



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Concept note

DRAFT

Capacity development workshop on National Forest Funds (NFF)

“National Forest Funds: financing instruments supporting innovations for sustainable forest management”

Rabat, Morocco, 9-11 November 2015

Context

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is a continuous challenge. Increasing pressures threatening forest ecosystems require innovative approaches, such as payments for ecosystem services (PES), REDD+, compensation and offset mechanisms, among other instruments applied to reverse forest and landscape degradation trends. In this situation, National Forest Funds (NFF) offer adapted and flexible solutions towards tailor-made financing approaches for SFM.

In order to increase knowledge and expertise on NFF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), together with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), have developed policy guidance and technical reports on the relevance and use of NFF in developing countries.

The present training offer aims at providing an opportunity for countries facing forest finance challenges, to think of the possible use and/or adaptation of NFF as catalyzers for resource mobilization.

Target countries

As a first opportunity to deliver this training, it is planned to offer a 3 days capacity development workshop to partner countries of the Collaborative Partnership on Mediterranean Forests (CPMF), i.e Algeria, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey.

N.B. Among CPMF partner countries, some have already a significant experience with NFF, even though needs for i) operationalization or ii) evaluation and potential reforms have been expressed.

In Morocco and Turkey, NFF exist and are operational. In Tunisia and Lebanon, NFF are mentioned in legal texts, but not yet functional.

Proposed agenda

Day 1: State of the art in CPMF partner countries & Improving NFF Governance

- Morning : Country presentations - State of the art on NFF + discussions ;
- Afternoon: Experts inputs on NFF Governance + Group works (by country) + Presentation in plenary + discussion

Day 2: Improving NFF Capitalization, Utilization and Oversight

- Morning : Experts inputs on NFF Capitalization + Group works (by country) + Presentation in plenary + discussion ;
- Afternoon: Experts inputs on NFF Utilization + Group works (by country) + Presentation in plenary + discussion; Experts inputs on NFF Oversight + Group works (by country) + Presentation in plenary + discussion.

Day 3: “High-level segment”: Which NFF for CPMF partner countries? Key recommendations and orientations for relevant NFF development.

- Morning: Synthesis by country - Building or Reforming NFF: which possible roadmap? + High-level discussion on the use of NFF in CPMF partner countries.
- Afternoon: The way forward: Which next steps and expertise needs? Expectations regarding technical and financial partners?

Participants

Participants should be in the position to supervise and/or manage NFF related activities in their institution. It is suggested to invite, for each one of the 5 CPMF partner countries:

Days 1 and 2

- 1 representative from the national Forest Administration (in charge of NFF management or forest finance);
- 1 representative from the Finance Ministry;
- 1 representative from the Ministry of Environment;

Trainers and NFF experts from FAO and GIZ will provide technical inputs and guidance and facilitate the common learning processes during the training.

A total number of up to 30 participants is expected in Days 1 and 2.

Day 3 (High-level segment)

Participants from Days 1 and 2, and up to 2 high-level representatives per CPMF partner countries (from the Forest administration and the Ministry of Finance).

A total number of up to 40 participants is expected in Day 3.

Objectives

Through the capacity development workshop (Days 1 and 2), the participants will have the opportunity to:

- Collect up-to-date knowledge on NFF, and to access to related expertise;
- Learn from NFF experts how to design, establish and manage NFF adapted to their SFM related needs;
- Develop and confront ideas for establishing or reforming NFF;

- Plan expertise and financial needs for effectively establishing or reforming a NFF in their national context (building a national roadmap for NFF development/reform).

In the framework of a “high-level segment” (Day 3), decision-makers will have the opportunity to develop a vision on the possible use and/or reforms of NFF in their national context, and to learn from other country representatives on the diversity of potential NFF-related developments.

Key training material

- A draft training guidance (max 30 pages) should be produced. FAO and GIZ experts will collaborate to produce this document meant to be pedagogic, showcasing group exercises and case studies, and detailing methodologies for each training subsections. The training will offer an opportunity to test the methodology and material in view of a potential replication.
- Guidance questions for group works on NFF governance, utilization, capitalization and oversight.
- For each one of the training subsection, a technical powerpoint presentation will be made available to the participants.
- A framework of national roadmap for NFF development/reform will also be made available to the participants. This framework will be used for preparing country presentations to be delivered in the “high-level segment”.
- Executive summaries of key publications (see references) will also be made available to the participants.

Trainer team

The trainer team will be composed of experts from the organizing institutions FAO and GIZ.

References

FAO (2015) - Guidance on approaches to effectively establishing and managing national forest funds (in development).

FAO (2015); Executive summary “Increasing the effectiveness of national forest funds”

FAO, GIZ (2013), «National Forest Funds (NFFs) : Towards a solid architecture and good financial governance »

http://www.researchgate.net/publication/259621078_National_Forest_Funds_Towards_a_solid_architecture_and_good_financial_governance

Minutes of the Workshop «Strengthening Finance for Sustainable Forest Management through National Forest Funds», Costa-Rica, 28-30 Jan 2013 (CATIE, FAO, GIZ)

Organizing committee

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