

Immediately following its creation, the FP was launched with a project on identifying gaps, obstacles and opportunities in financing SFM in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Low Forest Cover Countries (LFCCs). Staffing and financial resources have prevented the UNFF Secretariat from launching activities to fulfil all of the FP's functions immediately, but the SIDS/LFCC project was strategically selected to kick-start the FP for two reasons.

First, despite a number of studies on forest financing, knowledge remains very limited on what untapped funds exist for forest financing. As a result, the FP needs to begin with data-collection projects that highlight existing gaps, obstacles and opportunities to forest financing, as mentioned in function (d) of the FP.² Secondly, a report on forest financing commissioned by the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests³ showed that the two categories to have suffered the most from the drop in donor forest financing in the past two decades were SIDS and LFCCs.

Project Structure

This Project, entitled, "Facilitating Financing for Sustainable Forest Management in SIDS and LFCCs", focuses on these two categories of countries as they have witnessed a particularly steep decline in funding for SFM in the past 20 years. The project is being implemented over a period of three years with the following three components:

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finance), thus integrating SFM into broader social and economic issues. In so doing, they emphasize the importance of SFM in the national development priorities of both SIDS and LFCCs.

Component II: Establishment of National Ownership, Review of Thematic Papers and Consultations on the Way Forward. This component aims to reach out to national stakeholders in a bid (i) to invite them to provide their input, local knowledge and expertise into the 11 papers produced in Component I, and (ii) to partially transfer ownership of the project to the countries concerned. In promoting participation from national stakeholders, not only will the reliability and validity of the data be increased, but national contributors should also partly approp

The cross-sectoral nature of the project

8. Kazakhstan
9. Kuwait
10. Kyrgyzstan
11. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
12. Malta
13. Mauritania
14. Oman
15. Pakistan
16. Qatar
17. Saudi Arabia
18. Tajikistan
19. Togo
20. Turkmenistan
21. United Arab Emirates
22. Uzbekistan
23. Yemen

Each country will be represented by two participants, both of which should be representative of forest financing stakeholder organisations, with at least one participant from outside the forest/environment sector (e.g., financial, agricultural, transport or tourism). Attention shall be given to ensure gender parity. In addition, each participating country will come with a standardised questionnaire duly filled out on the situation of forest financing in their national context. Finally, relevant self-funded donors will be invited to attend the workshop, along with additional host country participants, numbers permitting.

The objective of the workshop is twofold: first, discussions between participants based on the data produced during Component I and presentations given during idllopea 956417(g)-0..7465()-190.84