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Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF10

Regional/ Sub-regional Organization: European Forest Institute

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General Information

The multi-year programme of work (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.¹

At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for UNFF10, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (herein after referred to as the *Forest Instrument*) and *Regional cooperation mechanisms, institutions and processes* (herein after referred to as the *Regional Mechanisms*).

the forum of the United Nations

document. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section.

The size of the report of the Secretary General will be a maximum of 8,500 words (approximately 16 pages). In view of this, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than five pages of written input. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to unff@un.org, fax: 917-367-3186) by **30 September 2012**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument in the context of the overall theme of UNFF10 on “Forests and Economic Development”

A. Progress towards implementation of the forest instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your organization to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

The European Forest Institute took a decisive step towards strengthening our policy support activities by establishing a Policy Support Office in Barcelona. The establishment of the Policy Support Office allows also for more efficient operations within our FLEGT-REDD Unit.

Activities such as the high-level forum on forests, ThinkForest, were launched. This forum is a unique science-policy action, bringing together high-level policy makers and leading European forest scientists to generate an inspiring and dynamic science-policy dialogue on strategic forest-related issues. The President of the forum is Mr. Göran Persson, the former Swedish prime minister, who chaired the launch event on Bio-economy in May 2012. Forthcoming ThinkForest events will also make use of the considerable expertise of EFI's member organisations.

We participated actively in the Work Group of the EU Standing Forestry Committee in developing the EU New Forest Strategy, and in this context prepared a paper detailing our vision for a European forest research area. We also actively took part in the activities of FOREST EUROPE in planning and implementing its Work programme as well as working as part of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.

Our goal is for research to provide science-based insights into forests and forest-related issues at the European and European-regional scale, and also to address European policy topics in a global context. We conduct research on forest-related topics in a collaborative

Our new projects include ARANGE on multifunctional forest management in European mountain ranges, involving Central-East European Regional Office - EFICEEC and the Sustainability and Climate Change Programme. The INTEGRATE (Integration of Biodiversity Conservation into Forest Management and its Relation to Other Forest Functions/Services) project began at Central European Regional Office and the Observatory for European Forests - EFICIENT-OEF, to investigate the integration of nature protection in forests and the maintenance of various forest functions. This is a direct project for the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), demonstrating the involvement of our Member States. The Ex-post evaluation of the EU Forest Action Plan started at EFICIENT-OEF, in collaboration with the Foresight and Information programme.

Information portals such as the EUROFOREST portal, Forest Products Price Information Portal, the Information portal on Forest Policies, Institutions and Instruments, and the Nordic-Baltic Forest portal are useful to decision makers, politicians, official bodies, organisations and individuals with an interest in the forest sector.

EFI launched a new publications series, What Science Can Tell Us. The first issue, Water for

gather audience from regional, national and EU levels to learn about regions' innovative solutions to green growth from forests. The project work on research-driven clusters will continue in the participating regions in Baden-Württemberg, North Karelia, Catalonia, and the cross-border clusters Croatia-Serbia and Aquitaine-Basque Country until the project conclusion in January 2013 – and the follow-up ideas are already looking beyond that. Several benchmarking and study tours have been arranged to learn for example about regional wood clusters, forest bioenergy and wood construction sector. Expertise, ideas and contacts were brought to home organisations for developing forest-based sector activities and clustering in the regions. A study on innovative business models for private forest

interested in using and maybe even further improving ToSIA (an innovative, do-your-own-scenarios Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment) for its further

The Convention on the European Forest Institute states as follows:

“Article 2: Purpose and functions

1. The purpose of the Institute is to undertake research on the pan-European level on forest policy, including its environmental aspects, on the ecology, multiple use, resources and health of European forests and on the supply of and demand for timber and other forest products and services in order to promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests in Europe.

2. In order to achieve its purpose, the Institute

a) provides relevant information for policy-making