

IVM Institute for Environmental Studies

Mapping the Institutional Architecture of Global Forest Governance

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Preface

This technical report has been written as part of the CONNECT project (Coping with Fragmentation: Assessing and Reforming the current Architecture of Global Environmental Governance), funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) under grant number 016.125.330. CONNECT will (1) take stock of the existing level of fragmentation across a number of issue-areas in global environmental politics (including climate change; biodiversity; marine governance and fisheries; forestry); (2) explain the causes of fragmentation of global governance architectures based on a carefully designed set of variables; (3) analyze the implications of fragmentation across different scales of governance (i.e. international, regional and domestic levels); and finally (4) suggest policy responses to increased fragmentation. Each analytical step is accompanied by a number of technical reports that explain the methodologies used for data-gathering and analysis. Important documents available are: a broad literature review; an analytical framework for measuring fragmentation; technical reports on our mapping methodology; technical reports on social network analysis and discourse analysis.

1 Introduction

The aim of forest governance should be to provide for sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, and equitable supply of forest goods and services at both the livelihood level (e.g. timber, medicine, recreation) and globally (biodiversity, natural heritage and carbon storage) (Bass 2002). Consequently, measures to promote sustainable forestry and conservation have been discussed in the international arena, such as: protection of endangered and vulnerable species and their habitats; restriction of chemicals' usage in forestry; promotion of local communities' wellbeing, benefit-sharing and respect for indigenous peoples' rights (Gulbrandsen 2004). However, it is clear that these have historically not been met (Agrawal, Chhatre and Hardin 2008), not only due to lack of implementation but also given fundamental differences in visions on forests and land use (Visseren-Hamakers and Glasbergen 2007). Even though the importance of effective governance in addressing forest challenges and outcomes is broadly recognized, there are still major gaps in existing knowledge about the distribution of forest governance arrangements and in the understanding of certain features of this distribution (Agrawal, Chhatre and Hardin 2008).

Gulbrandsen (2004) argues that a fragmented¹ state-based forest regime emerged in the 1990s; lacking a basis in a convention or protocol, it remains uncertain if the established forest principles and norms are strong enough to actually ensure environmental protection in forestry, halt deforestation and reverse the dramatic global loss of biodiversity. Therefore, global forest governance has been shifting from being centrally administered, based on top-down regulatory policies (Agrawal, Chhatre and Hardin 2008), to increasingly include non-state actors which play an important role through certification schemes, for example (Auld, Gulbrandsen and McDermott 2008). Thus, an array of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental efforts have been put in place to address global forest deterioration; how many institutions are in existence, when were they created, which actors are involved, what are their governance functions – these are some of the questions that we intend to answer.

This paper operationalizes an analytical framework based on Abbott and Snidal (2009) for mapping the institutional architecture² in global forest governance. The goal is to take stock of key

¹ For a detailed discussion of the evolution of the fragmentation concept in Political Science, Law and International Relations, see: Isailovic, Widerberg and Pattberg (2013).

² The full conceptual and methodological framework for mapping and measuring institutional architectures in global governance architectures (Pattberg et al. 2014) can be downloaded at: http://fragmentation.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/CONNECT_Conceptual-Framework.pdf.

institutional arrangements governing forests, using the following criteria: institutions that are (i) international or transnational scope; (ii) display intentionality to steer the behaviour of their members; (iii) explicitly mention a common governance goal; and, (iv) have identifiable governance functions. Mapping the global forestry governance architecture involved two stages of data collection: (1) transnational institutions – relying on a review of previous case studies and desk research; and (2) inter-state regimes – sorting through an online database of International Environmental Agreements.

The paper consists of five sections: this brief **Introduction** provides some background on the forest governance debate, and it is followed by an overview of **Concepts and Definitions** necessary to understand the methodology described on the third and main section of the document – **Mapping the Global Forest Governance Architecture**. Next, we present our **Results & Analysis** and summarize our findings, and ultimately the **Final Remarks**' section elaborates on future work.

2 Concepts and Definitions

The term *governance architecture* is subject to a number of alternative conceptualizations, such as *regime complex* (Keohane and Victor 2011; Orsini, Morin and Young 2013) or *institutional landscape* (Shkaruba and Kireyeu 2013), which to a certain degree can be used interchangeably. For the purpose of this study, we adopt the definition of governance architecture proposed by Biermann and colleagues (2009, p. 15): “overarching system of public and private institutions that are valid or active in a given issue area of world politics”. We consider a *policy domain* as a socially constructed “component of a political system that is organized around substantive issues” (Burstein 1991, p. 328) and their constituent parts as *issue areas* “sharing inherent substantive characteristics which influence how they are framed and dealt with” (ibid). Consequently, by referring to mapping governance architectures across policy domains, we attempt to map the “patchwork of international institutions that are different in their character (organizations, regimes, and implicit norms), their constituencies (public and private), their spatial scope (from bilateral to global), and their subject matter (from specific policy fields to universal concerns” (Biermann et al. 2009, p. 16). Thus, these arrangements fall within a specific architecture because they share an identifiable *governance goal* which addresses the issue at hand (e.g. halting forest degradation and deforestation).

3 Mapping the Global Forest Governance Architecture

The operationalization of the mapping procedure comprises two steps: first, compiling a database which includes the majority of the empirical governance arrangements active at the time of the mapping exercise; and second, visualizing the overall architecture using a governance triangle (by zone = type of actors involved) and a governance decagon (by role = governance functions). The first step is described in the following sub-sections.

3.1 Criteria: General and Issue-specific

In order to compile a database that represents a global governance architecture, clear and unambiguous criteria are required, thus we include: (i) international and transnational institutions, which not only have the (ii) intentionality to steer policy and the behaviour of their members or a broader community, but also explicitly mention the (iii) common governance goal, accomplishable by (iv) significant governance functions.

Lacking a political centre or one central international regime, the forestry policy domain represents an economic sector (like energy, for example) which can be quite difficult to define and delimitate. Nevertheless, the perceived issue(s) within global forest governance that needs attendance has to be consistent across the overall architecture and so clarification of the governance goal is necessary.

An issue area is constructed through social and political processes, therefore its framing depends on actors, their interests and perceptions. So before mapping a governance architecture, issue-specific criteria might have to be drafted so as to identify the individual regimes or issues that form the broader regime complex or governance architecture. For the particular case of forests, we take into consideration the argument made by Van Asselt (2011, p. 6) who defends that forest governance is “at the intersection of climate change mitigation and adaptation on the one hand, and the protection of biodiversity on the other”. Accordingly, in our understanding, forests governance goal includes sustainable forest management, conservation of their biodiversity, restoration of their ecosystems, while promoting climate change mitigation.

3.2 Governance Triangle

Institutions that meet our criteria are placed in a governance triangle in accordance with the identity of their constituent actors³ – *State, Firm* and *Civil Society Organization (CSO)* (Abbott and Snidal 2009). The placement of an institution is determined by judging each actor group’s approximate “share” in the governance of the scheme: in principle, the *State* category includes individual states and collections of states or international organizations (IOs). Similarly, the *Firm* category includes individual business firms, groups of firms and industry associations; and ultimately, the *CSO* category includes individual CSO as well as CSO coalitions and networks. All three actor groups are defined broadly, so that among them they encompass virtually all participants in transnational governance.

The triangle is divided into seven *zones*, which represent the major combinations of actor *types*. Institutions in the vertex zones (1-3) are dominated by a single type of actor; those in the quadrilateral zones (4-6) involve two types of actors; and those in the central zone (7) involve actors of all three types. Additionally, the two dashed horizontal lines divide the triangle into three “tiers”, defined by the nature of government involvement – *state-led* (public institutions are

³ We focus on founding members and members with decision-making power within a scheme, not all of the actors that participate in a scheme’s programs in various roles.

dominant), *private-led* (Firms and CSO are dominant), and *hybrid* (government bodies share governance with firms and/or CSO in public-private partnerships).

Finally, the governance triangle also highlights the *role*, or governance function⁴, of each institution by means of color-coding – *standards & commitments* (red), *operational* activities (orange), *information & networking* (green), and *financing* (blue). These functions are not necessarily undertaken on an either/or basis as many governance schemes may engage in several activities at once. Rule-making and implementation schemes (*standards & commitments*) comprise mandatory compliance, standards for measurement and disclosure of activities, and voluntary commitments or RSS standards which govern the quality of projects. *Operational* schemes focus on, for example, technology research and development, pilot projects, demonstration and deployment activities, skills enhancement, and best practice dissemination⁵ (which may require some incidental standard-setting). *Financing* is a specific type of operational activity. Finally, forums for information-sharing and networking (*information & networking*) provide technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government.

3.3 Data Collection

To arrive at a comprehensive mapping of global forest governance, we include both international regimes and transnational institutions. Unlike the former, no database or accepted repository exists for transnational governance arrangements in the forest arena; therefore this research relies heavily on desk research to identify previous case studies (Rayner, Buck and Katila 2010). On the other hand, the international institutional landscape has been mapped with some accuracy; in fact, the concept of a *regime complex* as introduced by Keohane and Victor (2011) takes the international state-based governance for the overall architecture. To overcome this, we intend to add the international regimes that somehow regulate forests to the forests transnational governance triangle. Then, all of the collected multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) must be included in zone 1 of the triangle since they are state-led, and should be red-colored because they represent standards & commitments arrangements.

⁴ We only consider the primary activity or in some cases two primary activities of a scheme, relatively to the way they pursue the forests governance goal.

⁵ Note that purely research institutes (e.g. CIFOR, IFRI, IUFRO, ICRAF, RECOFTC) and lobbying schemes are hereby excluded.

Therefore, data collection on inter-state regimes is a prerequisite. For this purpose, we worked on the International Environmental Agreements (IEA) Database Project⁶ provided by Dr Ronald Mitchell. First, the complete IEA list was condensed according to general criteria: exclude what is currently not in force, along with amendments, bilateral agreements, and agreements that solely establish organizations or research institutions. Then, keyword searches were performed on the shortened version of the IEA database so as to run the terms present on the forests governance goal through the agreements titles (including forests' biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation). All relevant agreements without secretariat, original protocols and regional agreements were included, along with treaties on cooperation between countries that explicitly mentioned the governance goal for forests.

4 Results & Analysis

As stated before, the second and last step of mapping the global forest governance architecture is to visualize it, which already provides us some results. Hereafter, we display two ways to visualize our data: one based on the type of actors involved in the governance arrangements – Global Forest Governance Triangle -, and another built around the key governance functions of mapped institutions – Global Forest Governance Decagon.

For more detailed information: **Annex I** consists of the complete database of institutions present in the global forest governance architecture, it includes acronyms, full names, websites and year of creation, plus the information provided in both the triangle and decagon (zone, actors, type and role); and **Annex II** entails brief descriptions of each institution.

4.1 Global Forest Governance Triangle

The extent and nature of the global forest governance architecture is represented in Figure 1 using an adapted form of the transnational governance triangle proposed by Abbott and Snidal (2009), combined with the international regime complex approach from Keohane and Victor (2011).

⁶ Available at: <http://iea.uoregon.edu/> (last accessed on 24 March 2014).

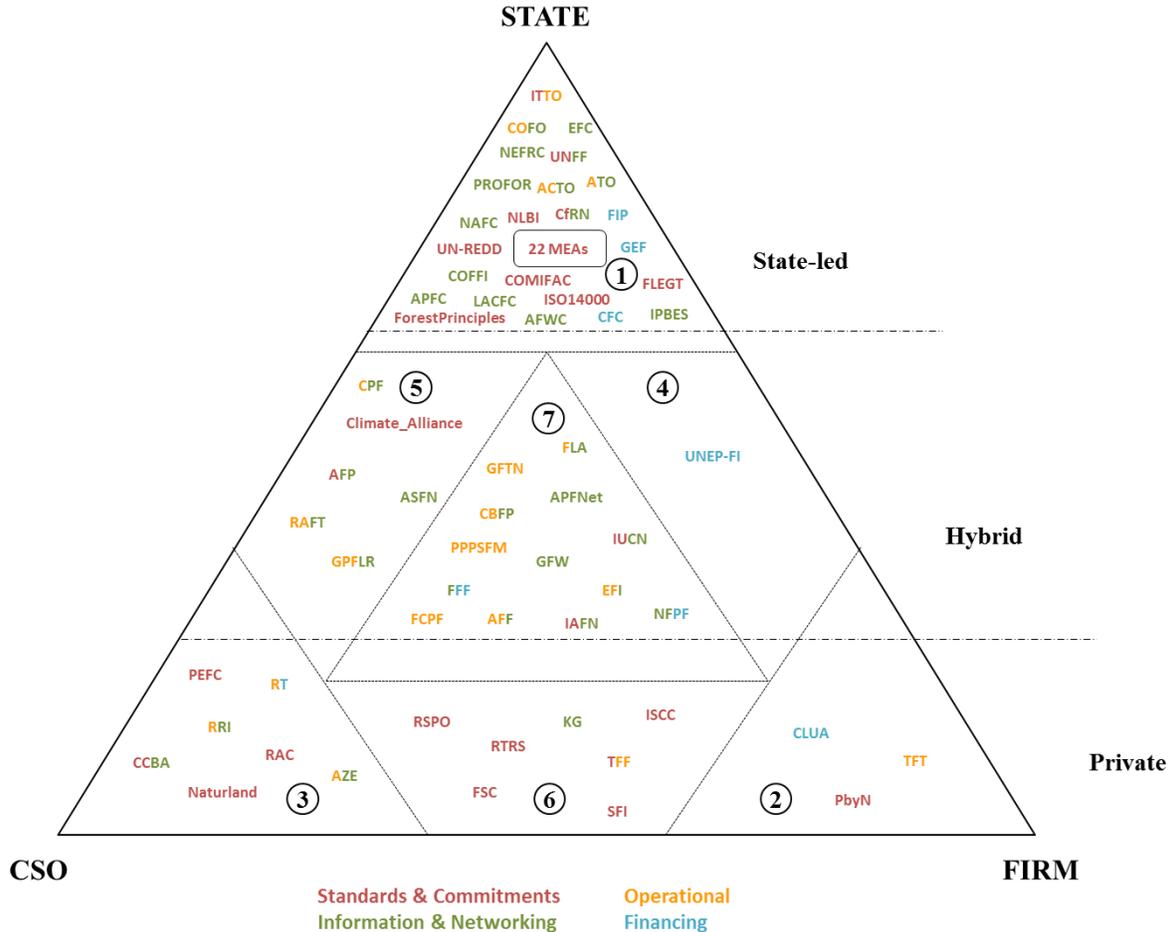


Figure 1. Global Forest Governance Triangle.

The triangle-shape highlights multiple forms of governance; by deconstructing the institutional complexity of global forests governance at a certain moment in history, we get a snapshot of who is actually engaged in pursuing the forests governance goal at the time. Hence, we purport to take into account every relevant institution that satisfies our criteria, including transnational schemes that appear significant on public and policy discussions and the scholarly literature.

Additionally, it is important to note that institutions are assigned to zones according to their constituent actors⁷; for example, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) claims to be a not-for-profit organization, but it is positioned in zone 6 because it is in fact an international membership association, governed by its members (i.e. representatives of environmental and social non-

⁷ Again, only members with decision-making power.

governmental organizations, the timber trade, forestry organizations, indigenous people’s organizations, community forestry groups, retailers and manufacturers, forest certification organizations, individual forest owners and interested parties).

4.2 Global Forest Governance Decagon

An alternative way to display the global forest governance architecture is based on the institutions’ governance functions, and so we got to the decagon form illustrated in Figure 2.

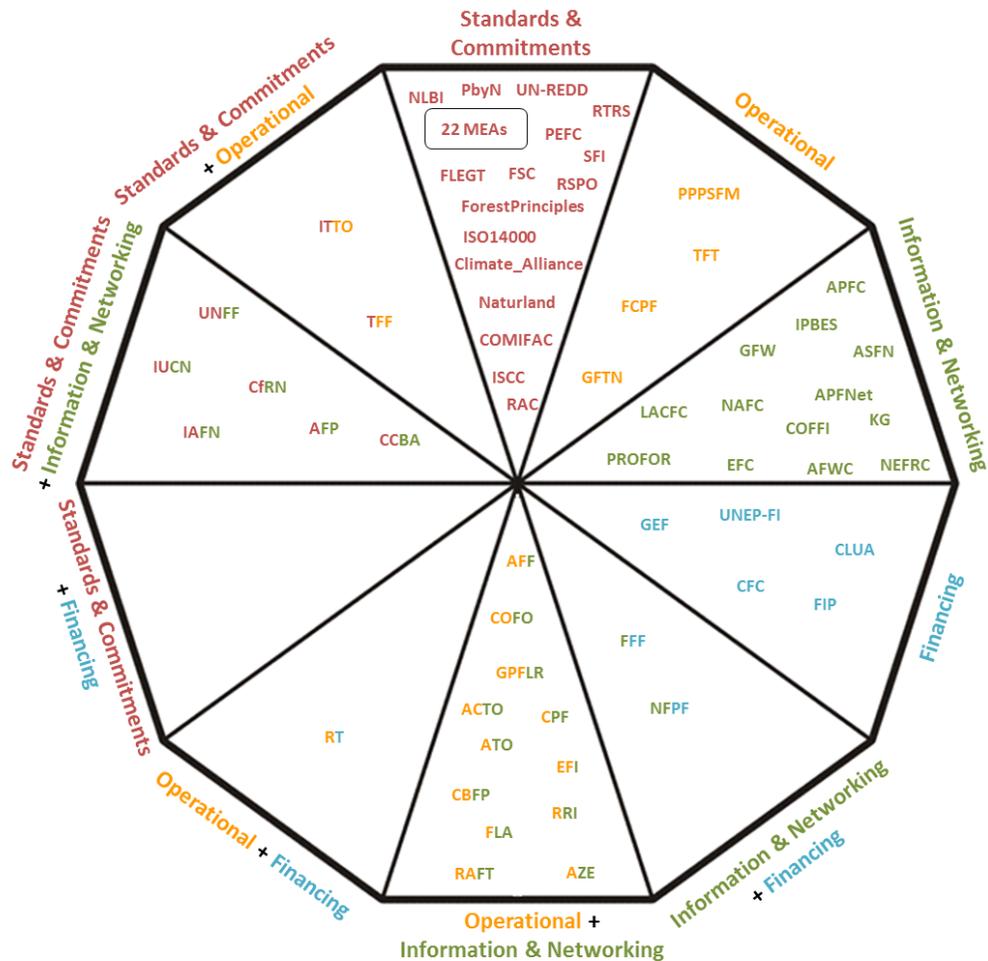


Figure 2. Global Forest Governance Decagon.

The decagon form is a crucial supplement of the governance triangle, since it shows us who is doing what on forests. There might be the case that even though complexity is high in terms of number of institutions within the forests governance architecture, they quite complement each other relatively to their governance function(s). Table 1 summarizes our findings.

Table 1. Total of global forest governance institutions' per zone and per role.

	Standards & Commitments	Operational	Information & Networking	Financing	Standards & Commitments + Operational	Operational + Information & Networking	Information & Networking + Financing	Standards & Commitments + Information & Networking	Standards & Commitments + Financing	Operational + Financing	Total (Zone)	%
1	28	0	9	3	1	3	0	2	0	0	46	55,4%
2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3,6%
3	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	7	8,4%
4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1,2%
5	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	6	7,2%
6	5	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	8,4%
7	0	3	2	0	0	4	2	2	0	0	13	15,7%
Total (Role)	38	4	13	5	2	12	2	6	0	1	83	

The current global forest governance architecture (final cut: April 2015) comprises 83 institutions; with states being involved in 66 arrangements, 22 of which are MEA and 20 amount to public-private partnerships, whereas 17 institutions remain solely private-led whether by CSO or firms. Therefore, it makes sense that the majority of standards and commitments' institutions mapped are state-based, plus the institutions in charge of certification schemes that are co-governed by CSO and firms (FSC, SFI, RSPO, RTRS and ISCC). Even so, the number of business institutions governing forests is quite low, which might hypothetically represent a shortcoming of our data collection method, with results being hampered by previous case studies' focus on state in detriment of private actors. Consequently, the number of state-CSO partnerships encountered (e.g. Collaborative Partnership on Forests) is also greater than state-firm ones (UNEP Finance Initiative).

Our results also suggest that financing activities tend to be exclusive within an institution; on the other hand, information and networking activities are commonly central in forest institutions, also when coupled with operational functions or with standards and commitments.

5 Final Remarks

The global forest governance institutional structure is broadly characterized by state involvement (79,5%), even though it lacks a central, issue-specific, legally-binding and globally agreed upon arrangement. Therefore, instead of an individual regime, we found a regime complex which embodies the increasingly participatory role of civil society organisations in fulfilling the forests

governance goal (through operational activities, information and networking or setting standards and commitments). Although some overlap is already visible between state and non-state actors in charge of standards and commitments, this mapping exercise alone is not enough to support any substantiated arguments on fragmentation. Nonetheless, it is a requirement and provides the necessary databases for what's next: measuring the degree of fragmentation in global forest governance.

Fragmentation represents a quality of a governance architecture and it is conceptualized along a continuum ranging from low to high, where low fragmentation equals an *integrated* or *coherent* system. To measure this quality, indicators of fragmentation/integration have been developed by Pattberg and colleagues (2014): actor constellations stemming from network analyses of memberships or hyperlinks; and, discursive fragmentation which we study through discourse analysis of the institutions' mission statements. Network analysis helps us connect the dots, i.e. it shows how countries, regions and cities within a governance architecture form a fragmented or integrated network of institutions and actors (Widerberg 2014); discourse analysis informs us about the coherence/incoherence of meta-discourses (or world views) and problem-framing adopted by different institutions and types of actors (Isailovic, Guerra and Pattberg, forthcoming).

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Annex I Global Forest Governance Architecture Database

ZONE	ACRONYM	NAME/WEBSITE	DATE	ACTORS	TYPE	ROLE
1	* ACCNNR	African Convention On The Conservation Of Nature And Natural Resources (Revised)	2003	State	State	1
	* ACFS	Agreement on cooperation in the forestry sector and forestry	1998	State	State	1
	ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization	1995	State	State	6
	AFWC	FAO African Forestry and Wildlife Commission	1959	State	State	3
	APFC	FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission	1949	State	State	3
	* ASEAN	ASEAN Agreement On The Conservation Of Nature And Natural Resources	1985	State	State	1
	* ASEAN_Ag	Agreement Between the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea on Forest Cooperation	2011	State	State	1
	ATO	African Timber Organization	1976	State	State	6
	* CartagenaP	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention On Biological Diversity	2000	State	State	1
	* CBD	Convention On Biological Diversity	1992	State	State	1
	* CCEWNH	Convention On The Conservation Of European Wildlife And Natural Habitats	1979	State	State	1
	CFC	Common Fund for Commodities	1989	State	State	4
	CfRN	Coalition for Rainforest Nations	2005	State	State	8
	* CITES	Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species Of Wild Fauna And Flora	1973	State	State	1
	COFFI	UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry	1947	State	State	3
	COFO	Committee on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	1945	State	State	6
	COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission	1999	State	State	1
	* CPA	Convention Concerning The Protection Of The Alps	1991	State	State	1
	EFC	FAO European Forestry Commission	1947	State	State	3
	FIP	Forest Investment Program	2008	State	State	4
	FLEGT	EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan	2003	State	State	1
	ForestPrinciples	Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests	1992	State	State	1
	GEF	Global Environment Facility	1991	State	State	4
	IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	2012	State	State	3
	ISO14001	ISO 14000	1990	State	State	1
	ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization	1986	State	State	5
	LACFC	FAO Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission	1948	State	State	3
	* LRTAP	Convention On Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution	1979	State	State	1

	NAFC	FAO North American Forest Commission	1958	State	State	3
*	NagoyaP	Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	2010	State	State	1
	NEFRC	FAO Near East Forestry and Range Commission	1953	State	State	3
	NLBI	Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests	2007	State	State	1
*	PACMF	Protocol For The Implementation Of The Alpine Convention Concerning Mountain Forests	1996	State	State	1
*	PBLFCC	Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians	2008	State	State	1
*	PFCC	Protocol on Sustainable Forest Management to the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians	2011	State	State	1
*	PFTSAC	Protocol On Forestry To The Treaty Of The Southern African Development Community	2002	State	State	1
*	PRamsar	Protocol To Amend The Convention On Wetlands Of International Importance Especially As Waterfowl Habitat	1982	State	State	1
	PROFOR	Program on Forests	1997	State	State	3
*	PUNFCCC	Protocol To The United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change	1997	State	State	1
*	Ramsar	Convention On Wetlands Of International Importance Especially As Waterfowl Habitat	1971	State	State	1
*	RCNFEP	Regional Convention For The Management And Conservation Of The Natural Forest Ecosystems And The Development Of Forest Plantations	1993	State	State	1
*	TAC	Treaty For Amazonian Cooperation	1978	State	State	1
*	UNCCD	Convention To Combat Desertification In Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought And/Or Desertification, Particularly In Africa	1994	State	State	1
*	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change	1992	State	State	1
	UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests	2010	State	State	8
	UN-REDD	United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation	2008	State	State	1
2	CLUA	Climate and Land Use Alliance	2010	Firm	Private	4
	PbyN	Paper by Nature Association/Eco-label	2008	Firm	Private	1
	TFT	The Forest Trust	1999	Firm	Private	2
3	AZE	Alliance for Zero Extinction	2000	CSO	Private	6
	CCBA	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance	2003	CSO	Private	8
	Naturland	Naturland - Association for Organic Agriculture	1982	CSO	Private	1
	PEFC	Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification	2003	CSO	Private	1
	RAC	Rainforest Alliance Certified	1987	CSO	Private	1
	RRI	Rights and Resources Initiative	2005	CSO	Private	6
	RT	Rainforest Trust	1988	CSO	Private	10
4	UNEP-FI	UNEP Finance Initiative	1992	State/Firm	Hybrid	4

5	AFP	Asia Forest Partnership	2002	State/CSO	Hybrid	8
	ASFN	ASEAN Social Forestry Network	2005	State/CSO	Hybrid	3
	Climate_Alliance	Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest Peoples	1990	State/CSO	Hybrid	1
	CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests	2001	State/CSO	Hybrid	6
	GPFLR	The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration	2003	State/CSO	Hybrid	6
	RAFT	Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade	2006	State/CSO	Hybrid	6
6	ISCC	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification	2010?	Firm/CSO	Private	1
	FSC	Forest Stewardship Council	1993	CSO/Firm	Private	1
	KG	The Katoomba Group (Forest Trends)	1999	CSO/Firm	Private	3
	RSPO	Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil	2004	CSO/Firm	Private	1
	RTRS	Round Table Responsible Soy	2006	Firm/CSO	Private	1
	SFI	Sustainable Forestry Initiative	1995	CSO/Firm	Private	1
	TFF	Tropical Forest Foundation (Reduced Impact Logging Verified/Standard)	1990	Firm/CSO	Private	5
7	AFF	African Forest Forum	2007	CSO/Firm/State	Hybrid	6
	APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation	2007	State/CSO/Firm	Hybrid	3
	CBFP	Congo Basin Forest Partnership	2002	CSO/State/Firm	Hybrid	6
	EFI	European Forest Institute	2000	State/CSO/Firm	Hybrid	6
	FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	2008	State/CSO/Firm	Hybrid	4
	FFF	Forest & Farm Facility	2012	State/CSO	Hybrid	7
	FLA	Forest Legality Alliance	2010	CSO/Firm/State	Hybrid	6
	GFTN	WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network	1991	CSO/Firm/State	Private	2
	GFW	Global Forest Watch 2.0	1997	State/CSO/Firm	Hybrid	3
	IAFN	International Analog Forest Network	1995	CSO/Firm/State	Hybrid	8
	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources	1948	State/CSO/Firm	Hybrid	8
	NFPF	National Forest Programme Facility	2002	State/CSO/Firm	State	7
	PPPSFM	Public-Private Partnership for Sustainable Forest Management (Tropical Forest Foundation)	2011-2022	CSO/State/Firm	Hybrid	2

Legend:

*Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Date of creation of each institution (signature year for agreements and protocols).

Zone of the governance triangle; it is assigned according to **Actors** involved in founding and governing the scheme (adapted from Abbott and Snidal 2009): 1 = State; 2 = Firms; 3 = Civil Society Organizations (CSO); 4 = State + Firms; 5 = State + CSO; 6 = CSO + Firm; 7 = State + CSO + Firm.

Type of institution; it is assigned according to **Actors** involved in founding and governing the scheme, or **Zone** (adapted to Abbott and Snidal 2009): State = State (ZONE 1); Private = Firm (ZONE 2) or CSO (ZONE 3); Hybrid = State/Firm (ZONE 4) State/CSO (ZONE 5), Firm/CSO (ZONE 6), or State/Firm/CSO (ZONE 7).

Role or governance functions (adapted from Abbott and Snidal 2009): 1 = Standards and Commitments; 2 = Operational; 3 = Information and Networking; 4 = Financing; 5 = Standards and Commitments + Operational; 6 = Operational + Information and Networking; 7 = Information and Networking + Financing; 8 = Standards and Commitments + Information and Networking; 9 = Standards and Commitments + Financing; 10 = Operational + Financing.

Annex II Brief Descriptions of Global Forest Governance Institutions (Alphabetical Order)

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
AFWC	
APFC	
EFC	
LACFC	
NEFRC	
NAFC	
ACCNNR	Regional treaty on environment and natural resources conservation dealing with a wide spectrum of sustainable development issues: land and soil, water, and biological diversity conservation and sustainable use. It boosts the commitment of African governments to protecting the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources and a collective approach to biodiversity conservation in Africa.
ACFS	Agreement on cooperation in the forestry sector and forestry.
ACTO	International organization that coordinates procedures in the framework of the Amazonian Treaty and expedites the execution of its decisions. ACTO coordinates studies and pilot projects on economic perspectives capable of generating income and opportunities for the Amazon region, thus fostering effective cooperation and integration among the Party Countries of the Treaty.
AFF	Association of individuals with a commitment to the sustainable management, wise use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources for the socio-economic well-being of its peoples and for the stability and improvement of its environment.
AFP	Partnership for sustainable development; it promotes sustainable forest management in Asia through addressing good governance and forest law enforcement, developing capacity for effective forest management, control of illegal logging and forest fires, and rehabilitation and reforestation of degraded lands.
APFNet	Regional network which aims to help promoting and improving sustainable forest management and rehabilitation through capacity building, information exchange, and support for regional policy dialogues and pilot projects.
ASEAN	International agreement to maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems, to preserve genetic diversity, and to ensure the sustainable utilisation of living resources in the ASEAN region.
ASEAN_Ag	Regional cooperation mechanism in the forest sector between the ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea.
ASFN	Government driven social forestry network in Southeast Asia with the main goal to strengthen ASEAN cooperation in social forestry through the sharing of information and knowledge. Its role is to exchange experiences and share knowledge promoting policy and practices, research and capacity building, as well as interventions, through various means to targeted audiences.
ATO	The organization's main priority has been to promote the implementation of sustainable forest management in ATO member countries, and in accordance with recommendations made at international level, specially by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests.
AZE	88 non-governmental biodiversity conservation organizations working to prevent species extinctions by identifying and safeguarding the places where species evaluated to be Endangered or Critically Endangered under IUCN-World Conservation Union criteria are restricted to single remaining sites.
CartagenaP	International agreement which aims to ensure safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.
CBD	One of three Rio Conventions with the following objectives: conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.
CBFP	Voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative which works in close relationship with the Central

	African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the regional body in charge of forest and environmental policy, coordination and harmonization, with the objective to promote the conservation and sustainable management of the Congo basin's forest ecosystems.
CCBA	Unique partnership of leading international NGOs with a mission to stimulate and promote land management activities that credibly mitigate global climate change, improve the well-being and reduce the poverty of local communities, and conserve biodiversity. It brings together diverse stakeholders through a transparent and inclusive participatory process to develop standards that stimulate, identify and promote high quality multiple-benefit land management activities.
CCEWNH	Bern convention/Binding international legal instrument in the field of nature conservation, covering most of the natural heritage of the European continent and extends to some States of Africa. It aims to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, as well as to promote European cooperation in the field.
CFC	Intergovernmental financial institution established within the framework of the UN. It operates under the novel approach of commodity focus instead of the traditional country focus. Member countries benefit from projects financed by the Fund, whose basic rationale is to enhance socio-economic development of commodity producers; and to contribute to the development of the society as a whole.
CfRN	Intergovernmental organization; provides diplomatic leadership through efforts across government, academia and industry to address complex issues surrounding environmental sustainability specific to tropical rainforests, and achieves success through capacity-building within nations by enhancing technical capacity, spearheading research, assembling world-class advisory capacity, facilitate policy development, coordinate economic and technical regulatory frameworks and oversee implementation.
CITES	International agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
Climate_Alliance	Association of cities, municipalities and districts committed to the protection of the global climate, aiming to reduce greenhouse emissions. For this, local climate strategies are developed and implemented, especially in the energy and transport sectors.
CLUA	Collaborative initiative of four foundations; it seeks to realize the potential of forested and agricultural landscapes to mitigate climate change, benefit people, and protect the environment. It does so by supporting public and private sector policies and finance in order to help achieve cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from land use, and improve land rights of indigenous and rural communities.
COFFI	Joint section UNECE/FAO which works with countries of the region as well as forest stakeholders to address challenges related to sustainable forest management. It does so by organizing meetings to agree upon action to be taken, gatherings of experts on specific challenges, events to raise awareness on specific forest-related issues, and by compiling and analyzing data and sharing this knowledge through publications and other communication material.
COFO	Highest FAO Forestry statutory body. Its biennial sessions bring together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action.
COMIFAC	Intergovernmental organisation in Central Africa; its goal is to manage the forests of Central Africa in a sustainable manner and is supported by the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC.
CPA	International territorial treaty for the sustainable development of the Alps, with the objective of protecting its natural environment while promoting its development.
CPF	Innovative partnership of 14 major forest-related international organizations, institutions and convention secretariats, works to support the work of the UNFF and its member countries and to foster increased cooperation and coordination on forests.
EFI	International organisation established by European States that conducts research and provides policy support on issues related to forests; they facilitate and stimulate forest-related networking and promote the dissemination of unbiased and policy-relevant information on forests and forestry; and advocate for forest research and for the use of scientifically sound information as a basis for forest policies.

FCPF	Global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (activities commonly referred to as REDD+). It has two separate but complementary funding mechanisms – the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund.
FFF	Partnership launched between FAO, IIED and IUCN. It funds partnership agreements and small grants with smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples’ producer organizations and governments at local, national, regional and international levels.
FIP	Funding window of the Climate Investment Fund; it supports developing countries’ efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and promote sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+).
FLA	Multi-stakeholder initiative led by the World Resources Institute, with support from the United States Agency for International Development and companies in the forest sector. Its goal is to reduce illegal logging through supporting the supply of legal forest products.
FLEGT	EU Action Plan that aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally produced timber.
ForestPrinciples	Non-legally binding document produced at the Earth Summit and that makes several recommendations for conservation and sustainable development forestry.
FSC	Global, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. They enable businesses and consumers to make informed choices about the forest products they buy, and create positive change by engaging the power of market dynamics.
GEF	Partnership for international cooperation, serves as financial mechanism for: CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, among others. It is currently an independent organization, but was established by UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank (GEF Trust Fund).
GFTN	WWF-led partnership with the goal to create a new market for environmentally responsible forest products. It exists to support and facilitate greater coordination of national and regional efforts to expand responsible and credibly certified forest management, including technical assistance throughout the certification process and enhanced marketing opportunities.
GFW	Dynamic online forest monitoring and alert system that empowers people everywhere with the information they need to better manage and conserve forest landscapes.
GPFLR	Proactive network that unites governments, organisations, communities and individuals with a common goal: restoring world’s degraded and deforested lands.
IAFN	International network that works to restore the productivity of degraded lands and provide new sources of income and food for local populations. They collaborate with small farmers and indigenous communities in developing countries to maintain and restore their forests and improve their income and subsistence.
IPBES	Independent intergovernmental body open to all member countries of the United Nations. It provides a mechanism recognized by both the scientific and policy communities to synthesize, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous communities.
ISCC	One of the leading certification systems for sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions. Its certification can be applied to meet legal requirements in the bioenergy markets as well as to demonstrate the sustainability and traceability of feedstock in the food, feed and chemical industries.
ISO14001	It sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and can be certified to. It maps out a framework that a company or organization can follow to set up an effective environmental management system. It can be used by any organization regardless of its activity or sector.
ITTO	Intergovernmental organization that promotes conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources. Its members represent about 80% of the world’s tropical forests and 90% of the global tropical timber trade.
IUCN	World’s oldest and largest global environmental organization; it helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. Its work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and

	deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. It also supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice.
KG	International network of individuals working to promote and improve capacity related to markets and payments for ecosystem services. It serves as a source of ideas for and strategic information about ecosystem service markets. It is known for its international convenings, which have provided a forum for exchanging ideas, influencing policy-makers, and catalyzing new initiatives.
LRTAP	Convention that establishes a framework for intergovernmental cooperation with the aim of protecting health and the environment from air pollution that is liable to affect several countries.
NagoyaP	International agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.
Naturland	Farmers' non-profit association; as one of the world's foremost organisations in the promotion of organic agriculture, it has provided important impetus, opening up new fields such as organic forestry management and organic aquaculture. The cultivation and processing of all the goods produced to its standards are eco-friendly and guarantee jobs.
NFPF	FAO Programme Facility that supports stakeholders involvement in the forest policy process. It has delivered grants to the civil society for their participation in the formulation process through studies, providing a solid local level input for policy decision makers at national level. In addition, the civil society and the Forest Agencies have been involved in the implementation of concrete activities of national forest programmes.
NLBI	Considered a milestone, since it was the first time Member States have agreed to an international instrument for sustainable forest management (7 th Session of the UNFF). Expected to have a major impact on international cooperation and national action to reduce deforestation, prevent forest degradation, promote sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty for all forest-dependent peoples.
PACMF	Protocol to the Alpine Convention; its objectives are the conservation as well as the development, surface extension and improvement of mountain forests.
PBLFCC	Protocol to the Framework Carpathian Convention containing specific substantive obligations on biological and landscape diversity.
PbyN	Non-profit association dedicated to promoting environmentally friendly practices in the paper converting industry and the responsible use of paper amongst consumers. It was initiated by key European actors from the paper industry and it aims at providing a framework for initiating and maintaining dialogue between different stakeholders; those from industry as well as from the non-profit sector. The Paper by Nature Eco-label's objective is to offer a global reference for European consumers of converted paper products.
PEFC	International, non-profit, non-governmental organization which promotes sustainable forest management through independent third party certification.
PFFCC	Protocol to the Framework Carpathian Convention containing specific substantive obligations on sustainable forest management.
PFTSAC	Protocol that aims to promote the development, conservation, sustainable management and utilisation of all types of forest and trees; trade in forest products and achieve effective protection of the environment, and safeguard the interests of both the present and future generations.
PPPSFM	Partnership for sustainable development; this initiative seeks to: identify forest management units or companies committed to the achievement of SFM; integrate key aspects of SFM principles into forest management; provide reporting mechanism of SFM and chain of custody arrangements; ensure market access for sustainably managed and produced forest products; and foster responsible and sustainable development through the encouragement and stimulation of SFM using a market orientated mechanism.
PRamsar	Protocol do the Ramsar Convention; it aims to promote the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna, especially waterfowl, through national policies and coordinated international

	programs.
PROFOR	Program which supports in-depth analysis, innovative processes and knowledge-sharing and dialogue, in the belief that sound forest policy can lead to better outcomes on issues ranging from livelihoods and financing, to illegal logging, biodiversity and climate change. Since 2002, it has been managed by a core team based at the World Bank, with support from multiple donors.
PUNFCCC	Kyoto protocol/International agreement linked with the UNFCCC which commits its Parties by setting internationally binding emission reduction targets.
RAC	Non-governmental organization that works to conserve biodiversity and improve livelihoods by promoting and evaluating the implementation of sustainability standards in a variety of fields. Through RA-Cert, the Rainforest Alliance's auditing division provides forestry, agriculture and carbon/climate clients with independent and transparent verification, validation and certification services based on these standards, which are designed to generate ecological, social and economic benefits.
RAFT	Unique partnership of leading conservation organizations that have combined forces to make responsible forestry and trade the norm across the Asia Pacific region. Through its partners, it offers an unmatched pool of region-wide knowledge and expertise, making it the go-to place for everything you need to know about responsible – that's legal and sustainable – forestry and trade.
Ramsar	Intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
RCNFEP	International agreement to promote, within Central America, national and regional strategies and procedures for the sustainable management of forests, including the establishment of a homogenous soil classification and the recovery of deforested areas.
RRI	Global coalition of 14 core partners and more than 150 collaborator organizations engaged in forest and land policy reform in Africa, Asia, and Latin America—directly in 15 priority countries and indirectly in many others.
RSPO	Not-for-profit association aiming to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm; it unites stakeholders from the palm oil industry to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil. With over 2000 members globally representing 40% of the palm oil industry, covering all sectors of the global commodity supply chain.
RT	Non-profit organization that purchases and protects the most threatened tropical forests, saving endangered wildlife through partnerships and community engagement.
RTRS	Civil organisation that promotes responsible production, processing and trading of soy on a global level. Its members include the main representatives of the soy value chain and members of civil society from around the world.
SFI	Independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management. It has a forest certification standard based on principles that promote sustainable forest management, including measures to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk, and Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value.
TAC	Treaty that reaffirms the Amazon countries' sovereignty and encourages, institutionalizes and guides regional cooperation between them. Its main purpose is to promote the harmonious development of the Amazon while incorporating the countries' Amazonian territories to their respective national economies, an essential condition for reconciling economic growth with environmental preservation.
TFF	International, non-profit, educational NGO dedicated to the conservation of tropical forests through sustainable forestry. Its regional programs have become synonymous with the promotion and training of Reduced Impact Logging.
TFT	Global environmental charity that helps companies run responsible supply chains. The majority of the organization's staff are field-based, working with plantation and factory staff and owners. TFT's business support teams work with buyers/procurement teams and senior management and their supply chain partners to understand what they can do to source products more responsibly.
UNCCD	Legally binding international agreement which addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. Its Parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in the drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of

	drought.
UNEP-FI	Global partnership between UNEP and the financial sector. Over 200 institutions, including banks, insurers and fund managers, work with UNEP to understand the impacts of environmental and social considerations on financial performance.
UNFCCC	International environmental treaty with the objective of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system; it provides a framework for negotiating protocols that may set binding limits on greenhouse gases.
UNFF	Intergovernmental policy forum which aims to promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.
UN-REDD	UN collaborative initiative that supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and other forest-dependent communities, in national and international REDD+ design and implementation.

Note: These descriptions were put together by summarizing information present at each institution's website.