

International Environmental Agreements and national forest policies

Organized by: Asia-Pacific Forest Policy Think Tank

Characteristics of the Intl. Forest Policy Landscape

- Intl forest policy landscape is complex and highly fragmented.
- Composed of Hard Law and Soft Law instruments
- Multilateral , regional, and bilateral initiatives, as well as market mechanisms
- Includes intl. processes that directly address forests as well as those which affect forests
- Increasingly the actors involved in shaping policy are becoming more varied (not just the state governmental actors). Private /NGO standards shape forest policy as well (i.e. certification)



Characteristics of the Intl. Forest Policy Landscape

- Current issues dominating dialogue: climate change, restoration, food security, legality, sustainability, land tenure/user rights
- Trade agreements are emphasizing environmental safeguards
- Rapid development of new technologies - remote sensing and mapping. Monitoring and reporting no longer simply in the hands of governments or technical agencies.
- Social networking changing the way people organize and engage in international policy dialogue

Examples of Challenges due to a complex Intl. Forest Policy Landscape

- Fragmented policy coherence on forests
- Growth of multiple forums where forests are discussed makes it increasingly difficult for country representatives to cover all the forums (demand on human resources) and communicate back domestically
- Increasing pressure on limited forest budgets to implement growing obligations
- Reporting requirements on forests increasing (changing and adapting inventory systems)

ACTIVITY

Each person write down:

- 1) Top two multilateral/bilateral agreements or processes that have **most influenced** their national forest policies
- 2) **Most difficult** agreement or process to implement

Remember these do not have to be binding conventions nor global in nature (i.e. they can be regional or bilateral)

Please be ready to explain your answers

UNFCCC, CBD, CITES
ITTO guidelines and policy dialogue
C&I processes
Free Trade Agreement(s)
ASEAN guidelines and policy dialogue
Bilateral policy dialogues/agreements on trade (VPA, MoUs)
Trade legality policy in consuming countries (EUTR, Lacey Act)
FAO guidelines and policy dialogue
UN Forum on Forests
Forest Certification standards (FSC, PEFC), ISO standards
Millennium Development Goals / SDGs
APEC EGILAT / Obligations on high level ministerial forums (G-8)
Others???