



Vlaanderen
is natuur

United Nations Forum on Forests

Thomas Maes

Team Algemeen Beleid

Afdeling Beleid en Strategie

Agentschap Natuur & Bos

Thomas.maes@vlaanderen.be

AGENTSCHAP
NATUUR & BOS



**United Nations
FORUM ON
FORESTS**



UN News/Laura Quiñones

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson addresses the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

1 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030)

- ▶ Target 1.1 : The forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide
- ▶ Set of global and shared objectives
- ▶ As reference framework for all forest-related work in the UN system



2. UNFF – what?

- ▶ **A holistic approach is necessary for forest policy**
 - As forests provide economical, social and environmental benefits
- ▶ **Main objectives:**
 - Promoting the sustainable management of forests
 - Fostering coherence and commitment on the highest policy level
 - Forum for policy debate



3. The International Arrangement on Forests

1. Basic components:
 1. Forum
 2. Secretariat
 3. Collaborative partnership on Forests
2. Some deliverables:
 1. Forest Instrument
 2. UN Strategic Plan for Forests
 3. Global Forest Finance Facilitating Network
 4. Trust Fund



4. Challenges

- ▶ Forum struggles to get message across
- ▶ Fails to deliver on very practical results ‘on the field’
- ▶ Difficulties with reporting
 - E.g. limited voluntary national contributions in reporting
- ▶ Limited visibility and political influence
 - due to competition with other fora and processes



History

- ▶ 1992 Rio Earth Summit: ‘forest convention’ blocked due to two bones of contention
 - × Forests as a sovereign national resource rather than common good
 - × Transfer of finance & technology



5. On the agenda on UNFF19 – the midterm review

- ▶ Evaluation of the IAF and all its components
- ▶ Including progress on the goals set in the **United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (2017-2030)**
- ▶ With a view on determining new actions towards 2030