

Questionnaire on the Mid-Term Review of the International Arrangement on Forests

Introduction

In accordance with its programme of work, the UN Forum on Forests at its seventeenth session (UNFF17) adopted an [omnibus resolution](#). The annex to this resolution contains the actions to be taken in preparation for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The resolution calls for these actions to be implemented in a transparent and independent manner, and in close consultation with Members of the Forum, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations and other relevant stakeholders. To facilitate the process, the UNFF Secretariat has hired several consultants to assist in the preparation of background papers and assessments. This questionnaire is prepared by the consultants to solicit views from UNFF national focal points and representatives of relevant stakeholders, for use in their assessments. You are kindly invited to send your responses to the UNFF Secretariat at: unff@un.org, with copy to yan.lang@un.org by 30 September 2022.

Name of the Respondent: Mr. Ainsley A Henry, JP
CEO & Conservator of Forests,
UNFF Focal point.
Name of country/organization: Jamaica/ Forestry Department
E-mail: ceo@forestry.gov.jm

A. Questions related to the United Nations Forum on Forests and its members

Question A-1: Considering the objectives of the [IAF](#), what progress has been made by the UNFF and its Members towards:

- a. Implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests?
[Progress is detailed in UNFF reports which show progress of member states.](#)
- b. Enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels? [Annual UNFF forums, Expert and Collaborative partnership meetings allow/provide access to member countries for enhanced corporation.](#)
- c. Promoting North-South, South-South, triangular cooperation, public-private partnerships, and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels? [Annual UNFF forums, Expert and Collaborative partnership meetings allow/provide access to member countries for enhanced corporation.](#)
- d. Strengthening forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI) – [Work to revise reporting template and support national reporting to forum.](#)
- e. Strengthening long-term political commitment to the achievement of the IAF objectives?
[Engagement of political leaders at HLPF.](#)

Question A-2: Could you list the objectives that have not been achieved, and how can this be improved? [It is believed that progress has been made towards all objectives. Promotion of](#)

corporations (North -South, Triangular etc) could be improved/enhanced by leveraging greater opportunities for regional collaboration.

Questions A-3: Has the IAF beyond 2015 been operating in a transparent, effective, efficient, and accountable manner? **YES**

Question A-4: Considering the functions of the UNFF in paragraph 3 of resolution [2015/33](#), what has been the progress made by UNFF towards:

- a. Providing a coherent, open, transparent, and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation, and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner through cross-sectoral approaches? **UNFF annual meetings/forums provide opportunities for progress in this area.**
- b. Promoting, monitoring, and assessing the implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI? **Voluntary National Reports, reporting on commitments under VNCs provide opportunities for this. The development of the Global Forest Goals Flagship report 2021 was significant progress.**
- c. Mobilizing, catalyzing, and facilitating access to financial, technical, and scientific resources? **Collaborative meetings, forums held show progress towards this.**
- d. Promoting governance frameworks, enabling conditions at all levels to achieve SFM? **Policy dialogue, work to revise/streamline reporting format for national reports demonstrate progress in this area.**
- e. Strengthening high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of SFM? **Progress made through High Level Political Forums**

Question A-5: Are you satisfied with the current level of engagement of Members and stakeholders in the Forum's intersessional activities, and what are your suggestions to improve the use of the UNFF's annual sessions, including intersessional activities? **Overall Satisfied. Sessions focussed on supporting greater regional cooperation could be considered.**

Question A-6: What do you suggest could be done to encourage more Members of the UNFF to submit voluntary national reports and voluntary national contributions? **Provide additional technical support to member states to complete reporting requirements. Expert meetings are a good mechanism to engage member states. A technical workshop/ element in these meetings focused on completing the report could be included.**

B. Questions related to the Forum secretariat

Question B-1: What are the achievements of the Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33? **Engaging member countries and providing technical support. Support given to member states is good.**

Question B-2: What are the gaps in and the existing capacity of the secretariat with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, strengthening its capacities, gaining a better understanding of its decision-making processes and procedures, and amplifying the impact of its activities? **N/A**

Question B-3: What are your suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the UNFF Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, and enhance collaboration and synergies, and reduce duplication? **More sensitisation of policy programmes and have high level political forums. Create instrument for Ministerial level commitments at HLPF and monitor this- every five years could be considered.**

C. Questions related to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Question C-1: Since 2015 what is your assessment of the extent of progress on CPF’s contribution to the IAF objectives as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33? **The CPF contribution has been strong and engaging. Recognising that for many member states however agriculture is not twinned with forestry more opportunities/collaboration and technical support for engagement of both sectors could be explored.**

Question C-2: In the table below kindly indicate your assessment of the effectiveness, impact and added value of the activities, in particular, Joint Initiatives of the CPF as outlined in its workplan (2017-2020).

Item	Key CPF activities as outlined in its 2017-2020 Workplan	In your view what has been the effectiveness of CPF in the following areas (please explain)	In your view what has been the Impact and value-added of the CPF in the following areas (please explain)
1	Contributions to UNFF documents & sessions	Support to focal points with preparation of national reports; resource materials and technical support	Good impact. Value through technical support/assistance (forums, expert meetings, workshops)
2	Streamlining forest reporting	Support to focal points with format for national reports. Work with UNFF to revise reporting format. Publication of Flagship report	Good impact. Value through technical support/assistance (forums, expert meetings, workshops)
3	Global Forest Expert Panel	Technical support provided is effective	Good impact. Value through technical support/assistance (forums, expert meetings, workshops)
4	Global Forest Information Service		
5	CPF meetings, side events & OLI	Meetings provided critical support to countries and provided opportunities/platforms for knowledge sharing.	Value through technical support/assistance (forums, expert meetings, workshops)
7	CPF Communicators network		
8	Forest Landscape Restoration		Technical documents/ session
10	Forest Finance Facilitation	Support provided allowed Jamaica to leverage financing opportunities.	Technical assistance, Funding to support the GFFFN

Question C-3: The CPF Policy Document recognises the need for periodic review of its membership given the evolving nature of its mandate. In your view what should be:

- a. the key elements in setting criteria for membership of the CPF (take into account CPF rules of procedure as annexed to the CPF policy document¹) *N/A*
- b. the frequency for review of the criteria (e.g., below 5 years; 6-10 years; etc.)- *every 5 years*
- c. the process for triggering a review of the CPF membership-*N/A*

Question C-4: In your view, how can the CPF provide greater support for policy development and implementation of UNFF resolutions/decisions and in particular assist countries in the implementation of the UNSPF. *Technical support, policy dialogue and engagement. Expert meetings, seminars.*

D. Questions related to the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network

Question D-1: Have you requested assistance from the GFFFN for mobilizing forest financing? If yes, how long did it take to receive a response and what was the outcome of your request? *Jamaica formally requested technical support from the GFFFN in 2017. By 2018, the country received support for the engagement of a consultant to complete a financial strategy for the National Action Plan, conduct capacity building workshops on mobilizing financing and design a project proposal on sustainable forest management to be submitted to the GEF. By 2019 the country had a forest financial strategy, executed two capacity building workshops and drafted a proposal (PIF) for submission to the GEF.*

Question D-2: If you participated in GFFFN capacity building/training workshops, did forest financing improve for your country as a result? If yes, how did it improve? *Two GFFFN capacity building workshops were executed. Several forest financing opportunities were identified and targeted.*

Question D-3: Was your country able to develop or update its forest financing strategy with the support of the GFFFN? *Yes. A forest financing strategy was developed which to date continues to support/inform opportunities for mobilization of financing.*

Question D-4: What funding sources have you targeted for forest financing with the support of the GFFFN and how successful were your efforts? *Funding from the GEF was targeted. In Dec 2021 the country received approval from the GEF for funding of a Medium-sized Project (MSP) based on PIF submitted. Currently with support from the FAO, the country went on to prepare and submit a full project document titled *Jamaica Mangroves Plus: Protection and Sustainable Management of Jamaica's Mangrove Ecosystems and Biodiversity* for USD1.5 million to the GEF. We are currently awaiting feedback from the GEF on whether this project document will be approved for implementation.*

E. Questions related to the trust fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

Question E-1: What are the contributions of your country /organization to the UNFF trust fund? *N/A*

Question E-2: What is the impact of voluntary contributions to the UNFF trust fund on supporting the core activities of the UNFF? *UNFF relies on funding to support the core work.*

Question E-3: What are the options to encourage sustained and adequate contributions to the trust fund? *N/A*

Question E-4: What are the key challenges and constraints with regard to mobilizing adequate resources for the trust fund? *Budgetary constraints?*

¹ CPF Policy Document: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/cpf-policy-document/index.html>

F. Questions related to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Question F-1: What significant actions has your country or organisation undertaken since 2020 to implement the UNSPF?² What are the main challenges and constraints your country or organisation is facing in implementing the UNSPF? **See National Country Report submitted for Jamaica.**

Question F-2: What challenges and constraints did your country face in the preparation of its voluntary national report? If it did not prepare a report, what were the reasons? **The country submitted a Voluntary national report in 2019 for UNFF15 . Challenges include time and human capacity to facilitate timely data collection and analysis of information for the report.**

Question F-3: Do you agree with the submission of voluntary national reports to UNFF, 6 to 12 months after the publication of the next Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) in order to reduce reporting burdens and take full advantage of FAO's data? **YES**

Question F-4: What, in your view, are the main “regional and global issues of concern with regard to forests” in the early 2020s? **Impact of climate change on forests- changing weather patterns, extended dry periods, increased cyclonic activities; Anthropogenic activities; Human induced conversion of forest lands or croplands, grazing etc**

G. Questions related to the contributions of the Forum to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Question G-1: In your view, how well on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very well) have the Forum's annual inputs to the HLPF on forest benefits and interlinkages with other SDGs been reflected in the HLPF declarations:

 4 HLPF ministerial declarations in 2018 and 2022 (SDG15 theme years)³

 4 HLPF ministerial declarations in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (non-SDG15 theme years)⁴

Question G-2: In your view, which of the following should be considered to enhance the visibility of forest contributions at HLPF sessions and better reflect the interlinkages between forests and the SDGs in HLPF declarations (check all that may be useful):

 ✓ Earlier input into relevant aspects of the HLPF preparatory process⁵ by the UNFF, its members, secretariat and partners (CPF, Major Groups, regional/subregional organizations).

 ✓ Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the Forum and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at HLPF regional and global preparatory meetings.

 ✓ Enhanced coordination in capitals between UNFF focal points and those responsible for the HLPF and preparation of Voluntary National Reviews.

² There is no need to repeat information which has already been supplied to UNFF, notably in your country's voluntary national report.

³ See para 27 of HLPF 2018 declaration and paras 66, 67, 69 and 71 of HLPF 2020 declaration.

⁴ No forest-related references in HLPF 2017 declaration. See para 34 of HLPF 2019 declaration; paras 7 and 19 of HLPF 2020 declaration; para 36 of HLPF 2021 declaration.

⁵ The annual HLPF preparatory process is launched in March of each year with significant regional and global activities:
<http://hlpf.un.org/2022>

- Enhanced consultations between the UNFF and its secretariat and UN Regional Economic Commissions, particularly their Forums on Sustainable Development.
- Enhanced coordination between the UNFF Secretariat and DESA's Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, which supports the HLPF process.

Other: _____

Question G-3: In your view, which of the following should UNFF pursue to increase the political relevance of forests to the broader sustainable development agenda (check all that may be useful)?

- Preparation of a report and associated targeted communication products on the multiple contributions of forests/SFM to the SDGs, including in the context of COVID-19 recovery.
- Building on the momentum of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, foster enhanced coordination among forestry, agricultural and other sectors at all levels (GFG 6.3).
- Enhanced coordination in capitals between focal points for UNFF and the Rio conventions.
- Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the UNFF and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at key meetings of the Rio conventions.
- Enhanced coordination in capitals on the preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC), Voluntary National Contributions (UNFF) and Voluntary National Reviews (HLPF).

Other: _____

H. Questions related to the communication and outreach strategy of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Question H-1: What progress has your Government/organisation made since 2015 in implementing the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy, as contained in Annex 1 of UNFF Resolution 13/1 (see [E/2018/42](#))? How could any challenges, including achieving greater visibility of the UNSPF and the global forest goals, be addressed? **Provision of additional public education & visibility materials to support information particularly at the elementary and secondary school level would support engagement**

Question H-2: When considering the overall impact of communication and outreach activities, including the International Day of Forests, undertaken since 2015 by members of the Forum, the secretariat, the CPF, regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, to promote the UNSPF and global forest goals, what do you regard as (i) the main successes and (ii) the main shortcomings? **The annual recognition and celebration of IDF (information and material provided on the UNFF website) is a major success.**

Question H-3: What additional communication opportunities, platforms and channels, including those that have come into prominence in recent years, should be used more effectively to better reach target audiences and achieve greater impact? **Social media**

Question H-4: What opportunities are there to make better use of the capacities of members of the Forum and other players and partners at the global, regional, and national levels to strengthen advocacy on the implementation of the UNSPF? **Continued engagement and collaboration at the regional level.**

I. Questions related to the involvement of regional and subregional partners

Question I-1: In your view, what are the top three areas in which regional and subregional partners have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15th session of the UNFF? **Policy Dialogue, Technical Cooperation/Capacity**

Question I-2: What are prime examples of regional and subregional partners successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*] Regional Agency's and collaboration

Question I-3: Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of regional and subregional partners to partner with them? [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*] **N/A**

J. Questions related to the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Question J-1: In your view, what are the top three areas in which major groups and other relevant stakeholders have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15th session of the UNFF? **N/A**

Question J-2: What are prime examples of major groups and other relevant stakeholders successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*] **N/A**

Question J-3: Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of major groups and other relevant stakeholders to partner with them [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*]? **N/A**

Question J-4: What degree of funding independence have you achieved for participation in (a) policy development and dialogue or (b) practical SFM contribution? What improvements would you prioritise? **N/A**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION
