



# UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS 2030



United Nations  
**FORUM ON  
FORESTS**

## BRIEFING NOTE



The agreement on the first-ever United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (2017-2030) was forged at a special session of the UN Forum on Forests in January 2017 and provides an ambitious vision for global forests in 2030. On 27 April 2017, the Plan was adopted by the UN General Assembly.

- The Strategic Plan features a set of six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal.
- It includes a target to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030, signifying an increase of 120 million hectares, an area over twice the size of France.
- It builds on the vision of the 2030 Agenda and recognizes that real change requires decisive, collective action, within and beyond the UN System.

### About UNFF

The UN Forum on Forests is composed of all Member States of the UN. Since its inception, the Forum has reached notable milestones including the adoption of the first UN Forest Instrument in 2007, the creation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network in 2015 and most recently, the adoption in 2017 of the first UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017- 2030.

### A Vision for Forests for 2030

The vision statement of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 calls for a world where forests are “sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and provide economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for present and future generations.”

When sustainably managed, forests are healthy, productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems which provide essential goods and services to people worldwide. An estimated 1.6 billion people – 25% of the global population – depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation.



## A ground-breaking decision by the United Nations

Forests have been on the forefront of international policy and political agendas since 1992. Until now, the focus of the global community had been on reversing and reducing deforestation and forests degradation.

Forests presently cover 30 per cent of the Earth's land area, or nearly 4 billion hectares. The Strategic Plan features targets to increase global forest area by 3% by 2030 and to eradicate extreme poverty for all forest dependent people by 2030.

## Global Forests Goals and targets contribute to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

For millions of people living in poverty, forest and trees provide food, fuel for cooking and heating, water, medicine, shelter and clothing and function as safety nets in crises. The six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets support the objectives of the International Arrangement on Forests and aim to contribute to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Rio conventions and other international forest-related instruments, and processes.

## Countries may announce their voluntary national contributions

Actions and commitments by Member States are critical for the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and targets. As outlined in the Strategic Plan and quadrennial programme of work, Member States may announce their "voluntary national contributions" towards achieving these goals and targets at upcoming sessions of the UN Forum on Forests.

## Working to mobilize "means of implementation"

Recognizing that there is no single solution to address all financing needs, the Plan calls for a combination of actions at all levels to mobilize resources, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral. In this regard, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network of the UN Forum on Forests, works to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management and implementation of the Strategic Plan by facilitating access by countries to existing and emerging financing mechanisms including the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, and other sources.



## Global Forest Goal 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.

## Global Forest Goal 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

## Global Forest Goal 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 Forest Goal 4

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.

## Global Forest Goal 5

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

## Global Forest Goal 6

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.