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Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Forest Division

Forests in the post 2015 agenda – Elements of the Swiss Position

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Christoph Dürr, Forest Policy Advisor FOEN



Agenda

- International focus on forests is high!
- Pro and Cons on different options
- Elements of the Swiss position on forests

International focus on forests

- Forests as natural resource are included in **MDG 7** as an essential part of sustainability
- Sustaining multiple roles and functions of forests in **Chapter 11 of Agenda 21** – combatting deforestation, enhancing conservation and sustainable management
- **Resolution 62/98 of the UNGA, the Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests**, strengthens the effective implementation of sfm

International focus on forests

- **International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) 2006** emphasises on sustainable forest management and respective need for good governance, clear land tenure arrangements, cross-sectoral coordination and legally sourced timber
- **Two Aichi Targets 5+7 in goal 7 of the CBD Strategic Plan** deal explicitly with forests:
 - rate of loss of forests to be at least halved by 2020
 - degradation /fragmentation significantly reduced
 - managing forests sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity by 2020.

International focus on forests

- **United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) 2013** strengthens the role of sustainable forest management in order to enhance resilience to disaster risks and impacts as well as to the adverse impact of climate change.
- The **Rio+20 report** reaffirms that the wide range of forest products and services create opportunities that help addressing many of the most pressing challenges for sustainable development. An important element is the strengthening of forest governance frameworks in order to achieve sfm.



focus on forests

1. REDD+ is on the way becoming a success story within UNFCCC

2. What is NOT covered by forest topics in all 3 Rio conventions:

How to address increased demand on wood resources as renewable CO2 friendly resource – as solid wood material as well as for wood energy?

Example: Wood Resource Balance till 20130 in EU 27

Potential 1056 Mio m³ – Demand 1372 Mio m³

Mantau, 2010

Wood Resource Balance (without solid wood fuels)							
Region	EU27			IPCC Scenario:			A1
potential	2010	2020	2030	2010	2020	2030	demand
	M m ³			M m ³			
forest woody biomass	686	678	680	458	529	620	material uses
other woody biomass	287	327	375	346	573	752	energy uses
total	973	1,005	1,056	805	1,102	1,372	total

	Pro	Contra	Chances
Biodiversity/Life support system as stand-alone goal, including Forests	Includes all 3 dimensions of sustainable development, vital to social and economic development, fundamental to humanity's survival	Concerns of too strong conservation orientation while underemphasizing the multiple functions that forests offer to reach sustainable development	Low?
Forests as Stand-alone goal	Multiple contributions of forests and trees fully captured – SFM featured	Forests one of probably many SDGs, old sector approach	Very low
Forests as Sub-goal under renewable natural resources (or “landscapes”)	Management issues can be addressed for all natural resources Creates accountability	Still specific and not explicitly human focused, needs good governance	Low?
Forests as Cross-cutting theme	Cross-cutting importance of forests and trees addressed, needs good negotiators for forests	Potential to “vanish” Being everywhere and nowhere does not make the case, just words	Compromise but really useful? Would need strong indicators



Elements of Swiss position on forests (1)

- Forest targets and indicators connected with goals on forest relevant goals like agriculture, food security, sustainable growth, governance, energy, water, etc.
- Targets include reducing or halting deforestation and degradation, restoration of deforested and degraded land
- Targets sustain the multiple roles and functions of all types of forests, forest lands and woodlands contributing to poverty alleviation and economic development of rural population
- Take into account Aichi Biodiversity targets 2020

Elements of Swiss position on forests (2)

- Strengthen the role of sustainable forest management and governance in order to conserve and enhance carbon stock, address resilience to disaster risks and impacts, as well as to mitigate the adverse impact of climate change
- Broad participation, preserving and promoting traditional knowledge and encouraging the exchange of knowledge
- Address underlying causes of biodiversity and forest loss, such as by the integration of biodiversity values into policy processes, by the removal of harmful incentives and the promotion of positive incentives