

ASEAN:

ASEAN Input Paper: Indicative Elements and Proposals for the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests

I. Background

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) proposes that the indicative elements and proposals for the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests should be premised on the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Rio Declaration), the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests (Forest Principl

4. Furthermore, ASEAN envisages that the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests would:
 - a. provide an over-arching strategy to fully integrate forest conservation,

j. intensify and further raise the political and public profile of forests at both the

- iii. endangered, rare and threatened forest species are protected;
- iv. health and vitality of forest resources, including the ecological, hydrological and carbon cycles at national, regional and global levels;
- v. soil productivity and watershed protection;
- vi. soil acidification and forest loss due to airborne pollutants, especially transboundary pollutants;
- vii. measures in management and contingency plans developed to address threats of serious harm to forests, such as fires, pest and diseases, natural disasters, etc.;
- viii. equitable sharing of financial burden in the conservation and protection of forest biological diversity that is of global importance, including financial compensation to offset opportunity cost foregone in forest conservation,

- i. harmonized procedures to monitor, assess, and report on the implementation
 - ii. of national forest programmes and other activities related to the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest resources;
 - iii. (b) criteria and indicators agreed regionally or internationally through multilateral processes for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress towards the achievement of sustainable forest management. It includes the seven thematic areas of sustainable forest management agreed at the “International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: the Way Forward (CICI-2003)” held in Guatemala City, Guatemala in 2003, and later endorsed as criteria of sustainable forest management at the follow-up “Experts Consultation on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management” held in Cebu City, the Philippines
 - iv. in 2004;
 - v. procedures and networks for the exchange of information among countries, especially on the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;
 - vi. national mechanisms to monitor forest cover, forest degradation and efforts of conservation, as well as the sustainable use of forest resources, including timber and non-timber forest products in the context of sustainable forest management;
 - vii. definitions of pertinent terms, guided by the Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), such as ‘forests’, ‘sustainable forest management’, ‘deforestation’, ‘protected areas’, ‘forest degradation’, ‘environmental services’, ‘legally harvested timber and nontimber forest products’, etc; and
 - viii. review mechanism on the effectiveness of implementation of the indicative elements of the non-legally binding instruments on all types of forests.
- e. Means of Implementation
- i. new and additional financial resources, through a global forest fund, are provided by developed to developing countries to support the costs required for the attainment of sustain

- ii. private sector investment, including investment guidelines, in sustainable management of natural forests and the establishment and development of planted forests, as well as the utilization of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests;
 - iii. environmentally sound technology, including biotechnologies and value-added products development, as well as corresponding knowhow are transferred from developed to developing countries on preferential and favourable terms;
 - iv. clearing house mechanism where inventories of forest-related technologies and the most effective methods of transfer of such technologies are stored which will enable countries, especially developing countries, to readily source for the technologies required by them for achieving sustainable forest management;
 - v. national and local capacity building for the adaptation of technologies to national and local conditions;
 - vi. institutional strengthening and endogenous and absorptive capacity building of developing countries, including human resource development and training of forest professionals, in pursuit of management, conservation and sustainable development of their forest resources;
 - vii. programmes for public education, taking into account gender-related sensitive issues, and public awareness raising on forest and forest-related matters;
 - viii. mechanisms to enhance technical and scientific cooperation in research and development to further the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest resources; and
 - ix. remunerative returns on timber and non-timber forest products sourced from sustainably-managed forests to enable developing countries to finance sustainable forest management.
- f. International Trade in Forest Products
- i. enhanced trade in forest products through further development of open, predictable, and non-discriminatory international trading rules and practices, including financial systems;
 - ii. trade barriers and impediments, including emerging trade restrictions, to better market access and prices for higher value-added forest products are removed;

- iii. unilateral measures inconsistent with international obligations and agreements to restrict trade and/or ban international trade in timber and other forest products, including those imposed by sub-national jurisdiction, are removed;
 - iv. trade in forest products is sourced from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests;
 - v. voluntary certification and labelling schemes are operated in accordance with relevant national legislation to ensure that such schemes are not used as a form of disguised protectionism; and
 - vi. valuation, accounting and pricing systems that internalize the full environmental and social costs of forest products sourced from sustainably managed forests.
- g. International Cooperation
- i. provision of sufficient means of implementation (refer to item v) to developing countries to enable them to implement the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action within the framework of national forest programmes;
 - ii. national mechanisms, arrangements and coordination are further enhanced and strengthened to enable countries, especially developing countries, to provide guidance to the work of multilateral forest-related organizations;
 - iii. strengthened linkages of the work of CPF's members to further enhance synergies in meeting internationally agreed objectives for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests;
 - iv. roles of regional organizations is further enhanced in the implementation of the outcomes of international forestry dialogues in the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests; and
 - v. public awareness of the direct and indirect benefits from forests at the local, national, regional and global levels is further enhanced.

III. PROPOSALS

6. The non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests should respect the following guiding principles:
- a. States have the sovereign and inalienable right to utilize, manage and develop their forests in accordance with their development needs and level of socio-

economic development, including the conversion of forests for other uses based on rational land use policies and plans;

- b. States have the right to economic development in accordance with their social, economic, environmental and political conditions;
- c. States have common but differentiated responsibilities with respect to collective global interests and concerns on forests; and
- d. States have the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or areas beyond the limits of their national jurisdiction.