

# Mahendra L. Joshi, Ph.D.

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## SKILL SYNOPSIS

Highly knowledgeable in intergovernmental negotiation dynamics, sustainable development, international development cooperation, and capacity building. Proven track record in facilitating consensus building at international level; experienced in planning and coordinating international conferences and meetings. Skilled in analyzing and synthesizing complex technical issues and presenting them in policy context. Acknowledged for sound judgment, technical competency, strong dedication, sensitivity to multi-cultural work environment and results-oriented work habits.

I have 16 years long work experience in the United Nations in New York as a professional staff member, and developed an excellent network with diplomatic and international development communities.

## EDUCATION

- **Ph.D.:** Forest resources policy and economics. Auburn University, Alabama, USA. 1997
- **M.S.:** Forest resources economics. University of Minnesota, USA. 1993
- **Diploma in Forestry (AIFC):** Indian Forest College, Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun, India, 1975
- **B.Sc.:** Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1972.

## CAREER SUMMARY

Nov 2013 – Jan 2014: *Officer-in-Charge*, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat. The United Nations Headquarters, New York. Retired from the UN on 31 January 2014.

2005 – Nov. 2013: *Senior Programme Officer and Chief* of the Scientific and Technical Issues Unit in the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (including 2005-2009 as Senior Programme Management Officer). Main responsibilities included developing a strategic vision for the programme of the Forum and the Forum Secretariat; strategic and operational planning for the Forum sessions; liaison with the Rio Convention Secretariats and forest-related international and regional organizations; and leading the staff in the Unit on issues related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), monitoring, assessment and reporting, regional cooperation, etc.

2002 – 2005: *Programme Officer*, the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat. Main responsibilities included strategic planning for the Forum's sessions and related meetings; preparing parliamentary documents, facilitating negotiations during the sessions; follow-up to the outcomes of the Forum decisions; coordinating the Bureau affairs; and actively participating in the senior management team of the Secretariat.

1998 – 2002: *Forestry Advisor*, The United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat and its predecessor, the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF), New York. Responsibilities included being the focal point on financial and trade issues;

facilitating the negotiations during the Forum sessions; and follow-up to the developments in the climate change negotiations.

During 1998-2000, also shared my time and responsibilities with the Programme on Forests (PROFOR), UNDP, New York, as *Programme Manager*, leading the analytical work on financing for sustainable forest management (SFM) issues and implementation of Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) proposals for action in PROFOR programme countries.

1991 – 1997: *Post-Doctoral Research Associate* and Graduate student in the US (at Auburn University: 1993-97; and the University of Minnesota: 1991-93). Studies focused on forest policy, natural resource economics, environmental law and policy, and international development. Research work concentrated on the role of forests and other public policies on rural development.

1975 – 1996: *Career forest officer*, Nepalese Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC). Held various progressively responsible managerial positions which ranged from district forest management, multi-lateral community forestry development, and reforestation projects, to national level forest policy and project developments and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Worked in a number of districts of Nepal managing forests from tropical to high mountain temperate zones, and supervised staff under various assignments ranging from 25 to 200.

During 1991-96, I took special leave from Government position for graduate studies (M.S. and Ph.D.) in the US.

### CONSULTANCIES

(after retirement from the United Nations on 31 January 2014)

2018: *Consultant*, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat to conduct a study on the issues related to forest-dependent people and the role of forests in poverty eradication and food security.

*Senior Consultant*, Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet)<sup>1</sup> for facilitating Fourth APFNet Workshop entitled “Towards more effective in-service training for public forestry agencies”.

2017: *Consultant*, the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) to gather and analyze information on policies and institutional arrangements for the promotion of MSMEs in the pilot countries.

*Senior Consultant*, APFNet to undertake analytical studies on human resource development, and forest rehabilitation in Asia-Pacific region.

*Consultant*, the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to conduct the “End of Project Review of the ACIAR project FST/2011/76 Enhancing livelihoods and food security from agroforestry and community forestry in Nepal”.

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<sup>1</sup> APFNet is an international organization with an aim to expand forest cover and improve forest ecosystem quality in Asia and the Pacific region to promote the multiple functions of forests, help mitigate and adapt to climate change and meet the changing socio-economic and environmental needs of the region. It is based in Beijing, China. For more information on APFNet, please visit <http://www.apfnet.cn/>

- 2016: *Consultant*, the DSD to provide substantive and technical support to the Division in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, on the contribution of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Consultant*, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat to provide substantive technical support to its expert group meeting (22 – 27 April 2016).
- Consultant*, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to undertake an analysis of the joint initiatives of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) in support of sustainable forest management.
- Consultant*, the UNFF Secretariat to provide substantive support to the Secretariat and the Forum Bureau in the negotiations for a Ministerial Declaration on global forest issues during the eleventh session of the Forum (4-15 May 2015). Prepared an analytical report on global-regional cooperation on forests, the current situation and future prospects for the United Nations Forum on Forests
- 2014-2015 *Chief Consultant*, APFNet to assess its current Strategic Plan (2011 – 2015) and develop a new Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### International processes and projects

- *Prepared* a background paper for the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat on issues related to forest dependency, poverty and food security, in December 2018.
- *Prepared* a background paper for the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UN DSD) on Institutional arrangements for the promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in pilot countries of the UN DSD project, in March 2018.
- *Prepared* an analytical paper for the UN DSD on role of MSMEs in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This analysis provided background materials for the project “Enhancing national capacities for unleashing full potentials of MSMEs in achieving sustainable development goals in developing countries” under DSD, in 2017.
- Conducted an analytical report for APFNet on in-service training arrangements of public forestry agencies in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Prepared a study on major scientific and policy trends on forest rehabilitation in the Asia Pacific region for APFNet.
- *Assisted* the United Nations Forum on Forests in its negotiations on the Ministerial Declaration on forests at its eleventh session (4-15 May 2015).
- *Undertook a comprehensive assessment* of the current Strategic Plan of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet), and *drafted* of new Strategic Plan for the period 2016-2020, which was adopted by the APFNet Board of Directors.
- *Coordinated* the conclusion of the host country agreement with the Government of Turkey, in organizing the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF10) in Istanbul in April 2013. The agreement included detailed provisions on legal, organizational, financial and logistical arrangements. Raised more than \$6.0 million from the Government of Turkey for the successful organization of UNFF10.
- *Successfully led* the preparations of the tenth session of the Forum (UNFF10), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in April 2013. The preparations involved the conclusion of the host country agreement with the Government of Turkey, with detailed provisions on legal, organizational, financial and logistical arrangements. Oversaw all logistic and programming aspects of the session.

- *Prepared operational plans* for the successful execution of the Forum sessions since 2001 (from the first to the tenth session).
- *Facilitated negotiations* on the multi-year programmes of work (MYPOW) of UNFF for the periods 2001-2005 and 2007-2015.
- *Facilitated negotiations* on forest finance, economic aspects of forests, enhanced cooperation and coordination, and a number of substantive issues on the agenda of UNFF and its predecessor, the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) since 1998.
- *Prepared and/or coordinated* preparation of the parliamentary and policy documents (e.g., reports of the Secretary-General and notes of the Secretariat) for the sessions of the UN Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).
- *Fundraising* for the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat.
- *Delivered* several presentations at workshops and seminars at universities and international and regional meetings on global forest policy and cooperation issues.
- Represented the UNFF Secretariat at a number of international conferences and meetings.
- *Developed* a concept paper on “Sourcebook on Available Funds for Sustainable Forest Management” in 2001, which was launched successfully as a first joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a voluntary partnership of international organizations.
- *Researched and wrote* several reports on innovative financing mechanisms for SFM, issues of international trade and on the issues of countries with low forest cover.
- *Planned, coordinated and organized* international meetings of experts on issues of financing for sustainable forest management.
- *Developed* terms of reference for consultants for emerging issues of strategic significance to forests, including financing for sustainable forest management, governance, international law, forest land tenure, etc.

### **National level activities**

- *Initiated* community forestry programmes in several districts of Nepal in the late 1970s, during the early stage of development of the approach involving communities in forest conservation and management.
- *Managed* public forests of Nepal in several districts as District Forest Officer.
- *Prepared* and implemented a number of project for the Government of Nepal and donors on the country’s institutional strengthening, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system development, reforestation.
- *Managed* staff of more than 200 persons at a time in Nepal in implementing forest development programmes.
- *Coordinated* meetings between the National Planning Commission and Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in Nepal to review progress of development projects in 1990-1991.
- *Assessed* the impacts of public policies on sustainable development of rural forest-dependent communities in Alabama, USA, as part of Ph.D. research.

## REFERENCES

### **Dr. Hans M. Gregersen**

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## PUBLICATIONS

1. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2018. *Forest dependency, poverty and food security: Some issues related to the Global Forest Goal 2 and its Targets 2.1 and 2.3.* A background report prepared for the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat. (internal document<sup>2</sup>)
2. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2018. *Promoting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs): Institutional arrangements in pilot countries of the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development (UN DSD) project.* (internal document)
3. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2018. *An overview of in-service training arrangements of public forestry agencies in the Asia-Pacific region.* <http://www.apfnet.cn/en/uploads/soft/20180921/1537519999.pdf>
4. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2017. *Forest rehabilitation in the Asia Pacific region: Major policy trends, challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region.*
5. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2016. *Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs): Their role, potentials and challenges in sustainable development.* A background paper prepared for the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. (internal document)
6. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2016. *The CPF Joint Initiatives Current State-of-play and Proposed Actions.* A report prepared for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome. (internal document)
7. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2016. *Major groups engagement in the UNFF: Achievements, Challenges and Opportunities.* <http://www.mgp-forests.org/related-paper-for-mgs-preparation-towards-input-into-unff-strategic-plan-and-quadrennial-programme-of-work/mgpof-background-paper-for-unff-sp/>
8. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2015. *Global-regional cooperation on forests: The Current Situation and Future*

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<sup>2</sup> Reports indicated as (internal document) may not be available for public view.

- Prospects for the United Nations Forum on Forests. (internal document)
9. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2015. Assessment of the 2011-2015 APFNet Strategic Plan. A report prepared for the APFNet, Beijing. (internal document)
  10. **Joshi, Mahendra** 2009. *Forests for People in the context of the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, national forest programmes and the United Nations Forum on Forests.* A paper presented at the International Expert Meeting on “Forests for People – the role of national forest programmes and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests”. Guilin, P.R. China.17-20 Nov 2009.
  11. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2002. *Completion Report, Programme on Forests (PROFOR)*, UNDP, New York. (internal document)
  12. **Joshi, Mahendra.** 2002. *Countries with low forest cover: An emerging international forest policy issue.* Overseas Development Institute, UK.
  13. Chipeta, Mafa and **M. Joshi** (Co-Editors). 2001. *The private sector speaks: Investing in sustainable forest management.* Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia.
  14. Chipeta, Mafa and **M. Joshi** (Co-Editors). 2001. *Report of the International Workshop of Experts on “Financing Sustainable Forest Management”*, 22-25 January 2001, Oslo, Norway. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia.
  15. **Joshi, Mahendra L.,** J. Bliss, C. Bailey, L. Teeter and K. Ward. 2000. *Investing in industry, under-investing in human capital: Forest based rural development in Alabama.* The Society of Natural Resources in Vol. 13, No. 5 in July/August 2000.
  16. **Joshi, Mahendra L.** 1999. *Financing sustainable forestry: Issues under international deliberation.* Programme on Forests (PROFOR), UNDP, New York.
  17. **Joshi, Mahendra L.,** J. Bliss and C. Bailey. 1998. *Pulp Mills and Public Schools: The Tax Abatement Connection.* Highlights of Agricultural Research, Vol. 45, Number 3, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.
  18. **Joshi, Mahendra L.** 1998. *Innovative forest finance.* A paper presented at the workshop on “Preparation of pilot country workplans and workplans for additional information gathering” for UNDP/Global Programme on Forests, Pearl River, New York. 15-17 April 1998.
  19. **Joshi, Mahendra L.** 1997. *Industrial recruitment and rural development: A case study of the pulp and paper industry in Alabama. Ph.D. dissertation.* Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama.
  20. **Joshi, Mahendra L.** 1997. *Impact of international tropical timber trade on the Amazon rainforest.* A paper submitted to the workshop on “Forest policies and sustainable development in the Amazon”, 14-16 July 1997, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
  21. **Joshi, Mahendra L.,** J. Bliss, C. Bailey, L. Teeter and K. Ward. 2000. *Investing in industry, under-investing in human capital: Forest based rural development in Alabama.* The Society of Natural Resources in Vol. 13, No. 5 in July/August 2000.
  22. **Joshi, Mahendra L.** and John C. Bliss. 1995. *Tax abatement, industrial recruitment, and rural development in Alabama.* Proceedings, 1995 Southern Forest Economics Workshop, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA.

**A sample list of the UN Official documents written or coordinated by Mahendra Joshi that carry only the authorship of the United Nations:**

1. UN Forum on Forests, tenth session (8-19 April 2013). Report of the Secretary General on Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests (E/CN.18/2013/2).
2. UN Forum on Forests, tenth session (8-19 April 2013). Report of the Secretary General on Enhanced Cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (E/CN.18/2013/8).
3. UN Forum on Forests, ninth session (24 January - 4 February 2011). Report of the Secretary-General: Conclusions and Recommendations in addressing key challenges of Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication (E/CN.18/2011/6).
4. UN Forum on Forests, eighth session (20 April – 1 May 2009). Report of the Secretary-General on Finance and other means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2009/9).
5. UN Forum on Forests, seventh session (16-27 April 2007). Report of the Secretary-General: Multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2007/2).
6. UN Forum on Forests, fifth session (16-27 May 2005). Note by the Secretary-General on consideration with a view to recommending to the Council and through it to the General Assembly the parameters of a mandate for developing a legal framework on all types of forests (E/CN.18/2005/9).
7. UN Forum on Forests, fourth session (3-14 May 2004). Report of the Secretary-General: Forest-Related Scientific Knowledge (E/CN.18/2004/9).
8. UN Forum on Forests, fourth session (3-14 May 2004). Report of the Secretary-General: Social and Cultural Aspects of Forests (E/CN.18/2004/8).
9. UN Forum on Forests, third session. Report of the Secretary-General (26 May – 6 June 2003): Progress in Implementation on Economic Aspects of Forests: Report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2003/7).
10. UN Forum on Forests, second session (4-15 March 2002). Report of the Secretary-General on rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural and planted forests (E/CN.18/2002/3).
11. UN Forum on Forests, second session (4-15 March 2002). Report of the Secretary-General on progress in rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover (E/CN.18/2002/7).
12. UN Forum on Forests, first session (11-22 June 2001). Report of the Secretary-General on Multi-Year Programme of Work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. (E/CN.18/2001/5).
13. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, fourth session (31 January-11 February 2000). Note by the Secretariat: Priority Forest Policy Issues (ECN.17/IFF/2000/2).
14. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, third session (3-14 May 1999). Report of the Secretary-General: The need for financial resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1999/4).
15. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, second session (24 August-4 September 1998). Note by the Secretariat: Matters Left Pending on the Need for Financial Resources (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/7).
16. Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, second session (24 August-4 September 1998). Report of the Secretary-General: Matters Left Pending and Other Issues Arising from the Programme Elements of the IPF Process - Trade and Environment (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/3).