

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest, likely a tropical rainforest, with a variety of tree heights and colors ranging from vibrant green to dark green. The forest extends to the horizon, creating a textured, undulating surface.

FORESTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: A PROCESS APPROACH TO FOREST SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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This paper describes a “sustainable development as a process” (SDAP) approach for the forest sector and the principles involved in such an approach.

CONTEXT, BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

- **UNWCSD, 1987: *sustainable development is not a fixed state of harmony, but rather a process of change, and institutional changes are made consistent with future as well as present needs.***
- **Forest sector processes need to evolve to meet the ever-changing global challenges in the context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,
the subject of this paper is HOW?**
- **Need for much stronger, effective linkages between processes within the sector and with other sectors locally and across countries .**

- **Many of the SDGs are time-bound, end-state goals, with only a few being open-ended process-related goals.**
- **If SD is a closely linked set of processes, then countries and sectors need to adopt what we call a “SD as a process” (SDAP) approach in moving *toward* meeting societal aims.**
- **Processes to achieve the targets become the means rather than the goals.**
- **What are some key SD processes needed, to move toward, for example, *sustainable* poverty reduction for poor forest communities (SDG 1)?**

THE SDAP APPROACH WOULD INVOLVE, IN ADDITION TO FOREST BASED PROCESSES, DEVELOPING AND EFFECTIVELY ACTIVATING:

- (1) processes to improve human health and well-being on a sustainable basis,**
 - (2) educational and knowledge generation processes (including R&D processes), and**
 - (3) improved institutional/governance processes.**
- The SDAP approach explicitly recognizes that, over time, conditions will change.**

PRINCIPLES OF THE SDAP APPROACH

- 1. Bio-physical intra- and inter- sectoral processes are interrelated and should be interconnected, when it comes to achieving societal aims, just as societal aims themselves are, and should be inextricably interlinked.**
- 2. The evolution of past and present trends in processes is important in designing a seamless transition from present to future SD processes.**

An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest, likely a tropical rainforest, with a variety of tree species and a thick canopy. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow font.

3. Processes associated with avoidance of unsustainable development are just as important as processes that appear to lead to more sustainable development.

4. There are opportunities to consciously influence and enhance evolutionary paths of some of the major forest processes, e.g. governance, management, and utilization to contribute more effectively to the development agenda.

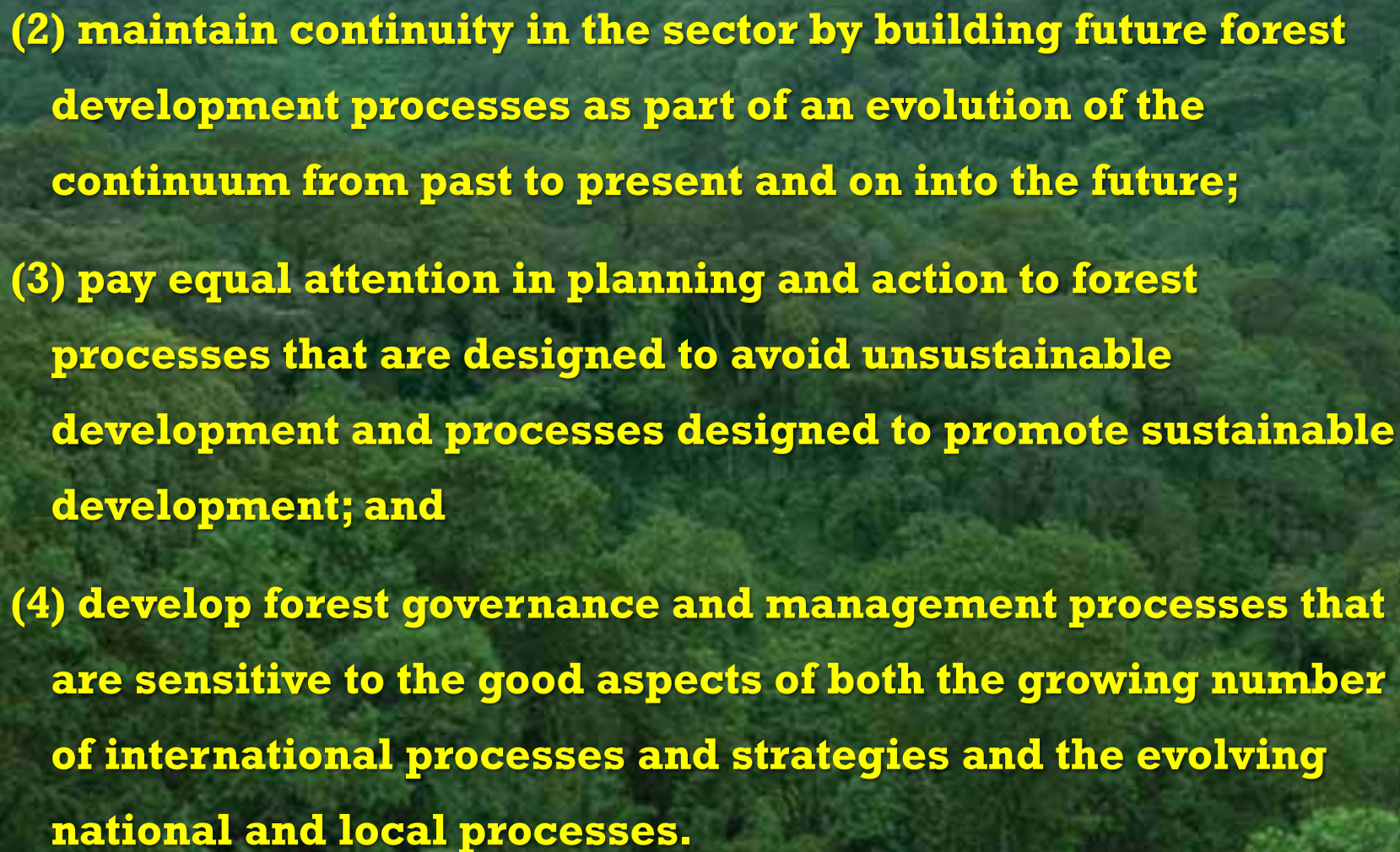
FOREST-RELATED PROCESSES AND THEIR POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UN 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- **New opportunities through a SDAP approach to redefine and enhance SFM processes, closely linked to processes in other sectors.**
- **Positive interaction needs to be created between the various sectors that have an interest in the forest sector. Effective Cross-sectoral alliances based on mutual interests and incentives can be formed.**
- **Priority promising areas for future linkages between the forest and tree sector and other sectors include:**

- 1. Consumer, producer and trade sectors,**
- 2. Agricultural sector,**
- 3. Energy sector,**
- 4. Water sector,**
- 5. International NGO's and multilateral Institutions,**
- 6. National and local governments, to improve:**
 - Processes for identifying and avoiding unsustainable development,**
 - Processes of property rights reform and enforcement**
 - Information sharing and research on SD processes,**
 - Integrated land use planning and management processes.**

CONCLUDING COMMENTS

- **Forest sector development processes have to be evolving if they are to reach their potentials in terms of contributing to the UN 2030 Agenda. A Transformational Change will only occur if those implementing the processes:**
 1. **embrace a Paradigm Shift in the way we do business by actively promoting and creating positive, better defined linkages and synergies between societal goals, among nations, and between the forest sector SD processes and those operating within the sectors that affect and are affected by the forest sector;**

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- An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest, likely a tropical rainforest, with a variety of tree heights and colors. The text is overlaid on this image.
- (2) maintain continuity in the sector by building future forest development processes as part of an evolution of the continuum from past to present and on into the future;**
 - (3) pay equal attention in planning and action to forest processes that are designed to avoid unsustainable development and processes designed to promote sustainable development; and**
 - (4) develop forest governance and management processes that are sensitive to the good aspects of both the growing number of international processes and strategies and the evolving national and local processes.**

Finally,

The Sustainable Development As Process (SDAP) approach recognizes the reality of the world: constant, incremental changes – in values and needs, in biophysical and socioeconomic environments, and in technical options for change. In such a constantly changing world, the goal in development shifts from fixed end states to the goal of getting the right dynamic processes in place to help expand human well-being on a sustainable basis.

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest with a rich green canopy. The trees are packed closely together, creating a textured, undulating surface across the landscape. The lighting is even, highlighting the various shades of green.

Thank you