and is working to strengthen the capacity of countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America to implement inclusive processes, including by training trainers, mentoring, and facilitating multi-stakeholder platforms.

In the past two years, FAO Forestry provided technical assistance in forest policy formulation in 12 countries. One of these was the Democratic Republic of the Congo, whose vast forests are highly diverse and play an essential role in local livelihoods but make only a small contribution to the national economy. FAO supported a process to develop an inclusive forest policy by assisting the convening of multistakeholder workshops in

seven provinces and the capital, Kinshasa; a multistakeholder working group established by the Minister of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism helped ensure the transparency of the process. During the workshops, representatives of local forest users (including women and indigenous minorities), local authorities, forest and mining industries and the forest administration expressed their views and shared their visions on forest policy priorities. The process generated substantial information that has been used to develop a comprehensive national forest policy for the country.

SUPPORTING FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE AND TRADE GLOBALLY

The African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Support Programme, which is coordinated by FAO with funding from the EU, is helping to improve forest-sector law enforcement, governance and trade in ACP countries.

3

Since its inception in 2009, the four-year Programme has funded 93 projects in 31 countries (or, in some cases, regional organizations). Under each project, up to €100 000 is made available to stakeholder groups to help them address priority issues related to FLEGT – such as building stakeholder capacity, developing timber verification systems, improving transparency and independent monitoring, supporting community FLEGT initiatives, and reviewing and updating policies and laws. Often, the projects are designed to test approaches and processes that can then be scaled up to the national level.

In Cameroon, the Programme has provided funding to 12 projects that are supporting the implementation of the country's voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) with the EU (VPAs are bilateral agreements between the

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**A RECENTLY-SIGNED
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EU
AND FAO ESTABLISHED THE
EU FAO FLEGT PROGRAMME,
WHICH WILL HELP STAKEHOLDERS
TO PARTICIPATE IN AND BENEFIT
FROM VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENTS AND TO TAKE
ACTION TO IMPROVE FOREST
GOVERNANCE.**

— ” —

EU and tropical wood-exporting countries that aim to improve forest governance and guarantee that the wood imported into the EU is from legal sources). A central component of the Cameroon VPA is the training of local community groups

to enable them to participate in its monitoring and oversight.

A project in Belize is helping a local institution to establish patrols comprising Park staff, police and the military to combat highly lucrative illegal timber operations in the Chiquibul National Forest. In Ghana, four civil-society projects are using resources provided by the ACP-FLEGT Support Programme to define the roles and responsibilities of forest-dependent communities under that country's VPA. The aim is to empower communities to retain timber-harvesting revenue for local development projects and to have a greater say in forest management.

In addition to projects, the Programme is supporting the sharing of experiences, including through workshops to improve the understanding and management of domestic timber markets and increase the transparency of transboundary timber trade in the Great Lakes region of Eastern Africa, and on the lessons learned in the implementation of VPAs in West and Central Africa.

A recently-signed agreement between the EU and FAO established the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, which will support FLEGT in

Africa, Asia and Latin America. It will help stakeholders to participate in and benefit from VPAs and to take action to improve forest governance.

SUPPORTING FOREST TENURE REFORM IN CHINA

When China began granting private ownership of its collective forests to local farmers as part of national agrarian reform, it knew it would be a mammoth undertaking. Nationwide, it involved transferring the titles of 173 million hectares of forest land, directly affecting 300 million farmers and leading to the establishment of more than 100 000 forest cooperatives.

The Government of China invited FAO to join the State Forestry Administration in helping farmers to take responsibility

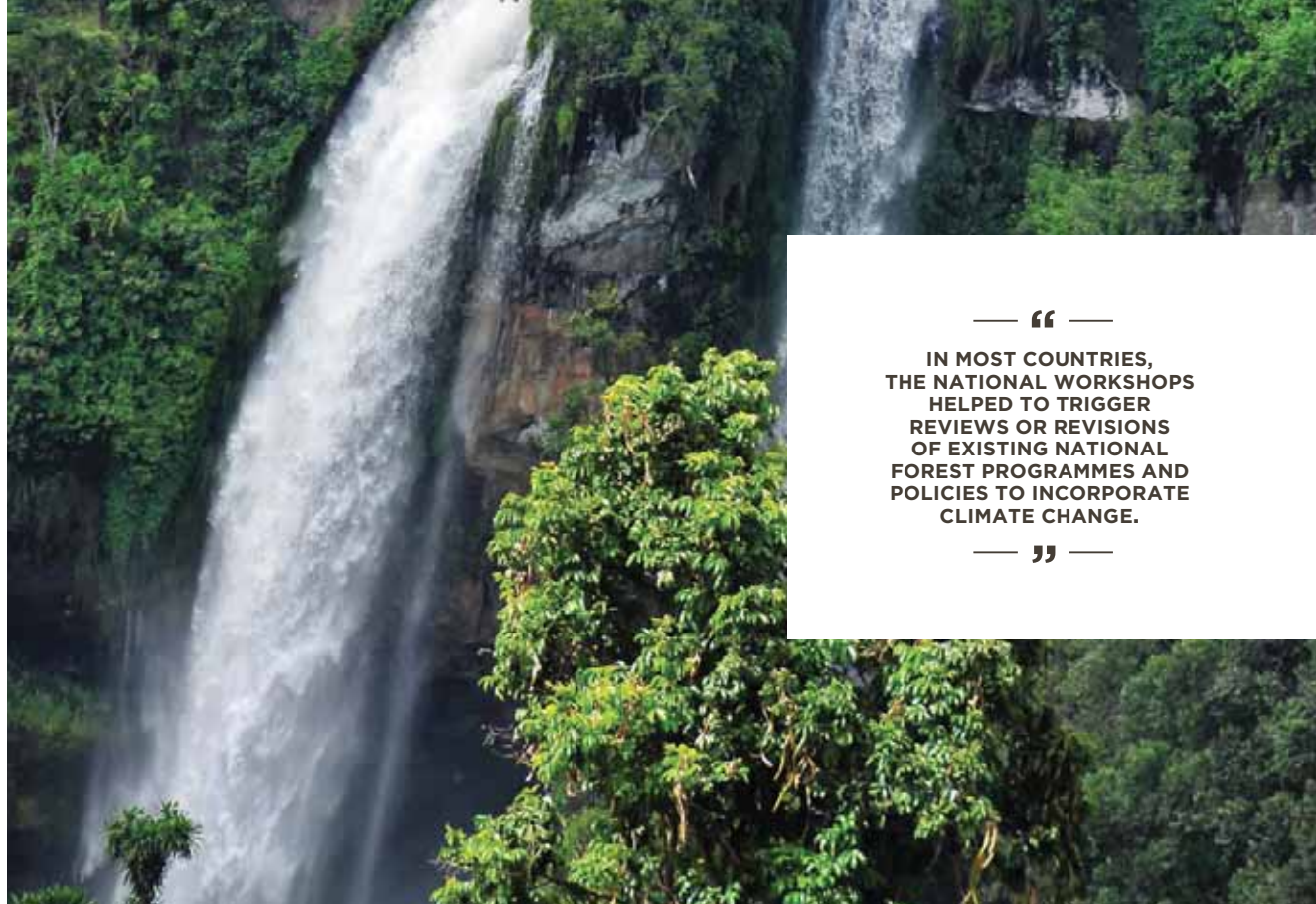
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**TRADING CENTRES
SUPPORTED BY THE PROJECT
ARE ENABLING THE SALE AND
PURCHASE OF FOREST
OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND
FOREST LAND-USE RIGHTS IN
AUCTION BIDDING.**

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for managing forest land. Together they established a forest tenure project, with funding from the European Commission, to impart forest management and marketing concepts to farmers in six pilot provinces covering eight counties, 16 villages and some 300 000 farmers.

Under the project, farmers were introduced to the concept of participatory management and received assistance in building their capacity to establish and manage cooperatives. Local forestry officers were trained to provide guidance to cooperatives in setting up activities such as timber processing and marketing, and more than 1 000 forestry officials, leaders of forest-farmer cooperatives and farmers received training in legal and institutional aspects of ownership transfer and participatory approaches. A mechanism was established to enable officials and farmers to exchange knowledge and information and to learn from experiences elsewhere in China and internationally.

Farmers involved in the project developed and are now implementing their first management plans, which generally involve more tree-planting and improvements in the management of existing forests. Trading



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IN MOST COUNTRIES,
THE NATIONAL WORKSHOPS
HELPED TO TRIGGER
REVIEWS OR REVISIONS
OF EXISTING NATIONAL
FOREST PROGRAMMES AND
POLICIES TO INCORPORATE
CLIMATE CHANGE.
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centres supported by the project are enabling the sale and purchase of forest ownership rights and forest land-use rights in auction bidding, with large screens providing real-time market transaction information. It's a learning process for both the new forest owners and the government officials overseeing the process.

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO FOREST POLICIES AND PRACTICES

In many national forest policies, the critical role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation is still inadequately addressed, despite the widely apparent need for action to realize these roles. Moreover, the cross-sectoral dimensions of climate change impacts and response measures are not yet fully appreciated.

FAO Forestry and the National Forest Programme (NFP) Facility, with financial support from the FAO-Finland Forestry Programme, have been assisting countries to integrate climate change into their NFPs and policy frameworks. As part of this assistance, two regional workshops (in the Congo Basin and the Near East) and six national workshops (in Cambodia, Ecuador, Paraguay, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia) were held in 2010–11. These provided a valuable opportunity for forest stakeholders variously concerned

with climate change, reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+) and forest policy to discuss how to address the interactions between climate change and forests. In most countries, the national workshops helped to trigger reviews or revisions of existing national forest programmes and policies to incorporate climate change. In some countries, the national workshops also had the added benefit of improving the coherence between REDD+ strategies and NFPs. From this process, a document called *An approach for integrating climate change into national forest programmes in support of sustainable forest management* was published in 2011.

FAO and the FAO-Finland Forestry Programme is also undertaking an initiative to support forest managers to take climate change into account in management practices. A global survey conducted in 2011 assessed stakeholder perceptions of climate change and its implications for forest management. It found clear distinctions between regions and stakeholder groups on key issues in forest-related climate change mitigation and adaption.

An assessment of the experiences of forest managers in responding to climate change, also prepared in 2011, found that while some managers have taken steps to address climate change, the impacts of such measures have not yet been evaluated.

SYNERGIES IN IMPLEMENTING FLEGT AND REDD+

Many countries have subscribed to FLEGT processes, especially in Central and West Africa, and REDD+. These two processes have several aims in common: progress towards sustainable forest management, improved forest governance and reducing poverty. To this end, both processes also involve intense in-country work to adapt the policy, legislative, institutional and organizational framework and to take action at the national and subnational levels.

Avoiding a duplication of effort is therefore essential for success, which means taking into account and building on existing forest governance frameworks. In many countries, NFPs are already in place and can support both FLEGT and REDD+.

In 2010–11, FAO Forestry, working with UN-REDD, the ACP-FLEGT Support Programme and the NFP Facility, began identifying opportunities for synergies in implementing FLEGT and REDD+ in Cameroon and the Central African Republic. Areas identified as ripe for collaboration were the participation of, and consultation

with, stakeholders; awareness-raising; and capacity development. Country-specific proposals for suitable joint activities will be discussed with stakeholders during national workshops in late 2012. A similar initiative is planned in West Africa.

Effective coordination between FLEGT and REDD+ processes is a continuing challenge, but the process embarked on by FAO and its partners will help ensure that it happens.

THE NFP FACILITY ENDS, THE FFF BEGINS

The NFP Facility, which is hosted by FAO Forestry, was established in 2002 to support the implementation of NFPs through a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach that emphasizes local participation and the strengthening of national priorities and country leadership.

With a steering committee that provided strategic guidance and a total budget of US\$45 million (from 16 donors, including FAO), the NFP Facility established partnerships with 70 countries and four regional organizations over its ten years of operation.

It distributed almost 900 small grants, three-quarters of which were channelled to civil-society organizations to boost their participation in NFP processes.

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THE FOREST & FARM FACILITY WILL PLAY ITS PART IN IMPLEMENTING FAO'S NEW OBJECTIVES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL, INCLUDING BY PROMOTING A STRONGER ROLE FOR MARGINALIZED LOCAL PEOPLE IN NATIONAL POLICY PROCESSES.

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Openness and transparency in the allocation of these grants helped strengthen NFPs in their analysis, formulation, implementation and monitoring, leading to an increase in country-level democratization, stakeholder empowerment, and participation in national-level policy processes. National multistakeholder fora helped build capacity and foster coordination, public awareness and debate about national forest issues, and they also increased community participation in forest policy development.

In Central America, for example, the NFP Facility provided about 100 small grants (with an average value of US\$25 000), mainly to non-state forest stakeholders to motivate them to engage in NFP processes and to help build trust between government and civil society. In El Salvador, the NFP Facility assisted the establishment of a forum for national and subnational dialogue between forest stakeholders. In Guatemala, the community forestry group Alianza used an NFP Facility grant to develop an incentive programme for forest smallholders, creating and strengthening nine regional multistakeholder forest consultation roundtables. In Honduras, more than 2 000 forest stakeholders were empowered to contribute to the development of new forest policies and laws. In Nicaragua, the NFP Facility assisted in the establishment of a network of practitioners on payments for forest-related ecosystem services. Many other processes around the world bear testament to the way the NFP Facility has helped to strengthen the development of forest policies.

Despite progress, however, independent reviews identified two major remaining challenges: a lack of in-country intersectoral coordination, and the isolation of forest institutions within governments. Significantly, few countries have been able to

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**EFFECTIVE COORDINATION
BETWEEN FLEGT AND REDD+
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demonstrate the broad value of forests in national economic landscapes or to fully integrate it into overarching policies.

With the NFP Facility drawing to a close at the end of 2012, its successor initiative, the Forest & Farm Facility (FFF), aims to overcome these challenges. It will do so by supporting efforts by countries to improve their governance, implement sustainable forest management, increase food security and promote climate-smart agriculture. In this way the FFF will play its part in implementing FAO's new strategic objectives at the country level, including by promoting a stronger role for marginalized local people in national policy processes.

A FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING AND MONITORING FOREST GOVERNANCE

While much work has been done in recent years to improve forest governance, it is difficult to know how much progress has been achieved. For this reason, FAO and the World Bank's Program on Forests jointly organized, in 2010, an international symposium to take stock of the progress made and lessons learned from experiences in developing and applying indicators of governance. Building on this, a group of experts led by FAO and the World Bank developed the Framework for Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance to help describe, diagnose, monitor, assess and report on the state of governance in a country's forest sector. The Framework features a globally relevant and comprehensive list of the major elements

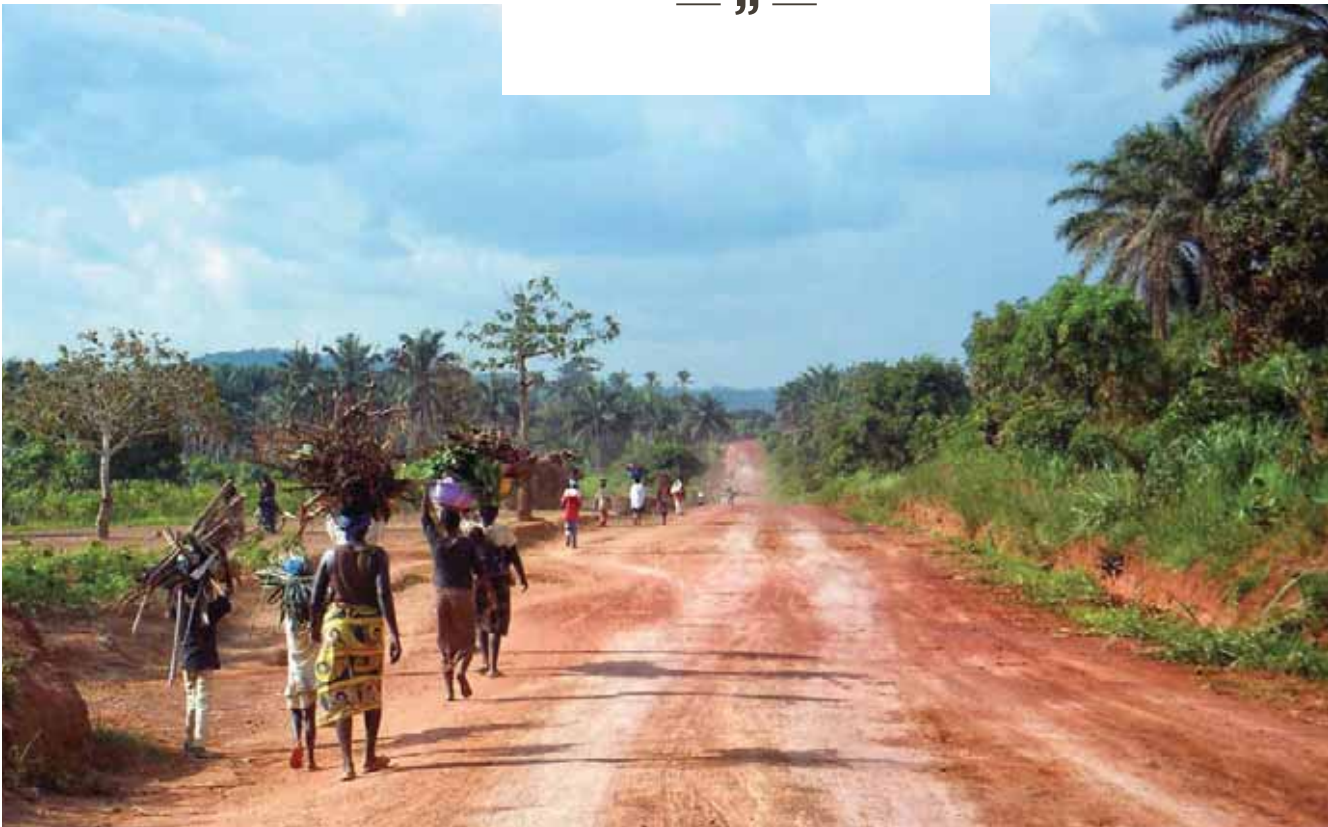
of forest governance and can be used to organize governance-relevant information within and among countries. It also provides opportunities for national discussions on the governance of REDD+ and FLEGT initiatives, as well as on governance beyond the forest sector.

To help put the Framework into effect on the ground – and as part of the FAO-Finland Forestry Programme – FAO Forestry launched an initiative to integrate the monitoring of forest governance in national forest-related monitoring systems. For example, it helped the United Republic of Tanzania to include governance in its national forest resources monitoring and assessment project; this involved, among other things, a representative, countrywide survey of 4 000 households, which included aspects of forest governance. Along with data collected on key biophysical and socio-economic aspects of forests, policy-makers now have a solid base on which to strengthen evidence-based decision-making about one of the country's key resources for sustainable development. Similar work is also under way in Ecuador, Peru, Viet Nam and Zambia.

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**THE FRAMEWORK FEATURES
A LIST OF THE MAJOR
ELEMENTS OF FOREST
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INFORMATION
WITHIN
AND AMONG COUNTRIES.**

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FAO FORESTRY IS LEADING
THE WAY IN DEVELOPING
AND SUPPORTING COUNTRIES
TO IMPLEMENT INTEGRATED
AND COMMUNITY-BASED
APPROACHES TO FIRE
MANAGEMENT.
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FOSTERING THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS AND TREES

4

MANAGING LANDSCAPES AND FIRE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

An estimated 350 million hectares of land were burnt by fire in 2000, causing the loss of many human lives, affecting the health and livelihoods of millions and destroying crops and livestock. FAO Forestry is leading the way in developing and supporting countries to implement integrated and community-based approaches to fire management that tackle both the symptoms and underlying causes of damaging wildfires. In the last biennium, for example, FAO fire management projects using such approaches were completed in Chad, Lebanon, Mongolia, Nicaragua and the Syrian Arab Republic, while projects in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Morocco, Swaziland and the United Republic of Tanzania are still under way.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, the Community-Based Forest Fire Management Plan Project (2004–2012) spanned four provinces and encompassed 65 percent of the country's forest. The project was designed to address the key drivers of wildfire, building

on an understanding that forests cannot be managed in isolation of activities on adjacent land or by excluding local people. The project worked at several levels, addressing national legislation and policy, building the capacity of central and decentralized authorities, and strengthening communities.

Other fire management activities are being conducted, under the NFP Facility, in Benin, Peru and Togo. An FAO publication on the state of the art of community-based fire management was released in late 2011.

A global assessment of recent mega-fires, commissioned by FAO Forestry, was released in 2011 at the FAO co-organized Fifth International Wildland Fire Conference. The report found that, in virtually all cases in tropical and temperate forests, land management and/or land-use actions or omissions (intentional or not) carried significant wildfire-related risks. It also found that the risk of mega-fires was increasing as a consequence of climate change, the vulnerable condition of fire-prone landscapes and population growth, and it suggested that more balanced and compre-



hensive wildfire protection approaches that better integrate fire into land management strategies at the landscape scale will help to limit the incidence of mega-fires in the future.

Awareness of the need for such new approaches to fire is increasing. For example, FAO/Global Environment Facility (GEF) regional watershed management projects in the Fouta Djallon region in West Africa and the Kageera in East Africa have recently made fire management a priority in their landscape-based approaches. In Europe, FAO and its partners have started a process to include North African and Near East countries in the European Forest Fire Information System, a move that should help to improve fire management in those regions.

SHOWCASING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

While the forest experience in Latin America and the Caribbean is diverse, all countries in the region have shown that sustainable forest management is a powerful concept that can help to reduce deforestation and forest degradation while providing employment, improving food security, increasing the economic viability of communities and ensuring the delivery of ecosystem services.

To demonstrate this success, a project designed by Latin American and Caribbean experts and implemented by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the

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**SUCCESS WAS UNDERPINNED
BY STRONG SOCIAL,
ORGANIZATIONAL, LEGAL
AND BUSINESS STRUCTURES
THAT SAFEGUARDED THE
FORESTS AND THE LEGAL
RIGHTS OF STAKEHOLDERS
AND INVESTORS AND
ENSURED THE EQUITABLE
DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS.**

Caribbean in cooperation with the Junta de Castilla y León, the Government of Norway and the FAO Forestry Department set out to find and evaluate exemplary cases of sustainable forest management in the region.

The project invited nominations from 500 governments, non-governmental organizations, local associations, cooperatives and municipalities. In a four-stage process, a set of criteria and indicators was used to evaluate the nominations and choose the best examples. Ultimately, 35 cases in 15 countries were selected and presented in a widely disseminated book published by the project.

The 35 selected cases show that there is no single template for success in sustainable forest management and that flexibility is needed to ensure that the most appropriate tools and practices are applied in a given context. In all cases, however, success was underpinned by strong social, organizational, legal and business structures that supported competitiveness and profitability, safeguarded both the forests and the legal rights of stakeholders and investors, and ensured the equitable distribution of benefits.

PROTECTING THE WORLD'S FORESTS BY IMPROVING PHYTOSANITATION

The combination of climate change and expanding international trade has the potential to greatly increase the movement of forest pests worldwide and their establishment in new areas, threatening forest ecosystems, trade and local livelihoods. According to FAO's FRA 2010, the area of forest affected each year by insect pests alone is at least 35 million hectares, greatly reducing the economic, environmental and social benefits those forests are able to provide.

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**INCREASED INTERACTION
BETWEEN FOREST-SECTOR
AND NATIONAL PLANT
PROTECTION PERSONNEL
WILL RESULT IN IMPROVED
FOREST HEALTH.**
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To help combat the spread of forest pests, and to reduce carbon emissions from the deforestation and forest degradation it can cause, FAO and its partners, including the International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat, have developed the *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry*. The Guide, which was developed through a large, multistakeholder effort, has earned praise from many national agencies responsible for forests and plant protection. To ensure the accessibility of its key messages, an interactive e-learning course – *Good practices for forest health protection* – was developed and has been field-tested and piloted in more than 50 countries. It is available on the web, and more courses are under development.

A considerable communication effort is in place to help put the Guide into practice. Workshops have been held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Estonia and Uganda and at regional events in Asia and the South Pacific. Another workshop is planned for the Balkan states in late 2012.

The workshops held to date have shown that, in many countries, there is an information gap between foresters and plant protection personnel that needs to be bridged. A continuation of targeted international communication campaigns and multisectoral workshops will help increase understanding of the role of foresters in implementing phytosanitary standards and result in improved forest health.

CAPITALIZING ON REDD+ SYNERGIES

Capitalizing on the convening power and technical expertise of three major United Nations agencies¹, the United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) was launched in 2008 to assist developing countries in the preparation and implementation of national REDD+ strategies. REDD+ encourages developing countries to contribute to climate change mitigation in the forest sector through the following activities: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; the conservation of forest carbon stocks; the sustainable management of forests; and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

UN-REDD provides countries with direct support in designing and implementing national REDD+ strategies and complementary support for national REDD+ action by providing common approaches, analyses, methodologies, tools, data and best practices. A major dimension of FAO's assistance is supporting countries to develop national forest monitoring systems – because reliable and transparent information is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of REDD+.

UN-REDD now has 44 members, 16 of which have full-scale national programmes; the remaining 28 are eligible to receive targeted support. The rapid expansion of the programme since its inception in 2008 reflects both increasing demand and growing recognition of the work of UN-REDD at the country level. The UN-REDD team is also helping countries to develop new project proposals within a more inclusive and robust readiness process.

¹ FAO, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.



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THE RAPID EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAMME SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2008 REFLECTS BOTH INCREASING DEMAND AND GROWING RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF UN-REDD AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL.

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**FAO'S COMMUNITY-BASED
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME HELPS LOCAL
COMMUNITIES TO MAXIMIZE
THE BENEFITS THEY RECEIVE
FROM FORESTS.**

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PROMOTING THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUES AND LIVELIHOOD BENEFITS OF FORESTS AND TREES

5

TRAINING IN MARKET ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) often form the hub of economic activity in rural communities, generating local wealth and helping to conserve local resources and indigenous cultures. FAO's Community-based Enterprise Development (CBED) programme promotes the development of SMFEs, helping local communities to maximize the benefits they receive from forests while also increasing the incentive they have to sustainably manage and protect those resources. One of the tools used by the programme to help build the business capacity of SMFEs is Market Analysis and Development (MA&D).

The FAO MA&D training kit, first published in 2000 and now in its second revised edition, is being used by FAO partners in civil society and government in over 30 countries. It provides a flexible planning framework and practical tools for evaluating business development opportunities that strive to balance social, economic and natural resource sustainability needs. The training kit has enabled a shift away from traditional direct project intervention towards a simpler and clearer facilitative approach that enables entrepreneurs to identify their own needs for services.

One example of the successful application of MA&D is a four-year EU-funded FAO project to help mobilize and build the capacity of SMFEs involved in non-wood forest product value-chains in Central Africa, which concluded in 2011. Under the project, 151 community enterprises (40 percent of them managed by women) increased their entrepreneurial capacities, resulting in a 35 percent increase in income for 3 500 beneficiaries. Business support services in the region, including financial institutions, are now better informed about the needs of forest

entrepreneurs and are better connected with them. Decision-makers also have a better understanding of the need for and benefits of creating a policy and regulatory environment that supports SMFEs.

The MA&D approach has also been adapted and applied in projects to develop community-based tourism. For example, the training kit was a valuable resource for the participatory set-up of a community walk in the buffer zone of the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park in Uganda, which is popular for its protected population of mountain gorillas.

In 2011, many of the practical experiences gained under the CBED programme were compiled and used to improve the MA&D training kit, which is now being deployed widely in the field.

HONING IN ON EDIBLE INSECTS

For approximately 2.5 billion people, mainly in Africa and Asia, eating insects is a common dietary habit. Insects have considerable potential to supplement the world's protein needs and provide income-earning activities based on the gathering, farming, processing and sale of insects for food and feed.

FAO Forestry's involvement with edible insects began in 2004, when it set out to document traditional livelihood practices in the gathering of forest insects for food and the impacts of such practices on forest sustainability. More recently this role has developed into a broader-based effort within FAO to address the multiple dimensions involved in the gathering and rearing of insects for food and feed.

In 2010, the Non-Wood Forest Products Programme of FAO's Forestry Department, in collaboration with Wageningen University, developed a draft policy and action plan for FAO on edible forest insects. A two-year field project in the Lao People's Democratic

Republic, commenced in the same year, worked to promote the farming of edible insects, their sustainable collection from wild sources, awareness-raising, nutrition studies, extension, food safety and marketing.

An international expert consultation in early 2012 on the potential of insects as food and feed in assuring food security, again organized jointly by FAO and Wageningen University and with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands, cast further light on the issue. Participants, who specialized in insect-rearing, plant protection and food engineering, exchanged information on the potential benefits of using insects for food and feed as part of a broader strategy for achieving global food security.

With the momentum generated by FAO and its partners, a huge rise in public attention and media coverage can be expected, along with greater interest among FAO member countries in supporting the programme. To help increase knowledge, experts, entrepreneurs and investors will share their experiences on insect-raising and processing techniques at an FAO-supported international conference planned for 2014.

REDISCOVERING WOOD: THE KEY TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

While public awareness of the positive environmental role of forest products is growing, negative perceptions about wood industries persist.

A possible reason for this disconnection is a lack of differentiation, in the public mind, between “good wood” (from sustainably managed forests) and “bad wood” (resulting in deforestation or forest degradation). To help move public discourse forward, in 2011 FAO supported an international conference and exhibition in Bangalore hosted by the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests, as part of celebrations for the IYF. The conference attracted 300 researchers, experts, designers, architects, wood-users and producers from 30 countries, and 5 000 people visited the exhibition to see the woodworking skills of artisans from six countries.

During the conference more than 60 presenters from 18 countries described how wood products can contribute to sustainable development. People seeking to reconnect with nature and traditions are starting to see the many advantages that wood, as a natural product, has over other materials. There was considerable discussion about the cultural and creative dimensions of wood and its environmental benefits, and about the commercial opportunities that are likely to arise as more timber becomes available from increased tree-planting.

The conference concluded that the forestry profession has so far failed to engage with people on an emotional level about wood’s aesthetic and design qualities and the cultural benefits of wood products, partly because of a disproportionate focus on the scientific and technical aspects of

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A CONCERTED PUBLIC
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THE GUIDELINES SEEK TO HELP COMMUNITIES CONSERVE AND DEVELOP THEIR FORESTS AND REDUCE LOCAL POVERTY BY PLACING THEM AT THE HEART OF THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PROCESS.

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sustainable forest management. A second conclusion was that the public hesitates to embrace wood fully because of skepticism about the environmental impacts of forest harvesting. A concerted public awareness campaign on the green credentials of “good wood” would help overcome the misconceptions and encourage the global re-emergence of the art and joy of wood use.

FOSTERING COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Planning, designing and implementing community-based forest management (CBFM) will now be easier for communities, policy-makers, planners and forestry practitioners in sub-Saharan Africa with the publication of *Guidelines for institutionalizing and implementing community-based forest management in sub-Saharan Africa*.

The Guidelines, which were developed by the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF) through a wide-ranging consultative process, were endorsed by experts at a RAF-hosted meeting in 2011. They build on two decades of progress towards CBFM driven by the democratization of natural resource management and the realization that managing natural resources without the engagement of local people is futile. The Guidelines seek to help communities conserve and develop their forests and reduce local poverty by placing them at the heart of the forest management process.

The Guidelines include the following:

- recognition of the inherent rights of forest-dependent communities, and ensuring they benefit from forests;
- the range of possible Community Forestry approaches, such as joint forest management, social forestry and collaborative forest management;
- lessons learned from Africa’s experience, ranging from the positive – such as reversed forest degradation, increased afforestation efforts, and the emergence of strong local institutions – to the negative, such as the destabilizing impacts of forest fragmentation and conflicts;
- key elements for success, such as a transformative institutional environment, clearly defined resource property rights, access to markets and finance, and a long-term commitment from all stakeholders.

The Guidelines also provide a practical approach to the implementation of the Committee on World Food Security-endorsed *Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of the tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of food security*.

USING GEF FUNDS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITIES

Funds flowing from a 2006 decision to grant FAO direct access to the GEF are being used to help conserve lowland tropical rainforest in Fiji and generate exciting new development opportunities for local landowners.

Since 2006, US\$29.5 million of FAO GEF-sourced funds has helped finance eight projects in 14 countries in Africa, the Near East, South America and Asia and the Pacific, principally for forest biodiversity conservation. The projects are supporting activities such as legislative and policy reforms, training, monitoring and assessment, human-wildlife conflict management and the development of financing strategies.

In Fiji, FAO and the GEF are backing the creation of an endowment fund to conserve the Sovi Basin, one of the country's largest and most biologically diverse areas of lowland tropical forest, covering some 19 600 hectares.

To date, the Fiji Water Company and Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund have donated US\$3.75 million to the endowment fund, and FAO/GEF has contributed US\$225 000.

In a national first, the Sovi Basin protected area has been leased from the local landowning communities, which receive payments and other development benefits in return for conserving the area. Landowners can continue their traditional food-gathering and fishing practices – so food security is not compromised – and are employed to manage the area. The potential for ecotourism in the area is high, offering landowners another possible income stream.

FAO is also helping other areas in Fiji, as well as in Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu, to raise funds for conservation and protected-area management through, for example, ecotourism development, payments for ecosystem services, and environmental levies.

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**IN FIJI, THE SOVI BASIN
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BENEFITS IN RETURN FOR
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THE PILOT PROJECT WILL BE
EXPANDED TO INCLUDE
ETHIOPIA AND NIGERIA AND SCALED
UP TO A COMPREHENSIVE TEN-YEAR
PROGRAMME THAT WILL BECOME
PART OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL
FOR THE SAHARA AND THE SAHEL
INITIATIVE.
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PROMOTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES OF FORESTS, TREES OUTSIDE FORESTS AND FORESTRY

BOOSTING FOOD SECURITY AND TACKLING SOIL DEGRADATION IN THE SAHEL

By deploying acacia tree species, introducing new rainwater harvesting technologies and empowering local people, particularly women, a pilot project funded by the Italian Trust Fund for Food Safety and Food Security and implemented by FAO and other partners has restored more than 13 000 hectares of degraded land, helped arrest desertification, and improved livelihoods.

The Acacia Operation project was implemented in six sub-Saharan gum- and resin-producing countries – Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, the Niger, Senegal and the Sudan. Using participatory approaches it helped build capacity in local communities to restore degraded acacia agrosylvopastoral systems and improve the sustainability of resin and gum production. Innovations tested by the project included the Vallerani mechanized water-harvesting system, nursery establish-

ment and plant production processes, and improved agricultural and gum- and resin-harvesting and processing practices. The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa, which has 15 member countries, was also strengthened through resource assessment, training programmes and information-sharing and outreach.

Pending funding, the pilot project will now be expanded to include Ethiopia and Nigeria and scaled up to a comprehensive ten-year programme that will become part of the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

The Acacia Operation project has shown that a combination of soil and water conservation and rehabilitation techniques and the use of acacia species – with their many roles in, for example, soil fertility and the production of gum, fuelwood and fodder – can help people in the Sahel engage in practices that will increase their adaptability in the face of climate change and improve their food security.

6

REDUCING DISASTER RISK THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

In the aftermath of a devastating earthquake in Pakistan in 2005, in which 80 000 people were killed and 3 million people were directly affected, FAO Forestry took part in a massive rehabilitation project in 17 earthquake-affected watersheds.

Implemented in close collaboration with district forest offices in Pakistan and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the project used a landscape approach to introduce – through

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IN A REVERSAL OF TRADITIONAL PLANNING PROCESSES, COMMUNITIES WERE ENABLED, THROUGH THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES, TO PLAN AND PRIORITIZE THEIR ACTIVITIES, WHILE DISTRICT FOREST OFFICES AND OTHER LINE AGENCIES SUPPORTED IMPLEMENTATION.

village-level collaborative watershed management committees – measures to promote slope stabilization and forest regeneration, establish tree nurseries and fruit tree orchards, repair irrigation channels and agricultural terraces, and improve livestock health and kitchen gardening.

The project, which spanned four years to 2011, also featured an exciting institutional innovation. In a reversal of traditional planning processes, communities were enabled, through the watershed management committees, to plan and prioritize their activities, while district forest offices and other line agencies supported implementation. This participatory landscape approach has increased the resilience of local communities in dealing with natural disasters and removed a culture of dependency on external aid. The positive change to both the environment and communities was apparent during floods in July 2010: communities supported by the project were well-prepared to cope with the disaster, and flood damage in the project watersheds was comparatively low because of the protection afforded by the newly restored forests. The communities feel ownership of the improvement in both their environment and livelihoods and now have a collective voice with which to seek future support.

GLOBAL ATTENTION ON LANDSLIDES

The Second World Landslide Forum, hosted by FAO under the organizational umbrella of the Global Promotion Committee of the International Programme on Landslides, put landslides at the centre of world attention

in 2011. It brought together 700 key world players in landslide risk reduction, including researchers, engineers and end-users, to highlight the importance of livelihoods and food security in landscape and multi-hazard approaches. In particular, the Forestry Department's session on Landslides, Land-Use Systems and Food Security focused on the centrality of livelihood factors in disaster risk management.

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THE FORUM BROUGHT TOGETHER 700 KEY WORLD PLAYERS TO HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY IN LANDSCAPE AND MULTI-HAZARD APPROACHES.

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CLIMATE CHANGE IN MOUNTAIN REGIONS

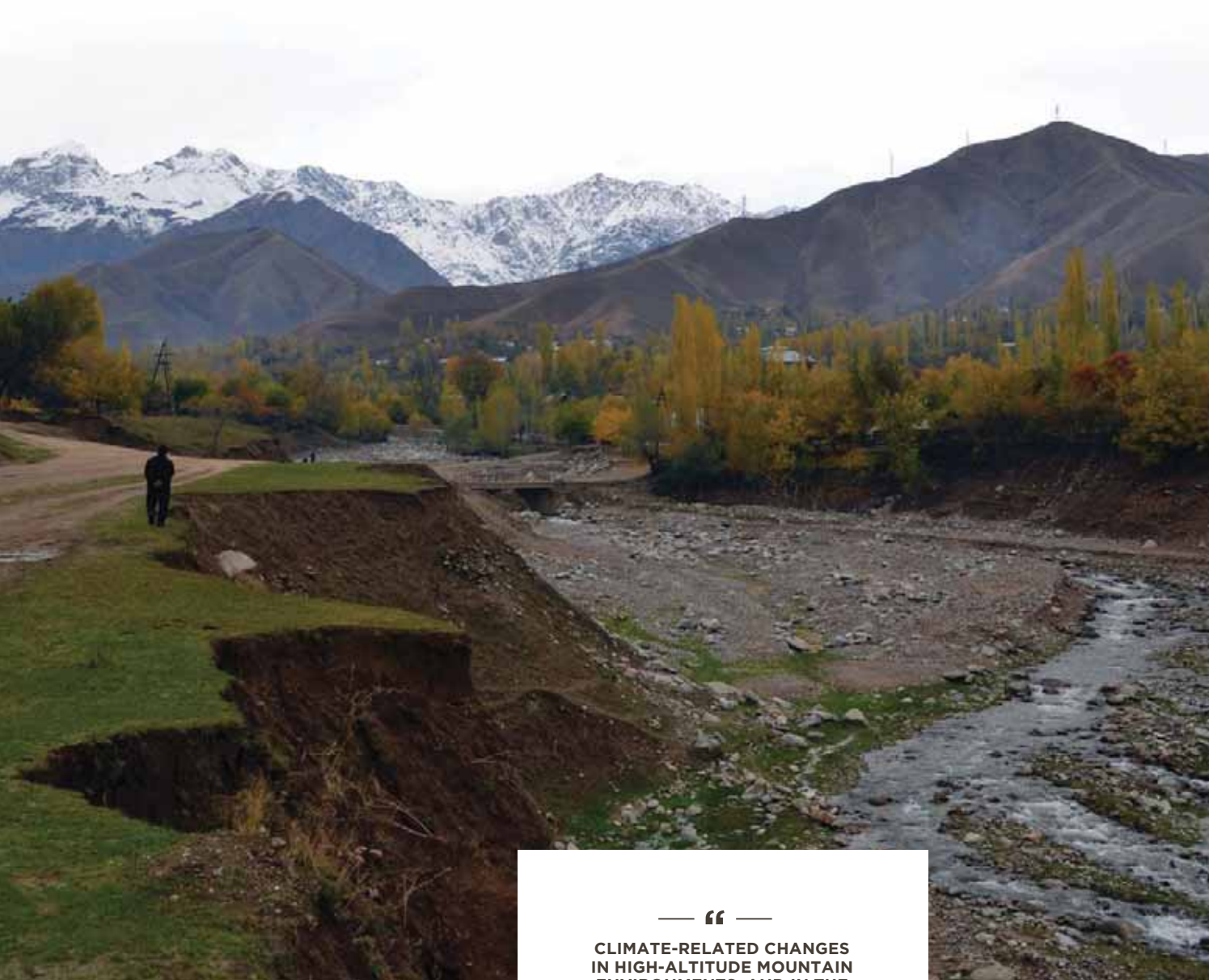
Climate change could be devastating to mountain ecosystems, but awareness about the issue is low. To increase attention, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat – a United Nations alliance of partners, including FAO (which hosts the Secretariat) – organized three regional meetings, in Chile, Tajikistan and Uganda, in 2011.

Participants in these meetings – government officials, policy-makers, scientists and journalists – were presented with evidence that climate-related changes in high-altitude mountain environments, and in the associated lowlands, are already affecting millions of people.

The meeting in Chile, organized jointly by the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, heard that increased migration and unsustainable land-use practices in the southern Andes were leading to growing food insecurity, desertification and the loss of biodiversity. The meeting in Tajikistan, held with support from the University of Central Asia and the Government of Tajikistan, agreed that Central Asia is a climate change hotspot, with changes in water flows having potentially detrimental effects on agriculture and food security. The meeting in Uganda, convened with the help of the United Nations Environment Programme, set in motion the development of an agenda to increase the focus on mountain environments in Africa.

At all three meetings it was agreed that a greater exchange of technical and policy information, institution building, studies on economic optimization and ecosystem

services, and more research, are fundamental to achieving sustainable development in mountain environments in the face of climate change.



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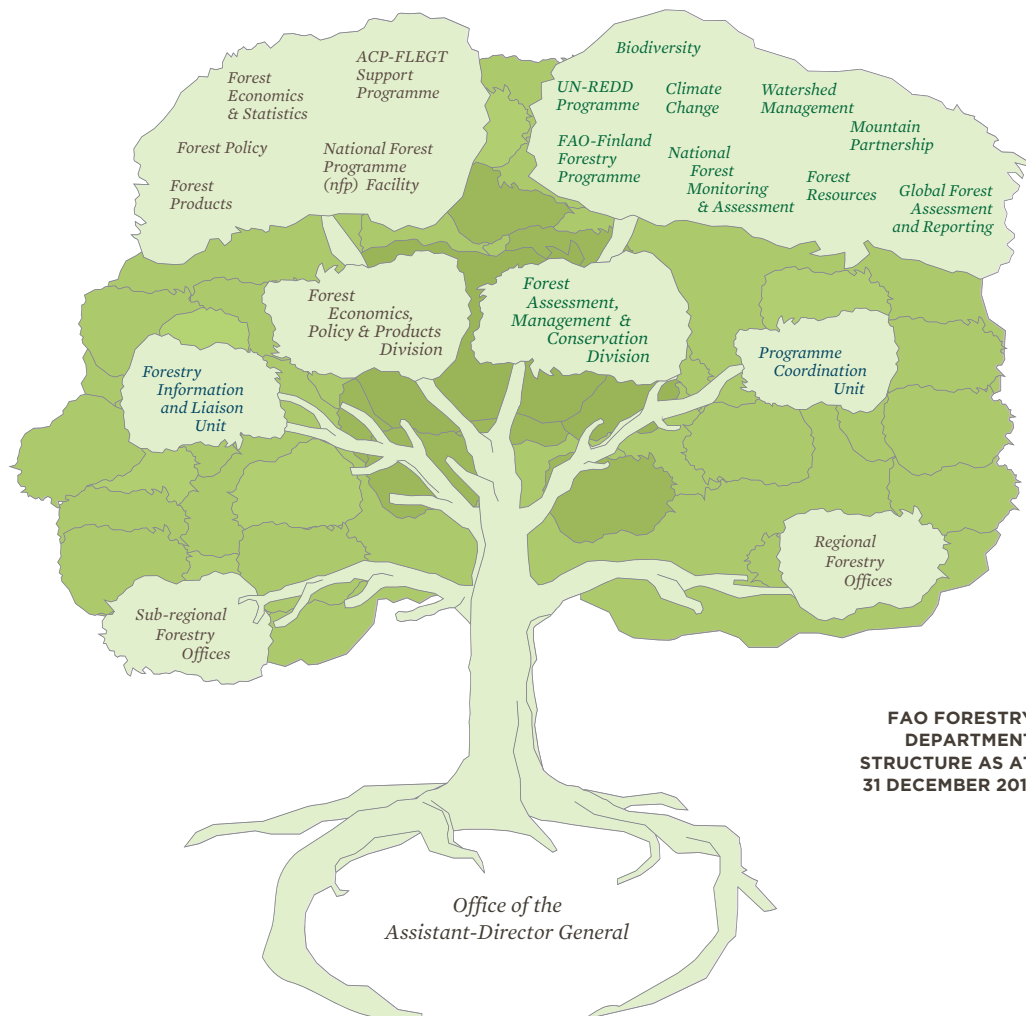
**CLIMATE-RELATED CHANGES
IN HIGH-ALTITUDE MOUNTAIN
ENVIRONMENTS, AND IN THE
ASSOCIATED LOWLANDS, ARE
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FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN FIGURES

HUMAN RESOURCES

At the end of the 2010–11 biennium the FAO Forestry Department had 83 Professional and Director-level staff, with an additional 20 professional staff in decentralized offices. The Department also had 33 General Service staff and just over 50 short-term consultants at headquarters. In late 2011 the FAO Forestry Department at headquarters was restructured to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of delivery; the figure shows the new structure.

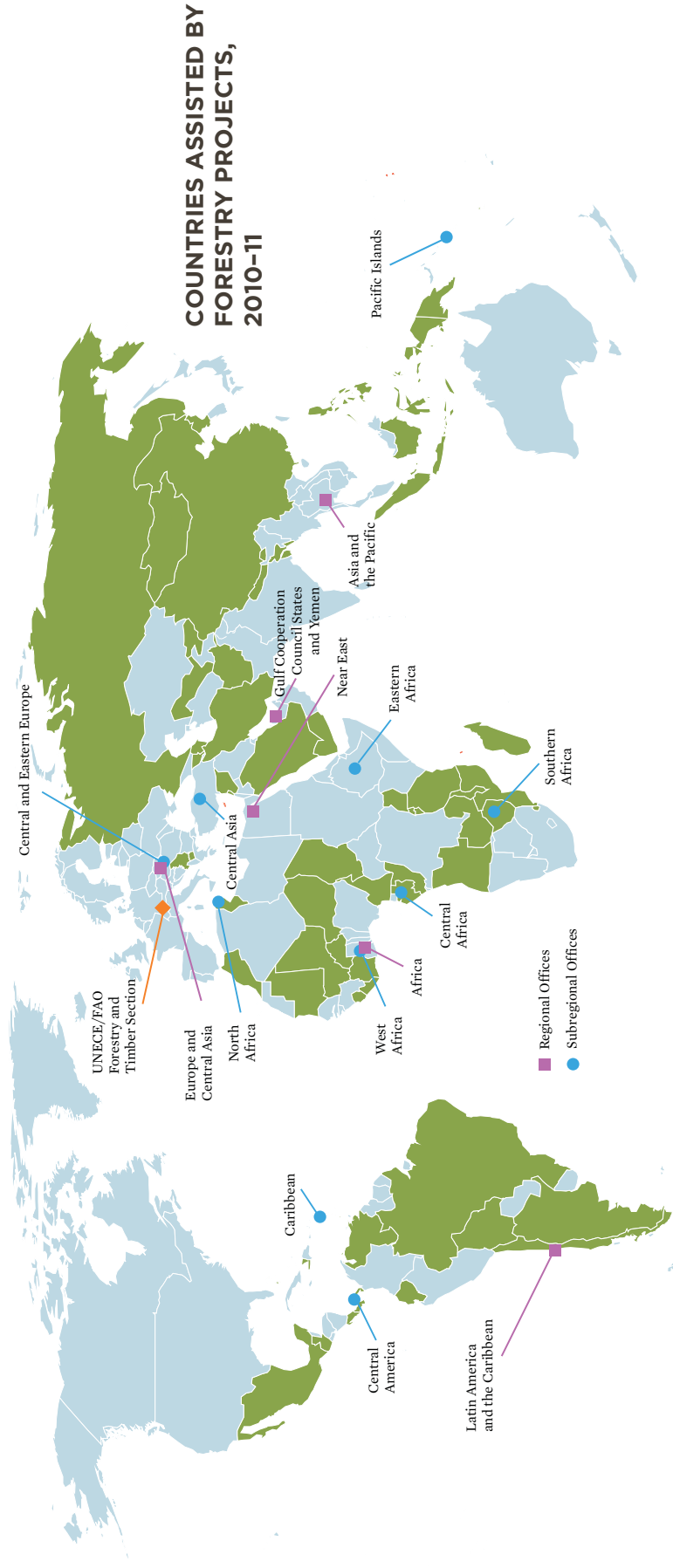
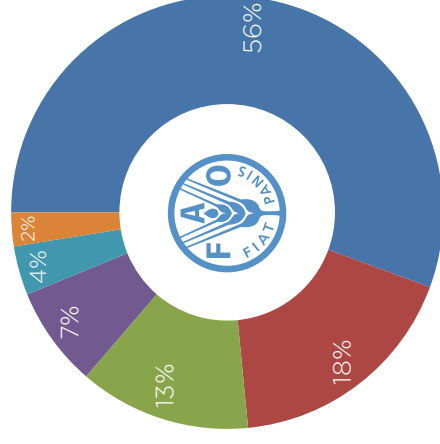
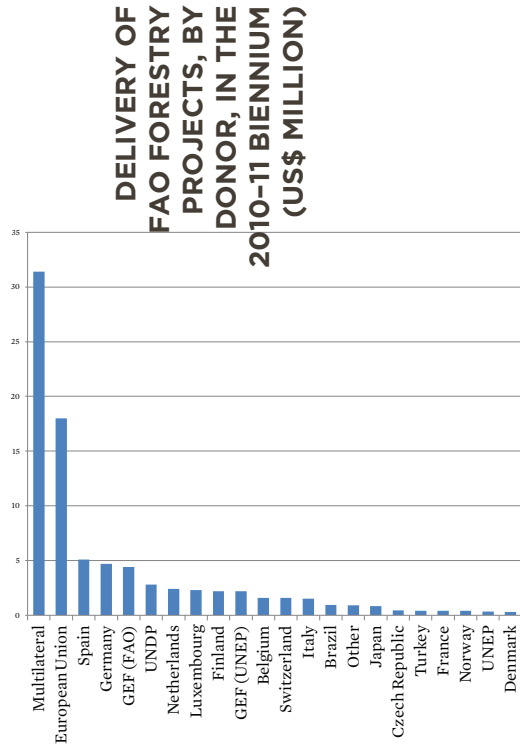


**FAO FORESTRY
DEPARTMENT
STRUCTURE AS AT
31 DECEMBER 2011**

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FAO Forestry Programme funding from the FAO Regular Programme for the 2010–11 biennium was US\$42 million, which was roughly 4 percent of the total Regular Programme budget. Added to this were voluntary contributions by bilateral and multilateral donors and trust funds, which amounted to about US\$81 million in the biennium.

In the biennium the FAO Forestry Programme had more than 200 ongoing projects in over 60 countries, with a total project budget of US\$321 million. The FAO Forestry Department at headquarters led the implementation of 39 of these projects, six were led by the FAO Department for Technical Cooperation, and the remaining projects were led by FAO decentralized offices. Of the regions, Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest share of projects by value, followed by Africa. Just over half the total project budget was allocated to interregional or global projects, which were mainly implemented by headquarters for the benefit of all countries.





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