

Country-led initiative (CLI) in support of UNFF:

INTERLAKEN+10 - Governing forest landscapes

Lessons learnt from ten years of experience and the way forward post-2015

3rd to 6th February 2015 in Interlaken, Switzerland

Key points from the thematic session 1: Forest tenure and decentralisation Wednesday 4th February

"Trees grow on appropriate policies and institutions". Bharat Pokharel

1. Need to recognize the efficacy of local communities and indigenous peoples to manage their forest resources sustainably when forest rights are clearly recognized. There is a growing body of empirical evidence demonstrating that where communities exercise strong devolved forest tenure rights environmental and social outcomes are better.
2. In light of communities taking responsibility for managing forests changes are needed in the roles of forestry agency to a more advisory and Facilitative function. From direct regulation and enforcement to protecting local rights and technical advice. Complexity and high transaction costs constrain effective forest management by communities.
3. Need to build on lessons learned from 10 years of work on governance and tenure when considering a possible amendment of the NLBI, especially in light of the SDGs. governance and tenure security could also be included in Global Objective 2.
4. The post-2015 development agenda should explicitly support tenure security and recognition of customary rights of indigenous peoples and communities and this should be reflected in the SDGs.
5. Applaud the unanimous country endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines and encourage research and sharing of results and lessons learned from their implementation.