

Views of New Zealand on the Proposals for the

Non-Legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) to be negotiated at the Seventh Session
of the United Nations Forum on Forests 2007

Purpose of the NLBI

- General principles or goals
- National policies
- Means of Implementation
- Institutional Aspects

General principles or goals

Making tangible progress towards clear goals also generates political commitment. The NLBI should enable the UNFF to be practical and effective enough to help countries to deliver tangible and realistic progress towards the global objectives. New Zealand agrees with the proposals that suggest repeating the Global Objectives agreed to at UNFF6².

Many of the proposals suggest incorporating some general principles in the NLBI. In particular, we note the Australian proposal which suggests including key principles for each of the seven thematic elements of SFM. New Zealand considers that this proposal has merit and considers that the seven thematic elements could be a useful basis for discussion.

Principles would need to be at a high enough level to be sufficiently flexible to enable countries to realistically implement them according to the specific social, environmental and economic circumstances of the country. The principles themselves could serve as a concise statement of the international community's common view on SFM. These principles could draw on the range of existing international guidelines around SFM, such as voluntary Codes of Practice that have been developed.

National policies

We note that the following appear to be common elements amongst the proposals for a NLBI; perhaps these could be a common basis on which to begin discussions:

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- ² Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.
 - Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits including improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.
 - Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.
 - Reverse the decline in official development for sustainable forest management and mobilise significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

harmonising reporting processes with other international fora to avoid unnecessary duplication.

New Zealand supports the move towards the use of the seven thematic elements as a way of translating complex reporting into a commonly understood language. There is an opportunity to reflect on what role the regional linkage