

## 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](mailto:unff@un.org), with copy to [yan.lang@un.org](mailto:yan.lang@un.org) by **30 September 2022**.

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**Name of country/Organization:** Kenya Forest Service

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### 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?
  - Good progress has been made which include - Development of the United Nations strategic plan of Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) which has been instrumental in establishing clear linkages between the various UN conventions, sustainable development goals and other instruments to sustainable management of forest by providing a common platform for their implementation through the targets for each of the six global forest goals.
  - Development and dissemination of the Forest Instrument (FI) containing the Global Forest Goals. The FI was well disseminated and has been a good reference document. Before the development and adoption of the UNSPF, the FI played the positive role of guiding member countries in generating a clear focus on the goals for sustainable management of forests against which member countries could draw their goals and objectives in the development of national forest policy frameworks.
  - Declaration for implementation by member states the International Day of Forests 21<sup>st</sup> March every year. IDF in Kenya has been celebrated every year without break since 2012, safe for 2019 when it was not possible due to the restrictions brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. The celebrations have been at the national level and sub national- in all the 47 counties with extremely high turnout by government, private sector, communities and other stakeholders. This has been very successful and a good platform for raising awareness on the importance of all types of forests.
  - Establishment of the collaborative partnership on Forests (CPF) an innovative interagency partnership on forests comprising 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests  
Kenya has benefited a lot from the activities of CPF particularly on technical support, development and implementation of forestry projects. Project level support has been

delivered by GEF, FAO, CIFOR, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and CBD among others and this has created national capacity for sustainable management of forests at the level of government and among communities.

- b. Enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels?
- Promoting Discussions of forestry related matters at all UN international fora and or conventions. Kenya has been an active member of the Forum participating in both the intersessional activities and in the sessions of the Forum and in the other processes of the UN particularly UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNCBD, COFO, FAO's regional Forestry and Wildlife Commission meetings. Kenya has also been submitting relevant voluntary national reports as well as taking up roles where appropriate during meetings.
  - Dissemination and or Circulation to member states of relevant information on forestry related matters. Kenya has regularly submitted her reports to UNFF, FAO, UNFCCC and UNCBD among others making it easy for member states to access such information once uploaded in the relevant websites. Forest related information on Kenya is also posted to the websites of key government ministries and those of specialized forest agencies including the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Forestry Research Institute, National Environment Management Authority among others. A lot of information is also routinely shared in social media outlets for these entities and in the form of publications in scientific platforms (such as research gate; google scholar).
  - Promoting voluntary reporting from member states for experience sharing Kenya is active in submitting voluntary national reports to UNFF, FAO, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and UNCBD
- c. Promoting North-South, South-South, triangular cooperation, public-private partnerships, and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels?
- Through capacity building, forest education, and technological transfer
- d. Strengthening forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI)
- While developing policy documents e.g. National Forest program, and strategic documents in the country substantive reference was made to the UNSPF and FI
- e. Strengthening long-term political commitment to the achievement of the IAF objectives?
- Kenya has in place a Ministry responsible for Environment and Forestry headed by a Cabinet Secretary which underscores the level of interest by Government in profiling the importance of forestry.
  - In all sessions of the UNFF Kenya, has always constituted national delegations led by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry with the coordination and participation by Kenya Permanent Mission to UN based in New York;
  - Kenya has also developed the requisite policies and legislations for forest management which are processed at the technical level by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry / Kenya Forest Service and other relevant stakeholders, the executive arm of Government and Parliament.
  - The Ministry of Environment and Forestry /Kenya Forest Service regularly engages Parliament on matters of forest conservation and management and the working relationships have been good and very productive.
  - Organization of high-level round table discussion of key forest related subjects during meetings of member states

**Question A-2:** Could you list the objectives that have not been achieved, and how can this be improved?

- North - South cooperation - Although some progress has been made in the North - south cooperation, development support has however declined. This requires to be addressed with a

view to increasing commitments in order to accelerate achievement of SFM in line with Global objectives of forests number four

- South - South cooperation within the EAC is thriving and member states are developing the East African Community forest policy and climate change strategy. A long term EAC climate change master plan is in place. However, this framework requires funding for its implementation

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

- Yes, the IAF has been holding relevant meetings for the member states accordingly; including UNFF, Expert Group meetings (EGM), and sharing of information through National Focal Points
- The UNFF secretariat has been making efforts in reaching out to the member states and providing programme support in the implementation of UNSPF and capacity building

**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:

- 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?
  - enhanced intersessional work to maximize the impact and relevance of its work, -
  - Fostered exchange of experiences and lessons learned among countries, regional, sub-regional and non-governmental partners and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
  - Holding annual sessions of the Forum except during the COVID 19 Pandemic
  - Organised experience sharing forum for the emerging issue of COVID 19
- Promoting, monitoring, and assessing the implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI?
  - Developed, shared and consolidated reports from Voluntary national reporting tool for implementation of activities
- Mobilizing, catalyzing, and facilitating access to financial, technical, and scientific resources?
  - Establishment of Global Forest Financing Framework (GFFFN) a network of funding sources
  - Assisted some countries (13 No.) in accessing the GFFN kitty and development of SFM activities
- Promoting governance frameworks, enabling conditions at all levels to achieve SFM?
  - Generate and share policy guiding documents e.g. themes and procedures for marking the IDF
  - Strengthening high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of SFM
  - convenes high-level segments for two days during sessions of the Forum, to accelerate action towards sustainable forest management and address forest-related global challenges

**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?

- Am satisfied by the current level of engagement of members and stakeholders in the forum activities. But there is room for sufficient efforts in engagement with member states

**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?

- Continuous engagement with member states for voluntary reporting and bridging any financial gaps experienced by the member states
- Financial and capacity support to the countries to do reporting
- Financial support to the member states to attend intersessional meetings

## 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?

- Provided support to the international policy dialogue on sustainable forest management
- facilitated cooperation and coordination on global forest issue
- Provided the focal point on all forest-related issues for the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- Has Served as the Secretariat for the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
- Securing limited financial support to member states focal points to attend inter sessional meetings

**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?

- The human capacity has been constraining the operation of the secretariat in terms of programme development and providing backstopping services to the member

**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?

- Recruitment of additional technical personnel
- Seconding of staff from willing and well-staffed member states to the secretariat

## 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?

- CPF has played a commendable role in contributing to SFM through technical assistance, funding, programme and project development, monitoring and reporting

**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	Active Participation and times taking leading or chairing at other global events	CPF has greatly added value to sessions in for a and meetings
2	Streamlining forest reporting	Continued provision of information and further improvement of the reporting systems	CPF have continuously guided the reporting process of progress in UNSPF for example voluntary reporting process
3	Global Forest Expert Panel	Development of manuscripts of assessment • Organised Expert Panel meeting	The CPF members have actively organised and effected Expert group meetings to deliberate on key and emerging issues in the

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)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of assessment report</li> <li>• Peer reviewed assessment report</li> </ul>	forestry sector as well as supporting Financially
4	Global Forest Information Service	Streamlined and developed the FRA 2020 processes	The forest resource assessment process has been at the core of FAO processes and has shaped it very well. As Kenya we have even managed to undertake our country's forest resource assessment due to improved capacity in the country
5	CPF meetings, side events & OLI	Organised Working Meetings Regular meeting during UNFF12, Organised and held side events in international fora	CPF have always organised side events on emerging issues in the forest sector as well as communicating helpful data to ongoing processes. FAO organised on alongside the 25 <sup>th</sup> World forestry congress in Korea as well as the just concluded COFO 26 in Rome
7	CPF Communicators network	Celebration of IDF- , Selection of proposed themes and recommendations for future IDF, development of communication products and synchronization of activities	CPF has constantly provided supportive technical and even financial strengths during the annual celebrations of the IDF in member states
8	Forest Landscape Restoration	Development and approval of GEF Project Identification Form (PIF)	CPF have helped develop the procedures for landscape restoration e.g the ROAM methodology for estimating restoration potentials
10	Forest Finance Facilitation	Development of guidelines for the operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network	CPF members has assisted some 13 countries in accessing GFFN resources to support forestry related projects in their countries

**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:

- the key elements in setting criteria for membership of the CPF (take into account CPF rules of procedure as annexed to the CPF policy document<sup>1</sup>)
- The frequency for review of the criteria (e.g., below 5 years; 6-10years; etc.)
  - 6-10 years
- the process for triggering a review of the CPF membership
  - Notification of the member states and information gathering

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

**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.

- Conducting regional meetings and sharing new and emerging knowledge products

#### **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?

- No yet

**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?

- Not yet participated

**Question D-3:** Was your country able to develop or update its forest financing strategy with the support of the GFFFN?

- Not yet

**Question D-4:** What funding sources have you targeted for forest financing with the support of the GFFFN and how successful were your efforts?

- Not yet

#### **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?

- Kenya has not been in a position to contribute to the trust fund

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

- The voluntary contribution has been positive and has facilitated occasional funding for one delegate participating in the regular UNFF sessions and intersessional activities

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

- Application or utilization of the trust fund resources for mutually beneficial activities among member states on critical aspects of SFM
- Holding of targeted and well-coordinated High level political forums with the funding for the trust fund high on the agenda
- Profiling of the activities of the forum in the political cycles of the member states

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

- The Tight economic situations in members countries
- Unforeseen economic situations brought about by COVID 19 Pandemic, Climate change and other disruptive events affecting economic performance of member states

#### **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?<sup>2</sup> What are the main challenges and constraints your country or organisation is facing in implementing the UNSPF?

- Assessment of the National forest and tree cover 2021 which has revealed new data for Kenya
- Annual celebrations of IDF at National and sub national levels

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

#### Challenges and Constraints

- COVID 19 pandemic which curtailed tree planting activities
- Reduced funding for the forestry sector activities
- Climate change related drought

**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?

**Kenya prepared the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Voluntary national report. However, the challenges encountered include;**

- Mobilizing the sufficient relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary data
- Financial constraints in carrying out comprehensive information gathering

**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 – This will provide ample time for information consolidation

**Question F-4:** What, in your view, are the main “regional and global issues of concern with regard to forests” in the early 2020s?

- Climate change effects e.g drought, hunger, high temperature rises
- Forest fires that destroys forests very fast
- Pressure on public and community forests from human settlement, Agriculture, infrastructure and other form of land uses
- Funding levels are never sufficient
- Forest monitoring and reporting

#### 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:

  3   HLPF ministerial declarations in 2018 and 2022 (SDG15 theme years)<sup>3</sup>

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

**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 process<sup>5</sup> by the UNFF, its members, secretariat and partners (CPF, Major Groups, regional/sub regional organizations).

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

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

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

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 Inter linkages 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?

**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?

**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?

**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?



## **I. Questions related to the involvement of regional and sub regional partners**

**Question I-1:** In your view, what are the top three areas in which regional and sub regional partners have made the most important contributions to SFM policy development and dialogue since the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF?

- 1) Development of the EAC forest Policy and climate change strategy
- 2) Convening of the EAC sectoral council on Environment and Natural resources meetings

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

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

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFF?

- 1) Development of the National Forest Policy 2021 (Draft) to be presented to the cabinet and parliament for promulgation

**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*]

- 1) Tree planting campaigns
- 2) Pilot Forest certification
- 3) IDF commemoration

**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)*]?]

- 1) Adopt a forest initiative for rehabilitation of degraded natural forest areas
- 2) Fencing and protection of key forest ecosystems (Mt Kenya, Aberdares, Eburu, Kakamega, Maasai Mau)
- 3) Aerial seeding for restoration of key forest ecosystems (Maasai Mau)
- 4) Participatory forest management jointly with 156 community forest associations
- 5) Voluntary relocation by forest adjacent communities in Leroghi forest Samburu, who previously irregularly occupied the state forests

**Question J-4:** What degree of funding independence have you achieved for participation in

(a) Policy development and dialogue—50%

(b) Practical SFM contribution? – 20 %

What improvements would you prioritise?

- Lobbying for funding from the exchequer and development partners
- Capacity development for development of bankable proposals to attract funding
- Enhancement of partnerships with communities and private sector

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

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