

comprehensive manner. The lack of coordination between the institutions and the instruments dealing with and affecting forests is of particular concern. More specifically, the forest sector needs to forge strong linkages with the conventions that touch on various aspects of forests, such as biological diversity, climate change, and desertification. The best way to accomplish this is to deal with these instruments on an equal basis, through conferences of the parties.

Effective Governance

As it stands, no common international agenda for action exists for the forest sector. This is a direct result of governments not having a permanent forum bringing together all forest-related institutions and instruments to debate the full range of forest issues and make decisions. As noted above, a conference of forest parties under a legally binding instrument is the best way to achieve effective governance of a common forest agenda *by the forest community*.

Open, Inclusive, and Transparent Decision Making

A legally binding instrument provides the most effective means for open and transparent intergovernmental dialogue that would take into account the views of the full range of interested parties, encompassing, among others, representatives of Indigenous people, forest dwellers, local communities, and nongovernmental organizations, including industry.

Cooperation and Coordination in Financial Assistance and Technology Transfer

The negotiation of any international instrument on forests would have to include a dialogue on financial and technical resources to support the efforts of developing countries and countries in transition to market economies in promoting sustainable forest management.