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UNITED NATIONS FOREST INSTRUMENT



The landmark United Nations Forest Instrument was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, reflecting strong international commitment to advance sustainable forest management, curb deforestation, and enhance forest contributions to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals. The Instrument articulates a series of agreed policies and measures at the international and national levels to strengthen forest governance, technical and institutional capacity, policy and legal frameworks, forest sector investment and stakeholder participation.

BACKGROUND

Forests have been high on the international policy and political agenda since the 1992 United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. At the Rio Earth Summit, intense intergovernmental negotiations resulted in the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests – known as the “Forest Principles” – as well as Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 on Combating Deforestation.

In 2007, following successful negotiations and agreement by the UN Forum on Forests, the UN General Assembly adopted the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (which was subsequently named the UN Forest Instrument in 2015). Agreement on the instrument was the culmination of intense negotiations spanning over a decade and half, and marked the first time that Member States of the UN agreed on an international instrument on international forest policy and cooperation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the UN Forest Instrument is:

- 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;
- To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.





GLOBAL OBJECTIVES ON FORESTS

In 2015, Member States reaffirmed the four shared global objectives on forests contained in the UN Forest Instrument and reaffirmed their commitment to work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievement by 2030.

Global Objective on Forests 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;

Global Objective on Forests 2

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

Global Objective on Forests 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 on Forests 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.

In 2017, the Global Objectives on Forests were also integrated into the six Global Forest Goals contained in the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS



United Nations **FORUM ON FORESTS**

The UN Forum on Forests is composed of all Member States of the United Nations. 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 (GFFFN) in 2015 and most recently, the adoption of the first UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 in 2017. The UNFF Secretariat, in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, tracks progress in the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument using qualitative data from national reports, and quantitative data from FAO, ITTO and other partners.

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