Bringing Regional & International Agenda on Forestry to Local Communities

Presented by Chairman of ASFN
Head of Delegate of Myanmar
At the ASOF 16th Seminar, 5 August 2015, Yogyakarta - Indonesia

International Arrangements on Forests

Scope of the IAF:

- Promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests...
- Strengthen long-term political commitment (“to this end”)

Source: Independent Assessment Team on IAF for the Workshop on International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 scheduled for 29-31 October 2015 – Beijing, China
International Arrangements on Forests

Purpose of the International Arrangement on Forests:

- Promote the implementation of *internationally agreed actions on forests*, at the national, regional and global levels
- Provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development
- Facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements

Source: Independent Assessment Team on IAF for the Workshop on International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015 scheduled for 29-31 October 2015 – Beijing, China

**IAF: Achievements 2000 – 2015 (I)**

- Promoted a universal approach to SFM (“all types of forests”) and its implementation (FI)
- Upheld interest in forests in international development agendas, as well as the Rio Conventions
- Consensus building, dialog platforms (CLIs...), communication
- Supported by a “development-policy” platform with leverage: Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)
- Supported streamlining of forest reporting requirements
- Analytical work & outputs on critical forest issues, reporting
- Facilitative process, Sourcebook on forest financing
- Increased interactions with regional level
- Promoted the engagement of major groups
**IAF: Achievements 2000 – 2015 (II)**

Milestones (success depends on the perspective of a party):

- Agreement on the NLBI and the Global Objectives on Forests 2007
- Formulation and implementation of a MYPoW 2007-2015
- Integration of forests in the sustainable development summits (Rio+10, Rio+20, “The Future We Want”, SDG process)
- Forest finance, facilitative process – AHEG, GEF5 SFM/REDD+ Incentive, GEF6 on SFM, LFCC/SIDS
- Communication: International Year on Forests, International Day on Forests; SDGs and other UN processes; (however absence of mention in the NY Decl. on Forests)

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**Rethinking: the future for IAF**

1. Shift to a more affirmative language and approach that helps to engage, rather than to disengage in a post 2015 IAF
2. Broaden the conceptual basis of the land-use “forest” within the wider landscape as proposed in the post-2015 development agenda (SDGs).
3. Shift emphasis from preparing resolutions to facilitating substantive dialogue, cooperation and implementation with commitments.
4. Assume ultimate stewardship for global forests in a global landscape Strengthen linkages to other international fora and entities that affect forests (MEAs, agriculture, trade and other agreements)
5. Increase leverage of a science/policy/implementation interface to improve effectiveness of international forest-related processes
6. Increase opportunities for meaningful participation by multiple stakeholders, including Major Groups and funding mechanisms
Regional Agenda on Forestry

- In the Southeast Asian Region: the ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry has been promoted with the continuous engagement and collaboration of the ASEAN Member States through among others the Annual Meetings of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF)
- Issues related to Forests and Climate Change have been discussed and progressed through among others the Regular Meetings of the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forests and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC)
- Other regional cooperation platform that discussed among others on forestry have been attended by the Representatives of the ASEAN Member States, i.e.: Forest Eleven, the BIMP-EAGA, etc.

Bringing the International and Regional Agenda on Forestry to Local Community

- The implementation of agreed actions at the international and regional agenda on forestry often require the participation of local community;
- Participatory approaches require the input from local community in the process of implementing the agreed actions;
- The local community needs to be made aware of the developments in international and regional agenda on forestry.
Bringing the International and Regional Agenda on Forestry to Local Community:

- Representatives of Local Communities may have been participating in the developments of the international and regional agenda on forestry;
- Existing cooperation platform in ASEAN could be engaged with for enhanced support in further disseminating information in relation to the international and regional agenda on forestry;
- There is among others the ASEAN Social Forestry Network that aims to strengthen the cooperation in social forestry through the sharing of information and knowledge, which could be an entry point for such wider dissemination of information and knowledge, including for local community.

Progress to this Date:

- Since the 3rd Conference of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, in June 2012, there has been the practice of organizing a Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Forum that is participated by the Representatives of Local Communities and CSOs from various Countries in ASEAN annually, back-to-back with the ASFN Conference in June 2013 (Luang Prabhang, Lao PDR), May 2014 (Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia), and recently also in June 2015 (Inle Lake, Myanmar);
- Director General of the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF) of Myanmar and the Director of Forest Research Institute (FRI) of Myanmar graced the Opening Ceremony of the 4th CSOs Forum in Inle Lake – Myanmar on 29 May 2015;
- The CSOs Forum organized by the Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP) has not only discussed recommendations for consideration of and to be further discussed at the ASFN Conference, but it also serves as the opportunity to disseminate information on the latest developments from the international and regional agenda on forestry.
Progress to this Date (contd.):

• One of the Key Partners of ASFN namely The Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) an not-for-profit Organization with purview of the Asia Pacific and is based in Bangkok, has been regularly promoting the sharing of information and knowledge for the local community in the region, through its regular and innovative activities, such as through capacity development for Community Representatives, as well as for instance through the strengthening of Community Forestry National Working Groups in some ASEAN Countries, and the recently successful organization of the Pre-World Forestry Congress Event held on 8-10 July 2015 that have conducted selection process for Local Community Representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and from Vietnam, to participate in the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015;

• In Events participated by Local Community Representatives, ASFN Secretariat have disseminated publications from the Key Partners (CIFOR, ICRAF, RECOFTC, NTFP-EP, SEARCA) that could be relevant for their knowledge, through the assistance of the local government representatives as well as local facilitators participating in the Events (since 2011 up to now) and will continue.

Possible Opportunity:

- Joint initiative with RECOFTC, ASFN, NTFP-EP, USAID supported LEAF and GREEN Mekong programs, and Norad Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ (Jakarta, 9-11 September 2014, sponsored by RECOFTC):
  
  **Day 1.** ASEAN Capacity Development Workshop on Safeguards and Safeguards Information System (SIS) for REDD+,
  
  **Day 2.** 10th ARKN-FCC meeting to prepare ASEAN Joint Submission to UNFCCC on safeguards and SIS-REDD+ and finalize draft "Decision Support Tools to Identify and Address Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation",
  
  **Day 3.** Discussion on potential collaboration between ARKN-FCC and ASFN and Partners.

(Relevant to and contribute to the achievement of Component and Strategic Thrust 2.3; 3.3; 3.4).
Possible Opportunity (contd.):  
As presented by Dr. Myat Su Mon, the Representative of ARKN-FCC Myanmar during the 6th Conference of ASFN in Inle Lake-Myanmar, on 1-3 June 2015:

• Year 2015 is the ARKN-FCC transition from focusing on addressing regional and international issues, to also cover national – sub national initiatives through linking regional initiatives to national – sub national actions:
  • Strengthening national – sub national actions through strengthening the capacity / sharing lessons in synergizing national, bilateral, multilateral funding and building synergy at the regional level.

Subject to the final endorsement of the strategic plan of actions (SPA) of the ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry, including the SPAs of the ARKN-FCC and the ASFN, as well as further discussions between the ARKN-FCC and ASFN, there is possibility for some of the knowledge and information sharing activities to the local communities be done in collaboration between the Networks and with the Partners.

➔ It is however crucially important for the two ASEAN Networks (ARKN-FCC and ASFN) to continue be a single (and not combined) ASEAN Network in order to ensure its optimum benefit for the ASEAN Region and the ASEAN Countries in implementing activities that are focusing on respective Objectives and agreed priorities.

Thank you for your attention

Photo Caption:
His Excellency U Win Tun, Minister of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF) of Myanmar and the Invitees, during the ASFN 6th Conference in Inle Lake, Myanmar, on 1 June 2015