

United Nations Forum on Forests

Expert Meeting on the Contribution of the Global Forest Financing
Facilitation Network to the Implementation of the United Nations
Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017-2030

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Review of the of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network 2015-2018

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Objectives and methodology

Objectives

1. Main findings of a critical review of the GFFFN
2. Suggestions for the improvement of effectiveness of the GFFFN

Methodology

- ✓ Stock-tacking of activities and outputs
- ✓ Staff and stakeholder interviews
- ✓ Development of a theory of change for GFFFN

Part I. Review of the GFFFN

Evolution of the GFFFN mandate

UNFF 2015 functions for GFFFN	UNSPF priorities for GFFFN	Comment
1. Promoting the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for SFM	1. Promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management	No change
2. Facilitating access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund	2. Assist countries in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing the effective use of existing financial resources from all sources for SFM	Facilitating was spelled out and mobilization was added. Emphasis on GEF, GCF and emerging mechanisms were dropped implying that all sources to be equally considered. Mechanisms were replaced by sources. Enhancing the effective use of financial resources was added.
3. Serving as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned from successful projects	3. Serve as a clearing house and database on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects	Database was identified. Best practices were added to complement lessons learned. Financing opportunities remained an open concept.
	4. Serve to contribute to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets as well as priorities contained in the fourth Quadrennial Programme (4POW)	This new point opens the scope of the GFFFN action to respond to emerging needs.

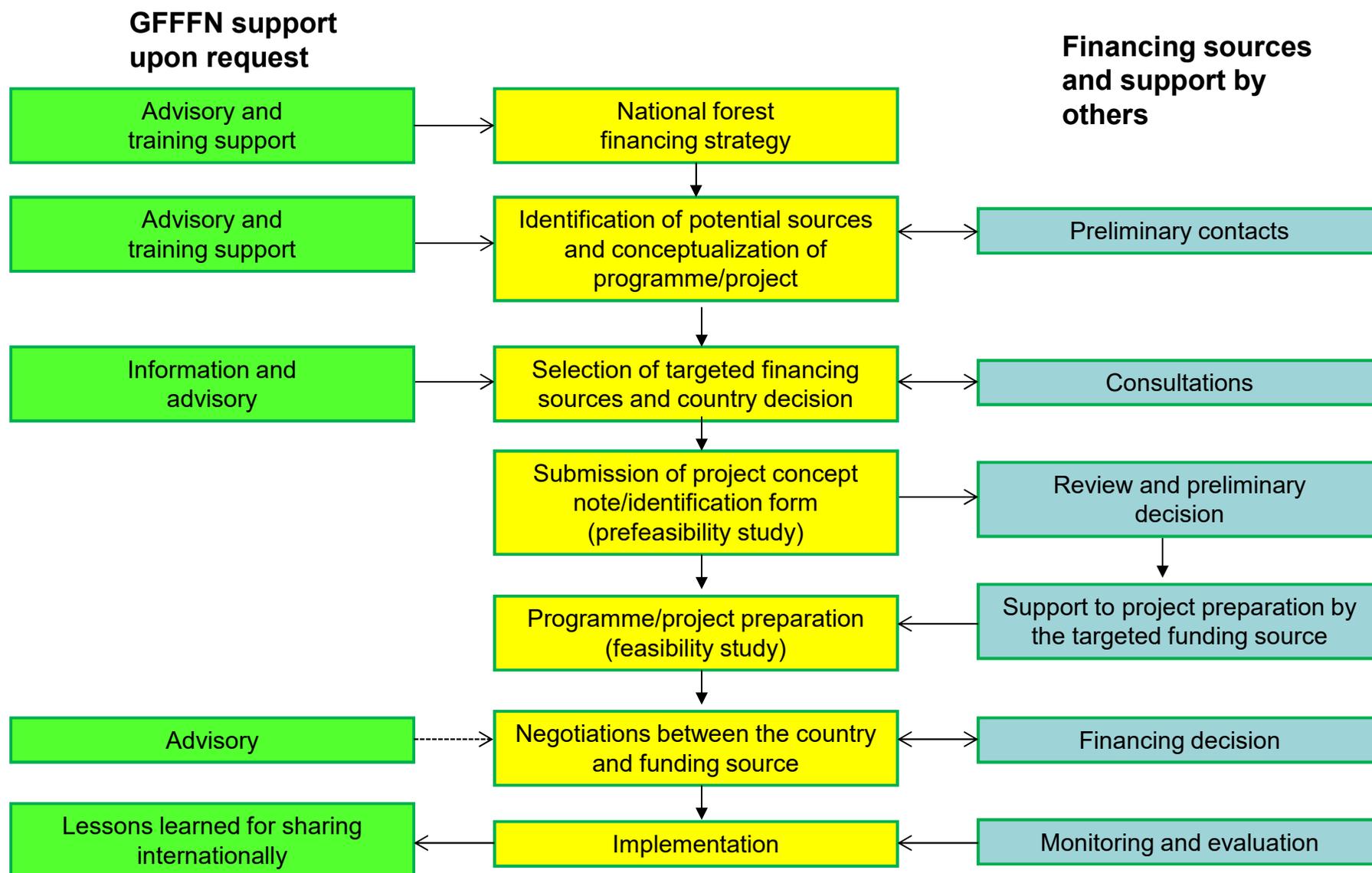
Demand for GFFFN services in 2015-2018

- Requests: total 23 countries & 5 from regional/sub-regional organizations (COMIFAC; ECOWAS, EAC, AU, ECO)
- 19 country requests addressed, only 13 completed/on-going assistance due to resource constraints
- Demand is growing, more in NFFS
- Support areas: most for project development, six for NFFS/NAP elaboration
- Regions: Africa (12), Asia-Pacific (4), Latin America (5), Europe (1)

Assistance in mobilizing, accessing and enhancing effectiveness of finance use

- Support is catalytic and demand-driven
- Targeting at tangible results (increased flows to SFM, improved effectiveness)
- Emphasis is on capacity building through training, advising and improved information
- Modus operandi: support to programme/project development
- GFFFN competitive advantage: neutrality and absence of conflict of interest, high-quality service

GFFFN's role in project development cycle



Training

National training courses

- 13 countries, 301 participants
- Focus on targeted financing sources (GCF, GEF)

Regional/sub-regional training courses:

- 6 courses, 192 participants
- Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Central Asia

Participants: total 493, female 21.3%

Solid training package of adequate quality, still evolving

On-the-job further training during the project development process

Support to mobilizing and accessing financing sources

Development of PNCs/PIFs in 13 countries:

- Support has been technically sound and effective resulting in submission to targets and leading to follow-up project preparation
- Solid generally good quality outputs targeted at GCF and GEF
- Some with innovative components and elements of paradigmatic change
- Several large and complex projects, with relatively high budget requirements, absorption capacity and benefits reaching field-level actors may become issue

Project funding estimates in 8 countries

Country	Target source	Target funding	Co-financing	Total	Co-financing share
		USD 1 000			%
Cameroon	GFC	60,377	20,000	80,377	24.88
Senegal	GFC	35,874	3,986	39,860	10.00
Niger	GCF	75,987	..	75,987	..
Nigeria	GCF	100,000	94,000	194,000	48.45
Uganda	GCF	50,500	36,860	87,360	42.19
Zimbabwe	GCF	20,000	5,000	25,000	20.00
Ecuador	GEF	3,155	12,457	15,612	79.79
Ukraine	GEF	16,099	..	16,099	..
Total		361,992	172,303	534,295	32.25
of which					
Total GEF		19,254	12,457	31,711	39.28
Total GCF		342,738	159,846	502,584	31.80

GFFFN and Priority Country Groups

A special consideration has been given to the country priority groups of UNFF11 Resolution

Priority group	Number of countries	Share of total number of countries %
Africa	10	53
LDC	5	26
HFCC	5	26
MFCC	10	53
LFCC	4	21
SIDS	6	32
CIT	1	5
Total number of countries	19	N/A

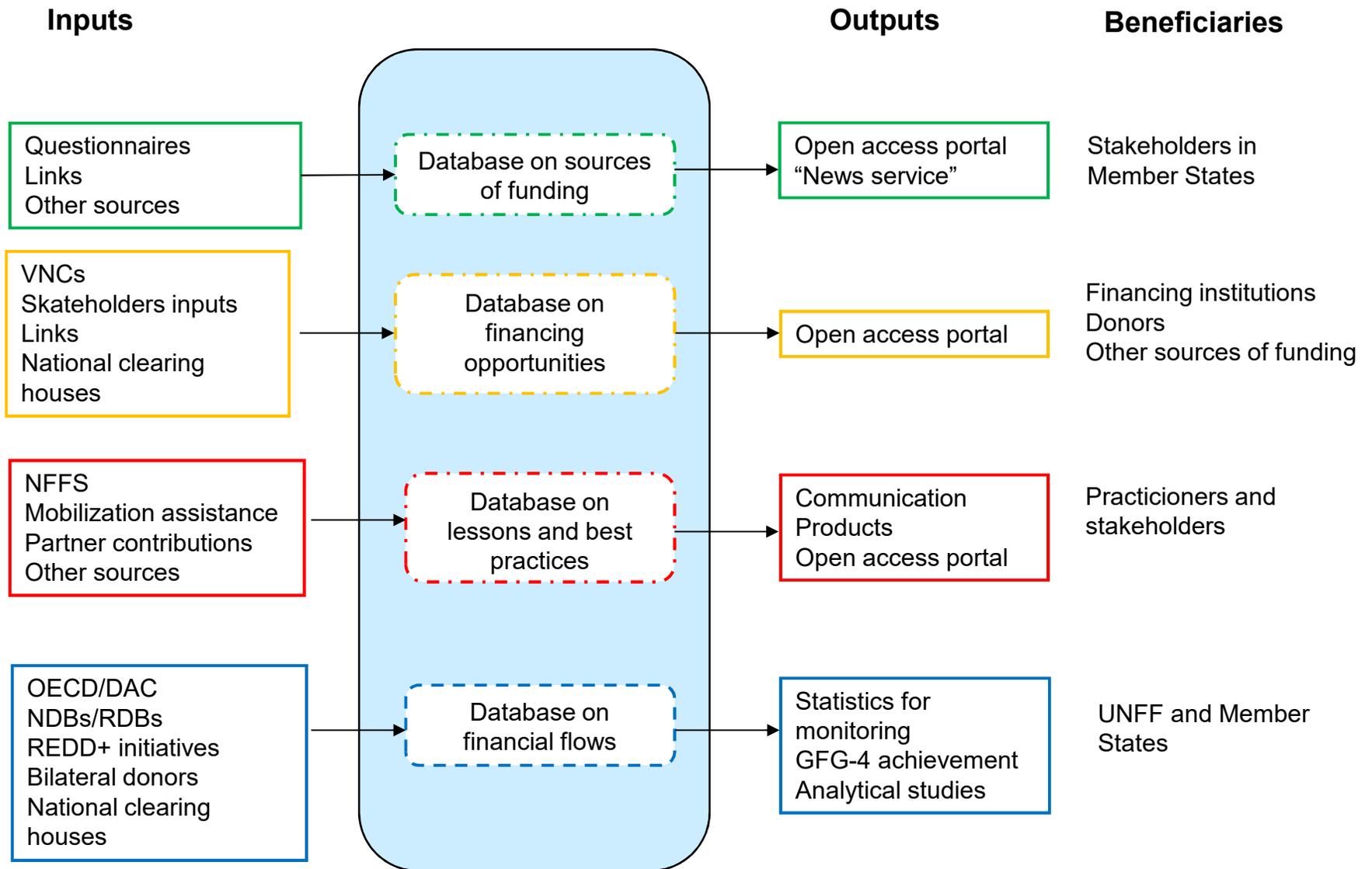
Support to NFFS elaboration

- NFFS is a holistic integrating tool for mobilization of finance from all sources (domestic/external, public/private) and improved effectiveness of its use
- Need for national strategic framework is recognized by key international sources to enable their coordinated planning of finance
- Only started (4 in pipeline), and two preliminary NAPs developed (Madagascar, Ukraine)
- No pragmatic generic guidance exists, 4-stage NAP process
- Link with NFP and REDD+ strategy fundamental

Clearing house function

- Initial stages: two scoping studies, a website of financing sources
- Lessons from similar clearing houses are valuable and possibilities for collaboration could be explored
- There is a need for further guidance for the scope of the service (database on financing opportunities; tools for sharing lessons and best practices)
- Four possible components for the GFFFN clearing house function merit consideration

Potential GFFN clearing house components



Collaborative activities carried out

- GEF: support to project development, GEF-7 replenishment creating new demand
- UN-REDD: agreed modalities for future cooperation (link with NFFS)
- UNCCD: MoU collaboration and joint activities
- UN Inter-agency task force on finance: inputs
- Government of China: joint activities
- Participation in other initiatives

Financial resources and efficiency

Resources

- UN RPTC USD 1.3 million, China USD 340,000

Costs

- Country assistance packages USD 88,600 average, range USD 41,000 – 160,00

Efficiency coefficient

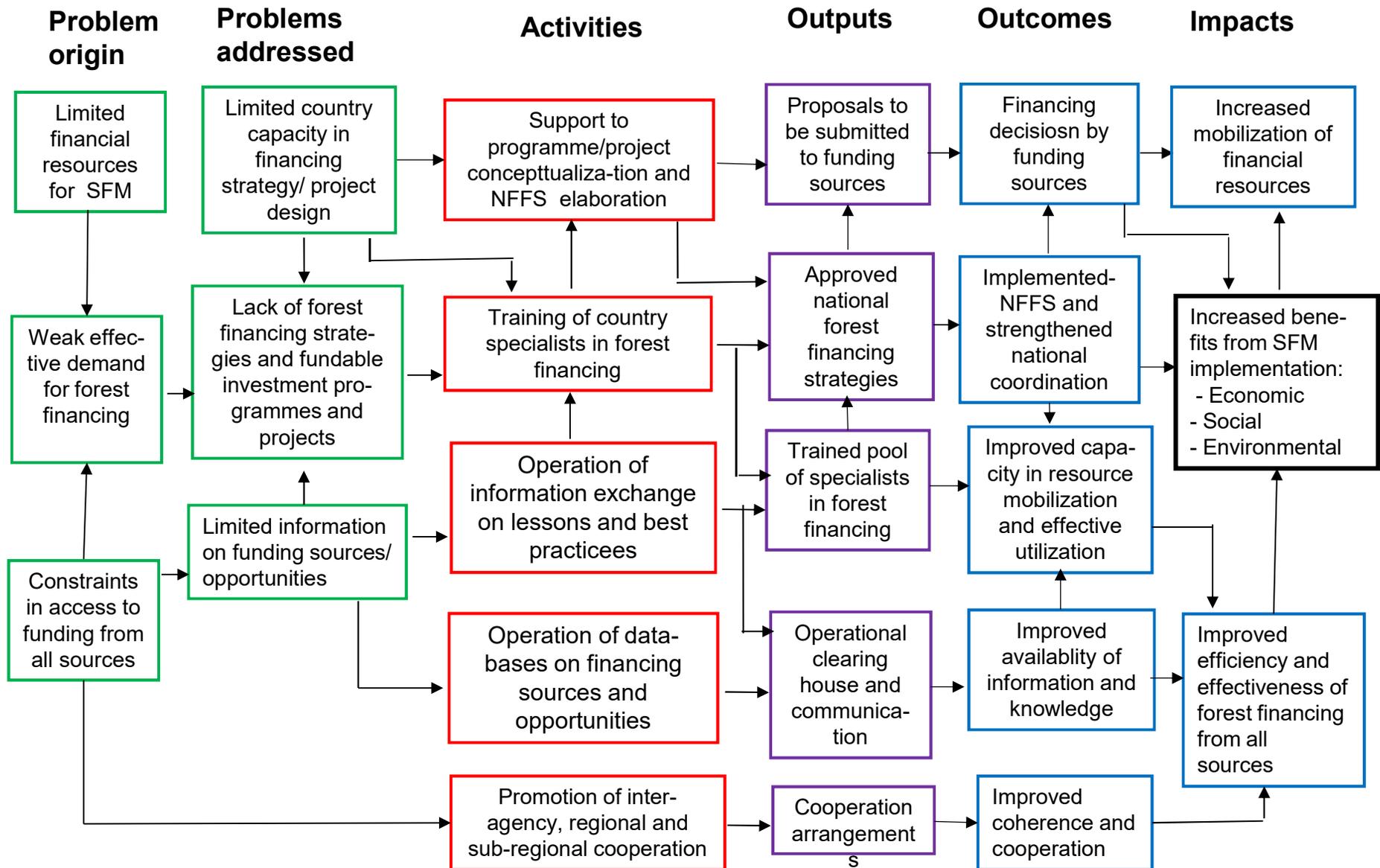
- Project support work in 13 countries: 1:700 (with planned co-financing)

Human resources

GFFFN “unit”

- Inter-Regional Adviser, Forest Financing Officer 90-95%
 - Senior Forest Policy Adviser 30%,
 - A JPO and a general staff member 50%
- Inputs have been highly effective but far from adequate
 - Response time to country requests: 3-11 months
 - Good quality pool of qualified consultants
 - 14 international, 30 national

Theory of change of GFFFN



Part II.
**Suggestions for GFFFN's
future implementation**

National forest financing strategies

1. Consider elaboration of a generic guide for NFFS
2. Develop a new modular training package and provide capacity building
3. In country support consider
 - Integration with REDD+, landscape restoration, supply chains
 - Engaging national financing intermediaries
 - National capacity building
 - National level coordination incl. national clearing houses
 - Building up capacity to set up national accredited entities
 - Effectiveness in use of available finance
 - Improved information on financial flows to SFM and their monitoring

Support to resource mobilization (project development)

1. Improve the current training package on project conceptualization
2. Adjust the request process (clarification, background information, possible initial advisory mission)
3. Shorten response time from request to starting assistance
4. In project conceptualization, consider paradigmatic and transformative changes, programmatic approaches, extra-sectoral drivers, and cross-cutting issues
5. Inform targeted funding sources on progress of work
6. Respond to possible requests for follow-up advisory support
7. Expand the pool of competent international/national consultants
8. Establish feedback mechanism for lessons and best practices

(1) Clearing house: sources of financing

1. Carry out a brief review with FAO on CPF Sourcebook contents, users and uses
2. Design GFFFN database considering potential priority user groups
3. Reconsider the scope of potential sources
4. Links for further information
5. User registration to allow feedback and monitoring
6. Periodic updating

(2) Clearing house: financing opportunities

1. Carry out a survey among potential users (international financing sources, bilateral donors, private sector)
2. Consult with similar initiatives (UNFCCC: NAMA and NDC registries)
3. Consider including VNCs as a key component
4. Design and implement the service, if found desirable

(2 bis) Support to national clearing houses

1. Develop and maintain a national database on SFM projects in the country
 2. Share information nationally among all actors
 3. Take proactive action for improved intersectoral coordination and inter-agency cooperation in SFM financing
 4. Collect and report information on forest financing in the country
 5. Act as the national link and source of information to the GFFFN clearing house
- ✓ Possible new support area for GFFFN

(3) Clearing house: lessons and best practices

1. Define the thematic scope (financing or broader)
2. Review other related services, consult on experiences and explore collaboration possibilities
3. Design the database/web portal for sharing of knowledge
4. Integrate collection of lessons in the other GFFFN activities
5. Prepare thematic guidance documents
6. Share through web portal and other means and use in training

(4) Clearing house: database on forest financing flows

1. Review adequacy of available information from existing sources and consult with them on possible action for improvements
2. Choose the approach(es) for monitoring of forest financing flows (ad hoc studies/regular data collection and reporting)
3. Support national clearing houses and link them with GFFFN data base

Other GFFFN activities

Regional/sub-regional cooperation

1. Capacity building events
2. Joint programmes and projects

Inter-agency cooperation, coordination and partnerships

1. Strengthen CPF–AGF
2. Engage CPF members in GFFFN work
3. Facilitate in building up portfolios of financing institutions
4. Consider membership in the PPF of the Rio Conventions
5. Proactive action to reduce barriers to finance and to improve coherence of emerging initiatives and effectiveness through analytical work and collaborative events

Future human resources

1. Two senior specialists in forest financing
2. Two forest officers for participating in capacity building and country support
3. One junior forest officer for databases
4. Part-time communication officer
5. General staff

Future financial resources

Annual requirements

Cost component	Thousands of USD
Staff salaries	2,200 to 2,500
Consultancy services (10 project conceptualization assignments, 6 NFFS elaboration assignments)	1,000-1,200
Other direct costs (travel, IT-costs, communication, etc.)	1,200 to 1,400
Administrative costs	300 to 400
Total	4,700 to 5,500

Conclusion:

The GFFFN has demonstrated the feasibility of the concept and it has a great potential in promoting SFM implementation if Member States so wish

Thank You

and apologies for having been
unable to attend the workshop

For questions and clarifications:

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(Allow time difference -7 hrs)