



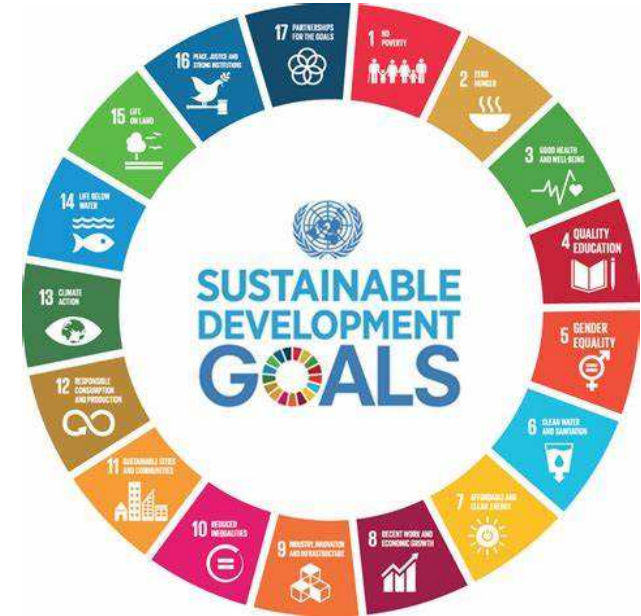
IAF MTR – Section F Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests

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Presentation Outline:

- Introduction
- Progress towards the Global Forest Goals
- Improving reporting to the Forum
- Conclusions
- Recommendations



Introduction: scope, methods and sources

1. **Scope of the paper: progress towards the Global Forest Goals and targets, notably the specific topics identified in section F of the resolution: challenges and constraints in implementing the UNSPF, preparation of voluntary national reports, timing of the reporting process and major issues of concern in the 2020s.**
2. **No duplication of other parts of the mid-term review**
3. **Sources:**
 - **Responses to consolidated questionnaire**
 - **UNFF documents, notably the Global Forest Goals Report 2021**





**Progress towards the Global Forest Goals
(for information by Goal, see the paper and the GFG
2021 report)**



Significant actions since 2020

(Based on responses from 13 countries and one international organisation)

- revised or new forest strategies and programmes, including those linked to climate change and the SDGs
- broader strengthening of governance structures, financial support to forest measures,
- increased certification,
- expanded social forestry,
- measures against illegal logging, and
- large scale greening of land and tree planting



Challenges and constraints in implementing UNSPF (selection, not in order of priority)

- **Inadequate resources, especially financial, and increased competition for resources, which are available**
- **Climate change**
- **Increasing competition for land use**
- **Social and economic challenges, notably growing populations, rural poverty, political instability**
- **Governance**
- **Insufficient capacity**
- **Achieving consensus on objectives with all stakeholders**
- **Managing trade-offs**
- **Insufficient information**



Main forest related issues of concern in the early 2020s (identified by countries)

- **Forest loss and degradation**
- **The consequences of climate change, notably changing weather and increased extreme events, such as fires and droughts, and forest damage**
- **Increased role of forest management in mitigating climate change**
- **Threats to forest biodiversity**
- **Role of forests for livelihoods, including balancing sustainable forest management with social and economic development**
- **Land use pressures, notably from population, agriculture energy and development, as well as illegal activities**
- **Sustainably using forests and building green value chains.**
- **Recovery of the forest sector, global forest products industries and legal trade post-COVID-19 pandemic**



Improving reporting to the Forum



Lessons learned from the first round of VNRs

- **Benefits** to reporting countries included opportunity to improve domestic communication, monitoring research and data availability, as well as “self-assessment”,
- **Challenges** included capacity/resources, internal communication, data availability and the complexity of the reporting format,
- The **Global Core Set** of forest related indicators helped to focus data collection efforts and avoid duplication in reporting.



Suggestions for improving the reporting process

- Enhance capacity at the **national** level: funding for data collection, coordination etc.
- Improve process at the **international** level: visibility, official channels, case studies, improved template, reduce administrative burden,
- The Forum agreed to consider establishing an advisory group, taking into account the experience gained and lessons learned.



Timing of the reporting process

Two information flows for Global Forest Goals report:

- **Actions by countries to implement UNSPF (Voluntary National Reports)**
- **Outcomes, preferably quantitative (FAO/FRA – also used for SDGs)**

To avoid duplication, GFG 2021 used results of FRA 2020

Responses received to the consolidated questionnaire stressed the importance of avoiding duplication of effort and of coordinating with the FRA data cycle, and overwhelmingly favoured the suggestion that, in future, voluntary national reports for UNFF should be requested 6-12 months after completion of the latest FRA.



Conclusions

Conclusions on progress towards the Global Forest Goals

- **Measures are being taken to achieve nearly all of the goals and targets.**
- **For some of the targets, quantified outcomes confirm that the measures taken are leading to progress towards the targets.**
- **However, reporting and measuring progress towards targets for which there is no comprehensive and comparable monitoring system in place, constitute a major challenge.**
- **The enquiry identified many challenges and constraints.**



Conclusions on the reporting process

- **GFGR 2021 was able to demonstrate clearly, to the UNFF and a wider audience, where and to what extent the world is on track to achieve the targets, and where there has been little progress.**
- **The reporting process brought benefits not only to UNFF and the international community, but also to the reporting countries themselves**
- **It is possible to improve the reporting process, and the various enquiries carried out have identified some major directions for improvement**



To improve the quality and quantity of voluntary national reports for the next reporting round, it is imperative to:

- **Continue and develop the programme of capacity building and workshops which prepared the last round of reporting;**
- **Improve the reporting process, as regards timing and communication, and in particular the template of the national voluntary report, making it easier to fill in, with fewer repetitions and duplication, and more suited to regional and global synthesis – work is in hand already**



Recommendations by the consultant

Recommendations 1-3

- 1. Member states and the international community should continue to work to implement the UN strategic plan for forests and attach high priority to achieving the global forest goals and associated targets.**
- 2. Member states and the international community should continue to work together to monitor and report on progress.**
- 3. Flagship reports, along the lines of GFGR 2021, should be produced at approximately five-year intervals, culminating in a final report (after 2030) assessing whether the global forest goals and their associated targets have in fact been achieved**



Recommendations 4-6

- 4. Should the Forum decide to produce the next global forest goals report, and establish an advisory group on reporting, work should start immediately following the decision**
- 5. UNFF and FAO with their partners should continue to work together to avoid duplication and minimise the reporting burden, notably by focusing their efforts on improving the indicators included in the Global Core Set of forest-related indicators**
- 6. As regards timing, the next round of voluntary national reporting to UNFF should be launched so that VNRs are available shortly after the FRA 2025 data set becomes available to UNFF.**



Recommendations 7-9

7. Donors and the international community should continue to work together to increase member states' capacity to prepare voluntary national reports.
8. Efforts should continue to develop tools to monitor progress towards those Goals for which, at present, no objective, transparent and comprehensive monitoring tools exist.
9. Countries identified the main global and regional issues of concern to forests in the early 2020s. It is suggested that UNFF take into account the results of this survey in its work.





Thank You!

