

**Analytical study of the voluntary national contributions (VNCs) to the Global Forest Goals  
and other internationally agreed forest related goals**

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## Abbreviations and acronyms

ABTs	Aichi Biodiversity Targets
AFR 100	Africa Forest Landscape Restoration (100 million hectares)
ACTO	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization
APA	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement,
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BMEL	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Federal Government of Germany
BMU	Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Government of Germany
BMZ	Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Government of Germany
C & I	Criteria and Indicators
CAFI	Central African Forest Initiative
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate change
CITES	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMIFAC	Central African Forest Commission
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Conservation Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank
FRA	Forest Resource Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network
GFGs	Global forest goals
GPFLR	Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration
IFF	Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
IPF	Intergovernmental Panel on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
JI	Joint Initiative of the CPF
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MYPOW	Multi-year programme of work
NDC	Nationally determined contribution
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PEFC	Programme for the endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes
PPP	Public private partnership
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable forest management, which encompasses forests, other Wooded land and trees outside of forests

SOC	Soil organic carbon
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFFS	United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
UNFI	United Nations Forest Instrument
UNSPF	United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
VNCs	Voluntary national contributions

## I. Background and objectives

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals was adopted in September 2015 by world leaders at the historic United Nations Summit. Given the cross-cutting, cross-sectoral nature of sustainable forest management, the work promoted by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is highly relevant to the achievement of several of the SDGs, in particular SDGs 15 on life on land and 13 on climate action.

Specifically, SDG 15 calls for sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss. It has 15 targets, four to be achieved by 2020, two by 2030, and the remainder in the short term. SDG 13 aims to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Forests can play an important role in achieving its three targets, particularly as regards their role in both mitigation and adaptation.

To support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), through Resolution 2015/33 of 22 July 2015, decided that the United Nations Forum on Forests should develop a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components, including the United Nations forest instrument (UNFI).<sup>1</sup> As a result, the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) was agreed upon at a special session of the UNFF in January 2017, providing an ambitious vision for global forests in 2030. The plan was formally adopted by ECOSOC through Resolution 2017/4 on 20 April 2017 and was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly on 27 April 2017.

The UNSPF features six global forest goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal. Global forest goal 1 includes a target to increase forest area by 3 percent worldwide by 2030, representing an increase of approximately 120 million hectares, an area the size of South Africa. Building on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the strategic plan recognizes that real change requires decisive, collective action, both within and beyond the UN System.

To support the achievement of the global forest goals and their respective targets, the UNFF Secretariat has prepared this analytical study, which has the following three objectives:

1. Review and assess voluntary national contributions (VNCs) by UNFF Member States towards the achievement of the global forest goals and their respective targets;
2. Identify the linkages with the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); and the national voluntary targets of the land degradation neutrality (LDN) target (15.3) of the SDGs, also adopted as its principal target by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and
3. Based on the review and assessment of the VNCs, identify the elements to be considered in preparing a concise and simple draft of a template for future VNCs for assessing progress towards

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<sup>1</sup> According to ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, the international arrangement on forests is composed of the UNFF and its Member States, the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, and the UNFF Trust Fund.

the achievement of the global forest goals and their respective targets that compliments national reporting relevant to the forest-related goals and targets of other multilateral processes.

## **II. The United Nations Forest Instrument and the global forest goals**

The United Nations Forest Instrument is an integral component of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030. Its four global objectives on forests are a foundation for the Strategic Plan's global forest goals.

The seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2007 was a watershed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) and United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) continuum, culminating in December of that year in the adoption of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (NLBI) by the General Assembly of the United Nations (A/Res/62/98). The adoption of the forest instrument reinforced the global commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest as the overarching principle for forest policy at both the national and international levels. It was the culmination of fifteen years of negotiations following the adoption of the Rio Forest Principles at the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Built on the Rio Forest Principles, chapter 11 of Agenda 21, the IPF/IFF proposals for action and previous Forum resolutions and decisions, the forest instrument for the first time provided countries and international cooperation organizations a cohesive, comprehensive and integrated global framework for promoting actions aimed at achieving sustainable forest management (SFM) throughout the world.

The purpose of the forest instrument was:

- a. To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests;
- b. To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability; and
- c. To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.

In paragraph 5 of the forest instrument, Member States reaffirmed the shared global objectives on forests and their achievement by 2015:<sup>2</sup>

**Global objective 1:** Reverse the loss of cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;

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<sup>2</sup> The review process of the international arrangement on forests undertaken by the fifth session of the UNFF from 16-27 May 2005 focused primarily on the negotiation of a possible forest instrument. Upon the recommendation of Member States, it was decided to establish Working Group II to negotiate the objectives of a forest instrument, while Working Group I negotiated the possible parameters to be addressed by an instrument, be it legally-binding or non-legally binding. In UNFF Decision 5/2, the four global objectives on forests were agreed upon ad-ref by the Forum on 27 May, which would later be integrated into the NLBI at the seventh session of the Forum and formally adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2007. UNFF 5 failed to agree on the text of the parameters of the instrument, much of which remained in brackets and was subject to further negotiations at the sixth and seventh sessions of the Forum.

**Global objective 2:** Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people;

**Global objective 3:** Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;

**Global objective 4:** Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

The Forum's multi-year programme of work (MYPOW) adopted at the seventh session (Resolution 7/1) for the period 2007 to 2015 required each session of the Forum to review progress in the implementation of the forest instrument, including achievement of its four global objectives on forests, as well as on progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and previous resolutions adopted by the Forum.

In accordance with MYPOW, an independent assessment of the international arrangement on forests was undertaken for the consideration of the Forum at its eleventh session in 2015. Consequently, in ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests was formally renamed the United Nations forest instrument and its Global Objectives on Forests were extended to 2030 so as to be aligned with the time frame of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

The first three Global Objectives on Forests of the United Nations forest instrument were integrated verbatim into the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 as Global Forest Goals. The fourth was revised to read: "Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships".

Two additional forest goals were introduced:

**Global forest goal 5:** Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

**Global forest goal 6:** Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.

### **III. A historical perspective of voluntary national reporting to the Forum 2002-2015: the road to national voluntary contributions**

#### **A. Criteria and indicators processes for SFM**

Prior to the adoption of UNFI, criteria and indicators (C & I) processes were acknowledged for their importance in monitoring and assessing progress towards the achievement of sustainable forest management.<sup>3</sup> The UNFF at its fourth session in 2004 through Resolution 4/3 identified the seven

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<sup>3</sup>There are seven principal C & I processes. The only one that is global is FAO's FRA. Two are forest ecosystem specific: the ITTO C & I for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests and the Montreal Process for the Conservation and Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests. The remaining five are region specific: the

thematic elements of sustainable forest management, which are drawn from the criteria and indicators processes:

1. extent of forest resources,
2. forest biological diversity,
3. forest health and vitality,
4. productive functions of forest resources,
5. protective functions of forest resources,
6. socio-economic functions and
7. legal, policy and institutional framework.

These seven thematic elements are embodied in the forest instrument as a reference framework for sustainable forest management (paragraph 6 (b)).

Since the adoption of UNFI, the UNFF Secretariat, FAO and some of the criteria and indicators processes, specifically ITTO, the Montreal Process and Forest Europe, recognized that measuring progress in the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of the four global objectives on forests required a set of indicators that are objective, reliable and feasible to report on. To this end, the Forum recognized that priority should be given to using indicators from existing reporting processes, as these are most likely to meet the above criteria. Subsequently, the UNFF Secretariat analyzed the major reporting processes and found that while a wealth of information was available from them, there were considerable gaps remaining that needed to be addressed in order to be able to report more comprehensively on the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of its four global objectives on forests.<sup>4</sup>

## **B. Support provided by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

The CPF has played a key role in supporting reporting to the Forum. In 2002, the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting was mandated by UNFF Member States to seek means for facilitating national reporting on forests and to develop common approaches for forest-related data and information collection, storage and dissemination. Specifically, its purpose is to propose ways to reduce the forest-related reporting burden, for example, through reducing and streamlining reporting requests, synchronizing reporting cycles, harmonizing data collection methods and increasing data comparability and compatibility, and facilitating the accessibility and flows of existing information.

The membership of the task force is comprised of the UNFF Secretariat, FAO, UNEP, ITTO, the Secretariat of CBD, the Secretariat of UNCCD and the Secretariat of UNFCCC. Initially, a major product of the task force was the creation of a portal intended to assist countries in their reporting efforts and to serve as an easily accessible source of national information on forests for all stakeholders, but it has since been closed.

In 2010, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the CBD Secretariat in decision X/36 to continue its collaboration with UNFF, FAO and other CPF members on *streamlining forest-related reporting, based on the Collaborative Partnership*

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Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the African Timber Organization (ATO), the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, the Tehran Process for low forest cover countries, and the [Lepaterique Central American Process on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management](#).

<sup>4</sup> Jorge E. Illueca, Subject Index and Thematic Clustering of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action, UNFF Resolutions and Decisions and Relevant ECOSOC resolutions (UNFF Secretariat: July 2007), pp. 57-82.

*on Forests (CPF) Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting.* In response, the CBD Secretariat, in conjunction with the UNFF Secretariat, FAO and other CPF members, commissioned a study on forest classifications that was to be presented as an information document for the CBD's Subsidiary Body for Science, Technical and Technological Advice at its session from 30 April to May 2012.

The “Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Work Plan 2017-2020” was developed by the member organizations in response to guidance received from the UNFF, as well as other governing bodies. It is aligned with the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UNFF for the period 2017-2020 (4POW). It includes the on-going Joint Initiative (JI) on Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting, which addresses the relevance of reporting for the GFGs, the forest-related SDGs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) (5, 7, 11, 14 and 15). The CPF partners participating in this JI include CIFOR, the CBD Secretariat, FAO, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, UNDP, UNEP and the UNFFS, with the UNFFS and FAO serving as the lead organizations. External partners include Forest Europe, other regional C&I Processes, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

### **C. National voluntary reports to UNFF (2002-2015)**

The secretariat in collaboration with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and in consultation with Member States has undertaken substantial work in preparing the requested format for reporting on progress in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, including UNFI. The format was adopted at the thirteenth session of the Forum in May 2018. However, the current state of reporting should be seen in the context of the overall evolution of reporting to the Forum.

From 2002 to 2015, 125 countries at one time or another presented national reports to eight sessions of the UNFF. These can be divided into two periods: before the adoption and initial implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument (2002 – 2011) and after its implementation commenced in earnest (2012 – 2015).

During the earlier phase, reporting was unsystematic, focusing on different issues agreed upon by the preceding UNFF session. The information requested of governments tended to be general, open-ended and subjective and was not suited to tracking progress over time on critical issues addressed by the Forum. Reporting during this phase was very low, with the exception of UNFF 5 when high profile, polemical negotiations were to be undertaken on a possible convention on all types of forests. The average number of countries reporting to UNFF sessions 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 was 26.6 countries, with a low of 14 in 2002 and a high of 38 in 2004).

At its ninth session on 4 February 2011, in its Resolution on Forests for People, Livelihoods and Poverty Eradication, the Forum decided that a simple voluntary national reporting for UNFF 10 would focus on the implementation of the forest instrument and a balanced reporting on its four global objectives on forests and requested the secretariat of the Forum to this end to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Furthermore, the resolution also invited FAO to consider how it could further incorporate into its reporting on the state of the world's forests and through the global forest resources assessment programme, the elements of the forest instrument and its global objectives on forests.



As a consequence, for the first time a national reporting format in the form of a template was elaborated that took into account selected relevant FAO and ITTO indicators. It also incorporated new indicators for measuring progress in the achievement of the global objectives on forests, particularly objectives 2 and 4, and the cross-cutting and topical thematic clusters of the forest instrument listed in Table 1.

The draft national reporting template was further refined in consultation workshops with national experts organized jointly by the UNFF Secretariat and FAO in Bangkok, Thailand (10-12 October 2011); Nairobi, Kenya (13-15 December 2011); Accra, Ghana (6-8 February 2012); and Santiago, Chile (18-20 April 2012). The workshops provided an opportunity for national forestry experts to discuss the proposed monitoring architecture and provide the UNFF Secretariat with feedback on the draft template for reporting progress in implementation of the Forest Instrument and achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests and the forest-relevant MDGs, while making utmost effort to streamline the reporting format. The workshops also provided capacity building training for filling out the reporting template, including the generation and/or compilation of relevant quantifiable data and qualitative information. The workshops focused on enhancing participants' understanding of the importance of the Forest Instrument and the significance of its implementation at the country level.

With recognition of the importance of UNFI, national reporting increased substantially to UNFF 10 in 2013 and UNFF 11 in 2015, with 57 and 81 countries submitting reports respectively. This included 32 new countries that first began reporting to the UNFF at either UNFF 10 and/or 11. Several factors influenced this significant uptick in national reporting:

1. The perceived importance of the four global objectives on forests of UNFI and their direct relevance to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the year 2015, and the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 adopted in 2015;
2. The decision of the UNFF Secretariat to develop a structured format/template for simplifying reporting progress on the implementation of UNFI, previously known as the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, including reporting on the MDGs and cross-cutting and topical thematic clusters of the Instrument, which took into account relevant FRA and ITTO indicators;
3. Increased collaboration between the UNFF Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility on seeking funding of SFM issues, many of which are contained in UNFI, for developing countries;<sup>5</sup>
4. The provision of capacity building on national reporting provided by the UNFF Secretariat to developing countries.

#### **D. Post-2015 national voluntary reporting**

As indicated in section I of this paper, ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33 requested that the UNFF secretariat propose a new cycle and format for voluntary national reporting and for the enhancement of voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting under the international arrangement on forests as part of the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 for the consideration of the Forum at its twelfth session. In response, the secretariat prepared a draft format for reporting that addressed the six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets of the UNSPF.

In support of the process, the CPF "Organization-led Initiative on the development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the IAF

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<sup>5</sup> This has been subsequently reinforced with the establishment of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) of the UNFF and the entry into operation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Strategic Plan” was held in Rome from 28 to 30 November 2016. According to the Co-Chairs Summary Report, the meeting considered that a global core set of forest-related indicators, covering indicators for sustainable forest management, indicators for progress towards the forest related SDGs, targets and other internationally agreed goals on forests, and other indicators relevant for the IAF Strategic Plan could be instrumental in streamlining reporting on forests and decreasing the reporting burden on countries. Participants reviewed a proposed core set, noting that work on the proposed global core set of forest-related indicators should be aligned with the goals and targets of the IAF strategic plan which was to be finalized in January 2017. The list, which was revised in accordance with views provided at the OLI, appears in annex 1.

A draft format for reporting was prepared by the secretariat, which was further refined to take into account suggestions and comments received during an expert meeting on reporting to the Forum that was held in Brasilia from 7 to 10 February 2017. It subsequently took into consideration inputs received from members, member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership and major groups on the draft proposal that was circulated on 17 February.

At its twelfth session from 1-5 May 2017, the Forum through Resolution 12/1 requested the UNFF secretariat to further revise the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum on the implementation of the UNSPF, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions, on the basis of consultations with members of the Forum and other intersessional activities, the views expressed during the twelfth session and any pilot testing of the current draft format that may be undertaken with interested members of the Forum from the five regional groups. It was also decided that the cycle and format for the first post-2015 voluntary report would be presented for the consideration of the Forum’s thirteenth session from 7-11 May 2018, taking into account the work on forest indicators, relevant reporting cycles and the need to reduce reporting burdens, as well as potential communication products from such reporting.

In follow-up, the secretariat of the Forum in June 2017 invited Member States to take part in a pilot testing exercise. Several countries expressed their interest in participating and the draft format was disseminated among those countries. As a follow-up, the secretariat organized an expert group meeting on reporting to the Forum, held in Nairobi from 21 to 23 November 2017. The meeting was attended by 41 experts from 31 Member States and 5 international organizations. Participants shared experiences gained through the pilot testing exercise, including their views on the usefulness of the format in collecting information to assess progress in achieving the global forest goals and targets and implementing the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions, and provided their suggestions to revise the format.

In Resolution 13/1 of its thirteenth session, the Forum welcomed the pilot testing of the draft format for voluntary national reporting on progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan, including the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions, and other relevant intersessional work, and on this basis adopted the format for initial voluntary national reporting provided by the UNFF Secretariat,<sup>6</sup> recognizing that the format is an evolving instrument that can be improved and refined on the basis of experience gained. The Forum also resolved that it will consider the results of the first round of voluntary national reporting at its fifteenth session in 2020, inviting Member States to submit their voluntary national reports to the Forum secretariat by mid-November 2019 using the aforementioned format.

#### **IV. The bridge from voluntary national reports to voluntary national contributions in support of**

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<sup>6</sup> E/CN.18/2018/4.

## **the achievement of the global forest goals and associated targets**

The UNSPF that was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 27 April 2017 features six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal. The latter includes a target to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030, representing an increase of approximately 120 million hectares, an area the size of South Africa. Building on the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the strategic plan recognizes that real change requires decisive, collective action, both within and beyond the UN System.

In a bold turn of events, the UNFF in January 2017, in paragraphs 30 to 32 on the UNSPF, proposed for ECOSOC Resolution 2017/4, called for the voluntary submission of national contributions in support of the UNSPF, which are detailed immediately below:

“30. Members may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets, taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions.

“31. Members may include in their voluntary national contributions, as appropriate, the forest-related contributions they intend to make with regard to other international forest-related commitments and goals, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and actions to address climate change under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

“32. Members may, on a voluntary basis, communicate their progress on the voluntary national contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests at regular intervals determined by the Forum, in accordance with paragraph 67 of the strategic plan. In order to avoid any additional reporting burden, such voluntary communications on their voluntary national contributions may be part of their voluntary reporting on the strategic plan and the United Nations forest instrument.”

This is undoubtedly a major milestone in the work of the UNFF and in the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument. From the lethargy of the weak national reporting to the UNFF from 2002 to 2011 to the increased commitment in voluntary national reporting from 2012 to 2015, the importance of the achievement of the UNSPF and the United Nations Forest Instrument has morphed into a higher level of commitment to achieving sustainable forest management on a global level: national voluntary contributions to achieve the global forest goals and their respective targets. This would have been unthinkable in 2007 when UNFI and its four global objectives on forests was adopted by the UNFF and subsequently by the UN General Assembly.

## **V. Linking the global objectives of forests and targets to other international forest-related commitments and goals**

A major challenge facing countries has been the streamlining of reporting on forest-related issues across diverse multilateral environmental agreements such as UNFI, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), among others. This has been complicated by the fact that, although they may share issues of common concern, they can also deviate substantially on their focus of these issues. Therefore, streamlining reporting on forests can in many cases lack consistency and symmetry needed for streamlined reporting.

Nevertheless, Appendix 2 provides a cross-cutting view of compatible issues that are addressed by UNSPF, the CBD Aichi targets and actions addressed under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, while recognizing that other forest-relevant MEAs such as the Convention on the International Trades in Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), UNCCD, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, among others, have not been taken into account.

The United Nations has officially adopted indicators for measuring progress towards the achievement of the SDG targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Likewise, the CBD COP has adopted indicators for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the UNCCD COP has official indicators for its Land Degradation Neutrality Target. While the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice and for Implementation jointly provide guidance to countries on indicators for assessing progress towards their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), it is up to the countries to select the indicators they wish to use.

Where possible, existing indicators established for SDG targets should be utilized in a template for reporting progress on the achievement of the global forest goals and their respective targets, as well as other relevant indicators from other multilateral processes. However, the information and data required for many of the indicators for the SDG targets are not being collected by governments, particularly developing countries. Some are politically very sensitive and in many cases it is probable that a number of governments are unable to provide accurate reporting, particularly as concerns target 5.2 of global forest goal 5 on governance frameworks for SFM.

Some targets match well, making it possible to use a similar indicator. Others may be relevant to each other but have a different focus, which makes it difficult to select an indicator that can be used for reporting on the two. Other targets are only marginally related and the use of an indicator for measuring progress towards a GFG target would be of limited value in assessing progress towards the non-GFG target.

## **VI. Voluntary National Contributions to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets**

### **A. General observations**

To date, between 3 October 2017 and 14 November 2019, fourteen countries, most of which are developing countries, have provided voluntary national contributions to the achievement of the six global forest goals and 26 related targets. Table 1 further below provides a matrix of voluntary national contributions of these countries according to global forest goal and target.

Assessing the collective impact of these contributions was complicated by the tendency of some countries to not specify clearly how the contributions supported individual targets. This in large part was due to the lack of a reporting template with clearly defined indicators on the global forest goals and targets that would facilitate a more precise, collective view of progress towards their achievement. It was also due to the difficulty in quantifying how goals, especially 2 and 5, and their respective targets were being achieved, often resulting in the submission of qualitative indicators<sup>7</sup> of actions to be taken towards their achievement. Some of the qualitative information provided was anecdotal in nature and not useful in constructing an accurate assessment of progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals and targets.

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<sup>7</sup> A quantitative Indicator indicates a quantity, which can be a pure number, an index, ratio or percentage. Qualitative Indicators do not show numeric measures, depicting the status of something in more qualitative terms.

Quantifiable indicators and qualitative concrete indicators provide the most credible evidence of progress towards the achievement of the goals and targets.

However, even in those cases, when quantifiable and qualitative concrete contributions were reported, they were often inconsistent in terms of the indicators and/or terminology used. For example, in reporting contributions to target 1.1 on increasing forest cover, some countries reported the hectareage reforested while others reported the number of trees planted or the percentage increase in forest cover. Some countries provided information according to objective and target, while others presented their contributions in a narrative, leaving readers to figure out the goals and targets they were contributing to. In short, the lack of a systematic approach to reporting on the contributions makes it very difficult to arrive at a cohesive, methodical assessment of progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals and their respective targets.

While some countries attempted to report on their support to the achievement of the targets under global forest goal 6, it would be more appropriate for the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other relevant international organizations to report on how they are contributing to the achievement of the goal and its targets. Other than donor countries, it is unlikely that developing countries could provide commitments on the targets beyond the national level, which is reflected by the fact that most developing countries did not report on their commitments to the achievement of global forest goal 6 and its targets.

The most comprehensive voluntary national contributions to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets were presented by China, Germany and Liberia.

Countries such as Ghana, Jamaica, New Zealand and Thailand presented concise, quantifiable voluntary national contributions, albeit for less targets than some other countries, that provides a much clearer picture of their country's commitments to the achievement of the selected global forest goals and targets.

In providing its contributions, Jamaica and Thailand were the only countries that linked them to the relevant CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Both countries linked their reporting of contributions to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 on at least halving by 2020 the loss of all natural habitats, including forests, and reducing degradation and fragmentation and Target 11 on percentages of terrestrial and freshwater and coastal and marine areas to be effectively conserved by 2020. Madagascar's VNC linked its contributions to the UNCCD and the CBD's Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

## **B. Overview of the voluntary national contributions**

A little over a third of the contributions reported, as reflected in the matrix in Table 1, were qualitative in nature rather than the more forceful commitment of quantifiable or concrete commitments, such as the establishment of legislation, strategies, plans, funding mechanisms and governance structures, among others, in support of individual global forest goal targets.

A little less than 30 percent of the contributions were quantifiable. These generally focused on forest cover, forests under sustainable forest management, hectareage of protected areas, and to a lesser degree on food security, forest productivity and financing,

**Table 1**

**Matrix of voluntary national contributions (VNCs) to the achievement of  
The global forest goals and targets**

Target	Global forest goal 1: Reverse loss of forest cover				Global forest goal 2: Enhance forest-based benefits					Global forest goal 3: Area of protected & SFM forests & products			Global forest goal 4: Mobilize new, additional financing for SFM					Global forest goal 5: Promote SFM governance frameworks & support SDGs				Global forest goal 6: Enhance forest-related coordination in the UN and CPF				
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.3	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5
China	a	A	c	a-c	a+c		a+c	a+c	b+c	a+c	c	b+c	C	a+c	b+c	b+c	b	b+c	b+c	c				b	a	
Ecuador		A	a+b																							
Germany	a+b	A	a	b+c	C	c	c	a-c	c	a-c	b-c		b-c	b-c	a-c			b	b-c			b	b-c	c		b
Ghana		A	a				a				a		A													
Guatemala	a		a				a					a														
Jamaica	a							a		a	a								a							
Liberia	a-c	C	a-c	b-c	C	b-c	c	b-e	a+b	a+b	a+b	b-c	c	c	c	c	c	b-c	c	c	c			c	c	c
Madagascar	a	A						c	a	a		a+b														
Morocco		A	a					c	a	a			a													
New Zealand	a	C	a					a+c	c																	
Slovak Rep.				b				b	b				a	a												
Thailand	a							b		a	a								b							
Ukraine	a		b	b						a			b	b			b		b	b						
Uzbekistan	a		a	a			a			a+b		c	c	c					b					c		
N° reporting	10	8	8	6	3	2	6	8	7	9	6	5	8	6	3	2	3	3	7	3	1	1	1	4	2	2
a information	10	6	8	2	1	0	4	4	2	9	4	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
b information	2	0	3	5	1	1	0	4	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	5	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
c information	1	2	2	3	3	2	3	5	4	0	2	3	4	4	3	2	1	2	3	2	1	0	1	3	1	1

a: Information provided was quantified.

b: Information provided was qualitative but output (strategy/plan/legislation/mechanism, etc.) was concrete.

c: Information provided was qualitative only and, therefore, more difficult to measure its impact.

Some of the contributions are a reflection of commitments under previous initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge, UNFCCC determined national contributions (DNCs) and donor bilateral agreements, rather than new commitments to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets. Moreover, some contributions such as relevant policies, strategies, plans and projects have been enacted, while others are commitments such as, among others, achieving zero deforestation, developing new forest policies and norms, adopting new forest legislation, and specific reforestation targets in support of initiatives such as Global Forest Goal 1, the Bonn Challenge and Africa Forest Landscape Restoration (AFR100).

The Table 1 matrix provides a good overview of the GFGs targets that were the focus of the VNCs. While some countries reported on their contributions to all or most of the goals and targets, others focused primarily on global forest goals 1 to 4, providing limited inputs to global forest goals 5 and 6. By far, global forest goal 1 received the largest number of voluntary contributions, including the greatest number of contributions that were quantified. It was followed by GFGs 3 and 2.

Oftentimes, the reporting information provided for one GFG target is also relevant to other targets. This is largely due to themes that cut across more than one target. For the sake of accuracy, our analysis attempts to avoid entering into this type of an exercise, and if a government clearly indicated that the national contribution was for a specific target, that information was only assigned to the specified target. In some VNCs, governments only indicated the relevant GFG without specifying the target to which it applied, in which case a determination had to be made on the most relevant target or targets under that goal.

In terms of specific GFG targets, which are listed in their entirety in Appendix 2, not surprisingly the targets that received the greatest attention were 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 under GFG 1; 3.1 under GFG 3; 2.4 under GFG 2; and 4.1 under GFG 4. These are issues that have been at the forefront of the work of the Forum since the adoption of forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests in 2007. Four of these were the recipients of the largest number of quantified contributions: targets 1.1 to 1.3 and 3.1.

While the fourteen voluntary national contributions (VNCs) are a very important commitment to the global forest goals and targets, they are too few to paint a more comprehensive global vision of commitment to their achievement. Moreover, the quantifiable and qualitative information presented is far from uniform, which makes it very difficult to arrive at a clear vision of progress in achieving the global forest goals and targets. Nevertheless, they are important in assessing how to improve reporting on VNCs and in elaborating a more effective template for evaluating the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will be addressed further below.

Despite these difficulties, it is important to highlight immediately below some of the important voluntary contributions that countries are making that reflect a strong commitment to achieving the global forest goals and their respective targets in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The highlights are for selected targets and are not meant to be a comprehensive analysis of all the information and data provided by countries in their VNCs, which are available on the UNFF website (<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/vncls/index.html>). Please note, that several of the contributions below could be listed under more than one GFG target. However, for the purpose of conciseness, they are only listed once.

*Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 percent worldwide.*

- China is aiming to increase the forest cover of its terrestrial territory to 23.04 percent through afforestation and reforestation by 2020. This includes the establishment of 7 million hectares of national forest reserves.
- Germany was one of the initiators of the Bonn Challenge with IUCN and GPFLR that aims to restore 1.5 billion hectares of forests worldwide by the year 2020. It also supports other initiatives such as AFR100 which has the goal of restoring approximately 113 million hectares of forest landscape in Africa.
- Germany, through the Germany, Norway and United Kingdom cooperation, also known as the GNU Initiative, has provided funds to more than fifty countries to reach the goals of the New York Forest Declaration, including the Goals 2 and 3 for reducing deforestation and Goal 5 for forest restoration. The GNU Initiative in 2015 committed itself to make available US\$ 5 billion between 2015 and 2020 for REDD+, which included using existing programs and initiative such as the REDD Early Movers Program, the FCPF and the Green Climate Fund.
- Guatemala through the Bonn Challenge has committed itself to restore 1.2 million hectares of forest cover by 2045.
- By 2022, Jamaica, through improved watershed management planning in forest estates targeted to support SFM, with a focus on adaptation to climate change, is planning to verify 10,000 hectares of forests lands to support protection efforts, reforest 300 hectares of denuded lands, maintain 1,000 hectares of forest plantations and transfer the management responsibility for 7,000 hectares of mangrove forest to the Forestry Department.
- Liberia has committed to restore 750,000 hectares of degraded forest lands in support of the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration, the Paris Agreement and AFR100.
- By 2030, Madagascar has set its goal of restoring 4 million hectares of forests as part of its contributions to AFR100.
- New Zealand recently announced the “One Billion Trees Programme” in which it will plant one billion trees over the next ten years, consisting of both exotics and native species. In a mix of permanent and harvestable forestry on private, public and Maori-owned lands. Of this figure, it is estimated that 500 million trees will be planted by the commercial forestry sector.
- Thailand is committed to increase its area of forest cover to 55 percent of the total national territory through its 20-Year National Strategic Plan (2018-2037), or from 20.68 million hectares in 2018 to 28.47 million hectares in 2037. During the period 2015 to 2019, 147,514 hectares of degraded lands have been rehabilitated, including with forest plantations.
- By 2020, Ukraine is committed to increasing the country’s forest cover to 16.3 percent.
- By 2021, Uzbekistan planned to have created 1.3 million hectares of forest plantations, of which 580,000 hectares have been planted to date. However, it recently increased its goal to 500,000 hectares and 700,000 hectares respectively for 2019 and 2020. The country has already met its commitment to the Bonn Challenge of forest restoration on 500,000 hectares.

*Target 1.2: The world’s forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced.*

- By 2020, China will increase the carbon stock volume of arboreal forests by 5.2 cubic meters per hectare compared with 2015, and the total forest carbon stock will ascend to 9.5 billion tons.
- Ecuador, through its REDD+ Action Plan “Forests for Good Living”, is seeking to reduce gross emissions from the Forest Emissions Reference Level for 2000-2008 (43,418,126 tons CO<sub>2</sub>eq/year) by at least 20 percent by 2025 by reducing deforestation.
- Germany, with REDD+ as its foundational pillar, through the BMZ and the BMU has provided to date EUR 109.5 million and EUR 9 million respectively to countries such as Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador to avoid deforestation and for emissions reductions. Germany is also



financing the World Bank's Forest Conservation Partnership Facility (FCPF) to help countries implement REDD+ and to this end has provided EUR 360.4 million. It also provided EUR 100 million to the Amazon Forest Protection Project focused on reducing emissions from deforestation.

- By 2020, Ghana will have taken steps to reduce its emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 10.9 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq through two initiatives: the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme in the High Forest Zone and the Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Project in the Savannah Ecological Zone.
- By 2030, Madagascar, in accordance with its commitments to the Paris Agreement, is aiming to reduce by 14 percent its emissions by increasing its national forest cover to 17 percent of its national territory, or 9.7 million hectares, which is also in line with its ratification of the UNCCD. Specifically, the country recognizes the challenge of sequestering 14 million tons of carbon through the Atiala-Atsinanana programme to reduce emissions over five years within the framework of the REDD+ Strategy. To also reduce its emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, Madagascar is working to reduce the use of fuelwood in rural households from the current level of 90 percent down to 70 percent. Furthermore, the National Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation is in the process of being adopted by the government.

*Target 1.3: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.*

- Ecuador is at the design and structuring phase of its National Forestry Management Plan, which seeks to determine the strategic lines for management of all types of forests in its continental territory. By 2030, the country has set a goal for itself of zero net deforestation.
- Germany has promoted standards-related initiative for SFM such as credible, internationally acknowledged forest certification schemes and to this end has partnered in projects with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes (PEFC).
- Ghana is implementing measures to halt deforestation and restore 25,000 hectares of degraded lands annually. For the period 2017 to 2020, it has targeted the restoration of 100,000 hectares through reforestation.
- Guatemala, through its *Institutional Strategic Plan 2017-2032*, will increase areas under sustainable forest management through incentives, licenses and other mechanisms by approximately 500,000 hectares by 2032, with a minimum target of 25,000 hectares per year.
- In 2017, Liberia amended its Code of Forest Harvesting to ensure that forest harvesting is done sustainably and environmental integrity is maintained. It has also committed to the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020, in particular Principle 1 on achieving zero net deforestation by 2025.
- Morocco will increase by 3 percent its forest cover, which for the period 2000 to 2010 had been set at a target of 2 percent.

*Target 1.4: Forest resilience & adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters & the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide.*

- By 2020, China will build 223 warning and forecasting stations and two national research centers of wildlife epidemic diseases for the monitoring, prevention and control of wildlife epidemic diseases.
- In 2016, Liberia finalized its REDD+ Strategy.

*Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated.*

- By 2020, 60 million persons will be employed in forestry in China in comparison to 52.47 million in 2015. During this period, it is expected that the gross output value of the forestry sector will increase from US\$ 913.8 billion to US\$ 1.23 trillion.
- Germany has supported forest-related initiatives addressing poverty resulting from land degradation and desertification in countries such as Tajikistan, Peru, Haiti, Honduras, Burkina Faso and Mali. In other countries such as Madagascar and Vietnam, it has promoted and supported sustainable forest management for raising the incomes of poor, rural people, especially women.

*Target 2.2: Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.*

- Liberia has developed a five year Strategic Roadmap for the enhancement of capacity of small scale forest products enterprises.

*Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased.*

- In China, during the past four decades, more than 400,000 km<sup>2</sup> of areas affected by soil and water erosion have been restored by the Three-North Shelterbelt Development Programme. Networks of shelterbelt forests shelter 44.1 percent of the project areas, protecting 30.193 million hectares of cropland.
- By 2020, Ghana will have produced 300,000 metric tons of food crops under the Modified Taungya System (MTS), which is being implemented through the National Plantation Development Strategy. Through the production of food crops from the regenerating forest reserves, forests are significantly contributing to food security, particularly among the poor rural forest-dependent communities in the country.
- Guatemala, through its *Institutional Strategic Plan 2017-2032*, will restore 275,000 hectares of deforested lands with forest plantations and agroforestry systems through incentives, licenses and other mechanisms by 2032.
- Guatemala will also increase forest plantations, agroforestry systems and sustainably managed forests by least 150,000 hectares on municipal and communal lands and on lands pertaining to local organizations to support livelihoods, food and energy security.
- Uzbekistan's forests are producing annually 5,500 tons of medicinal herbs. During the last two years, hazel nut tree plantations have been established on 20,000 hectares.

*Target 2.4: The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among others, is significantly increased.*

- By 2020, China will have established 16.78 million hectares of bio-energy plantations, with an annual forest biomass utilization exceeding 20 million tons of standard coal, and the contribution of liquid bio-fuel and biomass heat utilization will be up 30 percent and 70 percent respectively.
- Germany through its BMZ has contributed EUR 9.5 million to assist African countries in the negotiation and implementation of the CBD Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilisation.
- Jamaica is striving to upscale gender sensitive alternative livelihoods to support the sustainable use of forest resources by local communities, and to this end by 2022 will seek US\$ 2 million in funding including training on alternative forest livelihood areas aimed at communities in the proximity of forests.
- In addressing the issue of valuation and payment for forest ecosystem services, the Slovak Republic in 2017 approved the Decree No. 226 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development providing financial support in forestry for fulfilling non-productive forest functions. The decree is based on the National Act on Forests that was amended in 2015. The proposed system for payment of forest services was conceived in line with the objectives of the National Forest Programme and the National Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change. In 2017, the payment for forest ecosystem services allocated 2.069 million euros (US\$ 2.484 million) to 116 forest owners. For 2018, it was expected that this figure would increase to 2.3 million euros (US\$ 2.641 million).

- In 2019, Thailand enacted the Community Forest Act to support alternative community forest activities, including enhancing the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

*Target 2.5: The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and on-going work of relevant conventions and instruments.*

- China has set up pilot and demonstration sites to implement the United Nations forest instrument at the national and sub-national levels.
- China, with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and FAO is implementing the project Sustainable Forest Management in China for Improving the Capacity of Forests in Combating Climate Change.
- Liberia has established and gazetted five protected areas that are contributing to biodiversity conservation. There are also eleven proposed protected areas.
- Morocco is protecting 500,000 hectares against soil erosion, avoiding 26 million m<sup>3</sup> of sediments, and is stabilizing dunes to protect 240,000 hectares of threatened lands.
- In Uzbekistan during the past two years, more than 500,000 hectares of areas subjected to soil and water erosion have been restored.

*Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation methods is significantly increased.*

- By the end of 2017, China had established approximately 2,750 nature reserves with a total surface area of 1.47 million km<sup>2</sup>, accounting for 14.86 percent of its terrestrial territory.
- Germany is providing financial support through the KfW, a state-owned development bank, to 374 nature conservation areas, with a combined surface area of 940,000 km<sup>2</sup>, in 35 countries. In addition, it is providing funding to 17 cross-border protection areas in 40 countries, with 10 of these in the Congo Basin covering an area of 18 million hectares of forests. Germany also has provided over EUR 110 million to 30 biosphere reserves, mainly in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to more than 20 natural World Heritage sites.
- Jamaica is increasing area of mangroves under protection and is developing a supportive mangrove management and conservation plan. Moreover, by 2030 it plans to increase by 10 percent the hectareage of legally protected forests.
- Madagascar has committed itself to tripling the surface area of its protected areas to 7.25 million hectares of diverse ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, coastal ecosystems and mangroves. In addition, it revised its Protected Areas Code in 2008.
- Thailand has extended its protected areas system to 10.64 million hectares under the management of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP). The system consists of 132 national parks, 60 wildlife sanctuaries, 73 non-hunting areas, 53 arboretums and 18 botanical gardens.
- Uzbekistan in 2019 created six forest recreational areas and is presently developing a management plan for its recreational areas. In 2018, it established a national park in Samarkand and is planning to establish another national park and two forest reserves.

*Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased.*

- Ghana is preparing management plans for 100 of the 198 forest reserves in the country, ensuring that they are put under appropriate long-term sustainable management regimes by 2020.
- In increasing the area of protected forests by 10 percent by 2030, Jamaica will also have island-wide sustainable management plans.

*Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased.*

- By 2020, China will have expanded the category and scope of forest certification by encouraging forest management certification in state-owned forests and collective forest areas, including a chain of custody certification for major forest product enterprises. The country's forest certification standards are established by the China Forest Certification Council (CFCC), which was created in 2010.<sup>8</sup>

*Target 4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.*

- Germany has provided substantial and significant financing of sustainable forest management, as reflected previously in its contributions to GFG targets 1.1, 1.2, 2.4 and 3.1 and further down for targets 4.3 and 6.2. The complete bilateral portfolio of development-cooperation initiatives run by the BMZ for 2017 amounts to EUR 1.5312 billion, in comparison to EUR 1.5003 billion in 2016 and EUR 1.5219 billion in 2015. With a cut-off date of 31 December 2017, German development cooperation implemented a total of 222 projects that wholly or partly aimed at the protection or sustainable use of forests, in comparison to 229 in 2016 and 225 in 2015. For a much more detailed breakdown of the support to SFM provided by these projects, as well as other pertinent information on the BMU's International Climate Initiative (IKI) as the framework for financing climate and biodiversity projects in developing and newly industrialized countries, please refer to Germany's complete VNC under the heading Global Forest Goal 4.
- By 2020, Ghana will have mobilized US\$ 323,758,700 to support sustainable forest management. This is being done through financial strategies designed to access funding from the Forest Carbon Facility Programme (FCFP) and the Forest Investment Programme (FIP), both of the World Bank. Under the REDD+ Programme alone, Ghana is accessing US\$ 273,758,700 to implement strategies and actions to address deforestation and forest degradation.

*Target 4.2: Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased.*

- In 2018, the total investment from the central government of China in forestry and grasslands amounted to approximately US\$ 20.9 billion. Cooperation between China and the World Bank in forestry development has resulted in six loan projects totaling US\$ 1.724 billion, with US\$ 897 million being provided by the World Bank.

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<sup>8</sup> By December 2017, 57 forest operation units with a total area of 8.16 million hectares (3.16% of China's total forest area) had passed CFCC forest operation certification. The main types of the forests certified were natural forest,s forest plantations and mixed natural/plantation forests. Source: EU-China Bilsteral Coordination Mechanism on Forest Law Enforcement and Governance, available on-line at: [http://en.woodlegality.net/about\\_us/about\\_us.shtml](http://en.woodlegality.net/about_us/about_us.shtml).

- By 2030, Morocco is aiming to mobilize US\$ 2 billion for sustainable forest management.
- In 2017, Ukraine, through Decree No. 381, in order to improve the system of forestry financing and development, created a state financial fund for forestry development.
- Uzbekistan has established a Forest Development Fund, and a public private partnership (PPP) mechanism for the forestry sector is being developed.

*Target 4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular co-operation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased.*

- In China, collaborative forestry scientific research has been conducted in cooperation with the Europe Forest Institute and other institutions in the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation and Estonia.
- Since 2016, Germany through the BMEL has provided EUR 2 million annually to bilateral research cooperation on forests and to knowledge exchange between German and foreign forest experts. In addition, at present EUR 4.5 million per year in funding goes to approximately 25 research-cooperation projects in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe that foster sustainable and multi-functional forest management. Another EUR 3.5 million per year from BMEL is going into pilot and demonstration projects involving non-state stakeholders and the scientific community.

*Target 4.4: The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from these sources is significantly increased.*

- In 2010, China prepared “China’s Strategy and Financing for Forestry Sustainable Development”. More recently it produced the *Research Report on the Development Status and the Investment and Financing Planning of China’s Forestry Development (2018-2023)*, which was compiled to offer references for forestry investment and financing.

*Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments.*

- China has established several platforms for facilitating access to forest-related information, including (1) the National “One Map” Public Service Platform for forestry operated by the National Forestry and Grassland Administration; (2) the Platform for Shared Forestry Resources; (3) the Beidou Navigation Positioning System for emergencies such as forest fire prevention, disease and pest control and sand storm control; (4) the Forest Biological Diversity Monitoring System; and (5) the National Forest Resources Monitoring System.

*Target 5.1: The number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased.*

- In China, forests feature prominently in the country’s *Working Plan of Poverty Alleviation with Ecological Approaches* and forestry development and ecological improvement have been incorporated into *The Outline of the Development-oriented Poverty Reduction Program for Rural China (2011-2020)*.

*Target 5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthened national and sub-national forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide.*

- China is in the process of amending the Forest Law of the People’s Republic of China, including incorporating the formulation and implementation of forest management plans into the country’s legal system. It is also in the process of improving the system of legal verification of timber in China subject to international trade, as well as in formulating regulations for enhancing the legality of imported timber. It has also signed bilateral memoranda of understanding on combating illegal logging and associated trade with countries and regional economic organizations, including the United States, the European Union, Indonesia, Australia and Japan.
- Germany is presently supporting comprehensive reform processes on governance in Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Cameroon and Peru and in regional organizations such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC for the French acronym). Germany is also supporting the strengthening of national legality frameworks and measures at combating illegal logging in countries such as Laos, Vietnam, Cameroon, the Ivory Coast and Honduras.
- By 2022, Jamaica will revise the 1996 Forest Act and the 2001 Forest Regulations to better support governance and protection of forested areas.
- Madagascar is organizing 2.5 million hectares for sustainable forest management and use whose forest products will be tracked by forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) processes.
- Thailand has amended relevant forest laws and regulations such as Article 7 of the Forest Plantation Act and the 1941 Forest Act to support better governance and protection of forested areas.
- In 2017, Ukraine, through Decree No. 381, established a unified state system of electronic timber tracking, including confirmation of the origin of the wood, which takes into account relevant European norms and standards.
- In 2017, Uzbekistan created the State Committee on Forestry of the General Directorate of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources to ensure effective implementation of government policy in the field of forestry and sustainable use of forest resources. In 2018, it adopted a new revision of the country’s Forest Law.

*Target 6.1: Forest-related programmes within the UN system are coherent and complementary and integrate the global forest goals and targets, where appropriate.*

- To support coherent activities across borders, Germany is promoting regional cooperation and knowledge transfer across a range of regional organizations, including with SADC, CAFI, COMIFAC, ASEAN and ACTO. Its overarching goal in the case of COMIFAC is to promote political dialogue and the harmonization of forest and environmental policies.

*Target 6.2: Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the CPF are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

- In 2018, Germany arranged two meetings of CPF members and potential donor-countries, initiating a special dialogue of financing the Joint Work Program of the CPF. Consequently, in 2019, Germany committed EUR 5 million (US\$ 5.573) for supporting CPF activities in the areas of the GFFFN, global forest education and global green supply chains, and also provided a junior professional officer to support FAO in its capacity as chairperson commencing in October 2019.

## **VII. Conclusions and recommendations**

## A. Conclusions

National reporting on progress in the implementation of a multilateral agreement is critically important. Without them, it is impossible to assess progress towards the achievement of the objectives, goals and targets of the agreement.

Moreover, in the case of voluntary reporting, assessing progress becomes more ineffectual if the number of reports submitted is low. This was the case for assessing the effectiveness of the programme of work of the Forum from 2002 to 2011 when it was embroiled in the discussions and negotiations over the kind of forest instrument preferred by the Member States. Excluding UNFF 5 when contentious negotiations were to be undertaken on a possible convention on all types of forests, the average number of countries reporting to UNFF sessions 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 was 26.6 countries, with a low of 14 in 2002 and a high of 38 in 2004).

This changes with the adoption of the forest instrument in 2007. National reporting to UNFF 10 in 2013 and 11 in 2015 increased substantially to 57 and 81 countries submitting reports respectively. Several factors contributed to the significant uptick in national reporting, including the perceived importance of the four global objectives on forests of UNFI and their direct relevance to the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the year 2015, and the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 adopted in 2015; the development of a structured format/template for simplifying reporting progress on the implementation of the UN forest instrument, including reporting on the MDGs; increased collaboration between the UNFF Secretariat and the Secretariat of the GEF on seeking funding of SFM issues, many of which are contained in UNFI, for developing countries;<sup>9</sup> and the provision of capacity building on national reporting provided by the UNFF Secretariat to developing countries.

The decision of Member States in April 2017 to elevate national reporting to the submission of voluntary national contributions towards the achievement of the GFGs and their respective targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development takes reporting to the Forum to a higher, more substantial level.

While the first set of voluntary national contributions is small, the VNCs reflect that reporting countries are moving seriously to achieve the global forest goals and their targets in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The submission of national contributions, many of which were substantial commitments, provide a more accurate base for assessing not only progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and their supportive GFGs, but the degree of commitment that countries have towards their realization.

Nevertheless, the review of the initial set of VNCs revealed a number of shortcomings in the reporting formats used that are described above in section VI.A, such as lack of specificity by some countries on their contributions, the lack of concreteness in describing qualitative contributions by some countries, difficulty in quantifying contributions to targets under GFGs 2 and 5, presentation of tangential information for some countries, inconsistent use of measurements for quantifiable indicators of contributions, lack of specificity linking contributions to GFG targets for some countries, and the need to be more specific on the kind of contributions that governments can provide to the targets under GFG 6.

The shortcomings on the reporting of VNCs should not be taken as a criticism of the VNC reports submitted by governments. A systematic format for reporting the VNCs has not yet been developed and was, therefore, unavailable to guide them, other than the listing of the GFGs and their respective targets. The current lack of a systematic approach to reporting on the contributions makes it very difficult to

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<sup>9</sup> This has been subsequently reinforced with the establishment of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) of the UNFF and the entry into operation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

arrive at a cohesive, methodical assessment of progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals and their respective targets.

## **B. Recommendations**

1. The development of a reporting template on national contributions to the GFGs and their respective targets, using quantifiable indicators and concrete qualitative indicators where appropriate, is necessary to provide an accurate and effective assessment of progress towards the achievement of the GFGs in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. ECOSOC decision 2017/4 states that Member States may include in their voluntary national contributions, as appropriate, the forest-related contributions they intend to make with regard to other international forest-related commitments and goals, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and actions to address climate change under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To this end, the blueprint pairing the targets of these different processes in Appendix 1 should be used in the preparation of the reporting template on national contributions to the GFGs and their respective targets and other forest-related targets from relevant multi-lateral processes..
3. As much as possible, the target indicators in the proposed template for assessing progress in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 should be based on internationally agreed indicators, including relevant SDG indicators, as well as indicators officially adopted by the Parties of the other relevant forest-related multilateral processes listed in the preceding recommendation, as well as applicable FAO FRA indicators.
4. Bearing in mind that Member States of the Forum at its fourteenth session suggested that the reporting template for VNCs be concise and simple, but that this will be more of a challenge when taking into account the targets of other forest-related multilateral processes, priority should be given to the relevant SDG indicators over the official indicators of other forest-related multilateral processes in the design of the proposed reporting template.

Final note: The VNC reporting template to be prepared based on this analytical report will be presented as a separate document.



**Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs**

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1 2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
SDGs 6, 12, 13, 14, 15	GFC 1: Reverse loss of forest cover	5, 7, 9, 11, 14, 15	LULUCF sector	SDG 15.3
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration & sustainable use of terrestrial and fresh-water ecosystems and their services, particularly forests, wet-lands, mountains & drylands. 15.2: By 2020, promote SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification and restore degraded lands. 15.4: By 2030, ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems. 15.8: By 2020, prevent or reduce invasive species on terrestrial ecosystems.	1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 percent worldwide.	5: By 2020, loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.  9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified & prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	LULUCF sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting carbon sinks by reducing deforestation and forest degradation (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>Enhancing carbon sinks through CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration resulting from reforestation, afforestation, restoration and agroforestry (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>Supportive measures, including policies, legislation, actions, forest inventories</li> </ul>	15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration & sustainable use of terrestrial and fresh-water ecosystems and their services, particularly forests, wet-lands, mountains & drylands. 15.2: By 2020, promote SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.	1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced.	15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.	LULUCF sector: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting carbon sinks by reducing deforestation and forest degradation (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>Enhancing carbon sinks through CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration resulting from reforestation, afforestation, restoration and agroforestry (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> </ul>	15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

**Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs**

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive measures, including policies, legislation, actions, forest inventories</li> </ul>	
<p>6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems/forests.</p> <p>12.2: By 2030, sustainable natural resource management.</p> <p>14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage coastal ecosystems.</p> <p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration &amp; sustainable use of terrestrial and fresh-water ecosystems and their services, particularly forests, wet-lands, mountains &amp; drylands.</p> <p>15.2: By 2020, promote SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.</p> <p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification and restore degraded lands</p>	<p>1.3: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p>	<p>7: By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>LULUCF sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting carbon sinks by reducing deforestation and forest degradation (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>Enhancing carbon sinks through CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration resulting from reforestation, afforestation, restoration and agroforestry (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>Supportive measures, including policies, legislation, actions, forest inventories</li> </ul>	<p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>
<p>13.1: Resilience to CC and natural disasters; 13.3: increased awareness of and education on CC mitigation and adaptation</p>	<p>1.4: Forest resilience &amp; adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters &amp; the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide.</p>	<p>15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and</p>	<p>Forest management for adapting to climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding, landslides and droughts.</p>	<p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>

Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
		adaptation and to combating desertification.		
SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15	GFC 2: Enhance forest-based economic-social-env benefits	4, 14, 18	UNFCCC Nationally determined contribution	SDG 15.3
1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty. 4.4: By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources & promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed. 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.	2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated.	18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	Forest management for adapting to climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding, landslides and droughts.	15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and <i>the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources</i> , as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and	2.2: Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.			

**Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs**

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1 2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
<p>financial services, including micro-finance.</p> <p>5.a: Equal rights for women to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p> <p>9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.</p>				
<p>2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, etc.</p> <p>12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p>	<p>2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased.</p>		<p>Forest management (through agroforestry) for adapting to climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding, landslides and droughts.</p>	<p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>
<p>8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises,</p>	<p>2.4: The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among others, is significantly increased.</p>	<p>4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>LULUCF sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protecting carbon sinks by reducing deforestation and forest degradation (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>● Enhancing carbon sinks through CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration resulting from reforestation, afforestation,</li> </ul>	<p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>

**Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs**

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
<p>including through access to financial services. 12.5: By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.</p>		<p>14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>	<p>restoration and agroforestry (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supportive measures, including policies, legislation, actions, forest inventories</li> <li>• Forest management for adapting to climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding, landslides and droughts</li> </ul>	
<p>6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p>	<p>2.5: The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and on-going work of relevant conventions and instruments.</p>		<p>LULUCF sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protecting carbon sinks by reducing deforestation and forest degradation (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>• Enhancing carbon sinks through CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration resulting from reforestation, afforestation, restoration and agroforestry (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</li> <li>• Supportive measures, including policies, legislation, actions, forest inventories</li> <li>• Forest management for adapting to climate change, including extreme weather events, flooding, landslides and droughts</li> </ul>	<p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>

**Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs**

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
7, 12, 14, 15	GFC 3: Increase area of protected and SFM forests & products	7, 11, 12		SDG 15.3
14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 % of coastal and marine areas. 15.4: By 2030, ensure conservation of mountain ecosystems.	3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation methods is significantly increased.	11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.		
15.2: By 2020, promote SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage coastal ecosystems.	3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased.			15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
7.2: By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. <sup>4</sup> 12.2: By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. 12.6: Encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices & to integrate sustainability	3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased.	7: By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. 12: By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.		

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Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
information into their reporting cycle. 12.7: Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable.		16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.		
12, 15, 17	GFC 4: Mobilize new, additional financing for SFM	9		
15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems. 15.b: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation. 17.2: Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments. 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources.	4.1: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.			
17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	4.2: Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and			

Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1 2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
	philanthropic financing, is significantly increased.			
<p>12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.</p> <p>17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South &amp; triangular re-gional &amp; international cooperation on &amp; access to science, technology &amp; innovation &amp; enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms</p> <p>17.17: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.</p> <p>17.18: Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology.</p>	<p>4.3: North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular co-operation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased.</p>			



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17.19: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.				
	4.4: The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from these sources is significantly increased.			
	4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments.	19. By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.		
1, 2, 5, 15, 16, 17	GFC 5: Promote SFM governance frameworks & support SDGs	2, 3		SDG 15.3
15.9: By 2020, integrate eco-system & biodiversity values into national & local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies & accounts.	5.1: The number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased.	2. By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.		

Appendix 1: Linkages of the global forest goals and targets to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Target and the UNFCCC NDCs

Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
<p>15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.</p> <p>15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.</p> <p>16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.</p> <p>16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>5.2: Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthened national and sub-national forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide.</p>			
<p>1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property,</p>	<p>5.3: National and subnational forest-related policies are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local</p>	<p>3. By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use</p>		

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Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1 2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
<p>inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including micro-finance. 5.a: Equal rights for women to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws. 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.</p>	<p>communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>		
<p>2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p>	<p>5.4: Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development.</p>			<p>15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>
17	GFC 6: Enhance forest-related coordination in the UN and CPF			

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Sustainable development goals (SDGs)/targets <sup>1,2</sup>	Global forest goals and associated targets	Aichi Biodiversity Targets	UNFCCC nationally determined contributions (NDCs)	Land degradation neutrality target (UNCCD) <sup>3</sup>
17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	6.1: Forest-related programmes within the UN system are coherent and complementary and integrate the global forest goals and targets, where appropriate.			
17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	6.2: Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the CPF are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.			
17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	6.3: Cross-sectoral coordination & cooperation to promote SFM & halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels.			
17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	6.4: A greater understanding of concept of SFM is achieved & an associated set of indicators is achieved.			
17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	6.5: The input & involvement of major groups & other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan & in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened.			

<sup>1</sup> The complete verbatim list of the 17 SDGs and their respective targets is available at [https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202019%20refinement\\_Eng.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/Global%20Indicator%20Framework%20after%202019%20refinement_Eng.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The pairing of the SDG targets and the GFG targets is according to ECOSOC resolution 2017/4 of 20 April 2017, in which the Council adopted the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030.

<sup>3</sup> SDG 15.3 was formally adopted as the priority target of the UNCCD at COP 12 in October 2015. COP 12 defined Land Degradation Neutrality as “a state by whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems”. The three indicators selected for SDG 15.3 are Land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks (metric soil organic carbon [SOC] stock).

<sup>4</sup> Global forest target 3.3 would contribute to SDG target 7.2 through the provision of charcoal from sustainably managed forests.

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