



Government of Nepal

Ministry of Forests and Environment

P.O.Box No. 3987
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu

Ph. { 4211567
4211892
Fax. 4211868

Ref. No.



Date: 29/11/2019

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
New York

Subject: Submission of Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Dear sir/madam,

I am pleased to communicate to you that Ministry of Forests and Environment of Nepal as a country Focal Institution to UNFF has prepared the National Report to UNFF in line with UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, the United Nations Forest Instrument and other guidance provided by UNFF Secretariat. The Ministry on November 29, 2019 has decided to submit it to UNFF.

The report is attached herewith.

Any comments and feedback to the Report will be highly appreciated.

Sindhu Prasad Dhungana, PhD

Joint Secretary

Chief of Planning, Monitoring and Coordination Division



Country:	NEPAL
Date of submission:	29/11/2019

Format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions¹

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and builds on the format previously used for reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session. It is largely narrative, reflecting the qualitative nature of many of the targets.

2. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or that is not in other international databases is requested. The information submitted will be supplemented with quantitative data, among other things, from the following international data providers:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment/collaborative forest resources questionnaires, Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

(b) Reports on the state of the world's forests, produced every two years by FAO;

(c) Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Other data sources, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

3. Members are kindly requested:

(a) To submit their completed national reports electronically (in Microsoft Word format) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org by mid-November 2019, bearing in mind that early submissions will greatly facilitate the secretariat's preparation of the report on progress towards the goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 [title and focus to be determined] to be presented to the Forum in 2021 [to be confirmed];

(b) To submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official signed letter conveying their submission from the respective ministry, or a note verbale from their permanent mission to the United Nations in New York;

Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org by 15 November 2019.

¹ Detailed guidelines will be prepared and discussed and will, among other things, state the purpose of reporting and how the data will be used. References to voluntary national contributions will be harmonized with the process to be put in place for announcing voluntary national contributions.

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, to consult experts from relevant national ministries, such as those of the environment, economic development, finance and agriculture, in completing the reporting format and to consult the national focal points for the forest resources assessments, the Rio Conventions secretariats, other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Members may also wish to consult stakeholders when preparing their report.

4. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
5. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
6. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

General information

National focal point

Name:	Sindhu Prasad Dhungana
Title:	Joint Secretary
Address:	Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Organization:	Ministry of Forests and Environment
Telephone:	+9779860330217
Email:	sindhupd.dhungana@nepal.gov.np

Person to contact concerning the national report, if someone other than the national focal point

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Organization:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report

Institution(s):	Ministry of Forests and Environment
Address:	Singh Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Email:	info@mofe.gov.np

Global forest goal 1 and associated targets²

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

Associated targets

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide³

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015,⁴ what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- Promulgation of The Constitution of Nepal, 2015
- Enactment of Forest Act, 2019
- Formulation of National Forest Policy, 2019, and National Climate Change Policy, 2019
- Endorsement of Forestry Sector Strategy (2016 -2025) and National REDD+ Strategy, 2018

Description of actions:

Forest is in the concurrent list in the constitution of Nepal (2015). The responsibility of the federal Government is national forest policy and planning while management and implementation responsibility lies with Provincial Government. The Constitution commits to maintaining the forest area in necessary lands for ecological balance.

The National Forest Policy, 2019 aims to enhance sustainable forest management and improve the productivity of all types of forests. The National Climate change policy aims to enhance the climate resilient capacity of ecosystems and the carbon stock through sustainable forest management under the theme “forests, biodiversity and watersheds”.

Forest Act, 2019 is a main law made for proper management and conservation of forests. It has many provisions related to community-based forest management, forest protection and enterprise development. Forestry sector strategy (2016-25) focuses on sustainable management of forests and sustained flow of ecosystem goods and services.

² Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

³ Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

⁴ Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

National REDD+ strategy emphasizes on reducing deforestation and forest degradation through sustainable management of forests in Nepal ensuring Ecological, Social and Gender Safeguards.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

- Ministry of Forests and Environment and its departments were restructured in 2018 in line with the new Constitutional mandates.
- Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests and Environment was established in each Province (there are 7 provinces across the country).
- 74 District Forest Offices were transformed to 84 Division Forest Offices.
- National REDD+ Steering Committee and National REDD+ Coordination Committee were formed.
- Forest related federations, networks and associations were restructured.
- About 3000 additional Community Based Forest User Groups have been formed since 2015

Description of actions:

Ministry of Forests and Environment, in which the erstwhile Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, and Ministry of Population and Environment merged, provides overall leadership on three major domains---Forests, Environment and Climate Change.

At the provincial level, Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (MoITFE) has been set up and made responsible for the management of national forests, whereas private forestry, public land forestry and urban forestry come within the jurisdiction of local governments. Forest Directorate (FD) and Division Forest Office (DFO) are working under MOITFE at province level. Altogether there are seven FDs and 84 DFOs in all seven provinces. Previously, there were 5 FDs and 74 DFOs. These FDs and DFOs used to work directly under the central government previously. Recent policy and legal reforms in forests and climate change recognize and define the role of the federal, provincial and local government in the management of forest resources.

Moreover, Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Cooperatives and Natural Resources provides necessary direction and suggestion to the Government while also evaluates and monitors the program and activities of the Government. National Planning Commission coordinates different Ministries in planning and monitoring of their activities and programs. More than 22,000 community forest user groups, 7500 leasehold forest user groups and 31 collaborative forest user groups, 10 forest conservation areas, 20 protected areas and 2500 private forests are directly engaged in the management of forests in the country.

National REDD+ Steering Committee and National REDD+ Coordination Committee provide policy direction, promote collaboration and cooperation among different stakeholders and sectors for REDD+ activities. National networks of civil society organizations like Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN), Association of Collaborative Forest Users Nepal (ACOFUN), Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association (HIMAWANTI), Leasehold Forest User Group Network, Association of Family Forest Owner's, Nepal (AFFON), and Federation of Forest-based Industry and Trade, Nepal (FenFIT-Nepal), their provincial and district chapters are working with the Government agencies for the conservation and management of forest resources, while also at the same time for the utilization and marketing of forest products, both timber and non-timber.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- Allocation of Government (Government of Nepal and Provincial Governments) budget for forestry sector
- Provision of conditional grant from the Central Government to Provincial and Local Governments
- Establishment of Forest Development Fund to assist afforestation/reforestation and forest management program and activities
- Mobilization of financial assistance from bilateral/multilateral agencies
- Use of community fund generated from the sale of forest products from community forestry groups

Description of actions:

Government of Nepal and Provincial Governments are allocating financial resources for forestry sector on annual basis. The proportion of forestry sector budget is increasing gradually. Government of Nepal also provides conditional grants to the Provincial and Local Governments. Recently promulgated Forest Act, 2019 has a provision of establishing Forest Development Fund. Government of Nepal also mobilizes financial resources from multilateral/bilateral agencies for the management of forests. Community based forest user groups are also generating money from sale of forest products, out of which at least 25% of the total income is used for forest management activities in line with the Forest Act, 2019.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- Implementation of district forestry sector plans and scientific forest management plans
- Forestry research and national forest inventory program
- Development of Monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system for REDD+
- National Standards of Forests Certification (FSC) in place
- Forest Health and Vitality project in action.
- Preparation and submission of National Forest Reference Level to UNFCCC

Description of actions:

Divisional Forests Offices are implementing scientific forest management procedure, 2014. Over 600 forest management plans for community-based forests, with an area of ca. 90,000 ha, are being implemented based on silvicultural principles. Forestry research program on various areas of forest management is continuous. Forest Research and Training Centre is conducting periodic national forest resource assessment in a way that around 1800 permanent sample plots scattered across the country are measured in every five year.

Nepal has developed MRV System based on emission factor and activity data for sub-national emission reduction programme. Recently, Forest Stewardship Council has endorsed Nepal's National Standard for Forest Certification that will ensure sustainable management of all types of forests.

Forest Research and Training Centre in Collaboration with FAO has been implementing a research project entitled '**building capacities to improve and sustain forest health to enhance the resilience of forest and livelihood of forest dependent community**'. Nepal prepared and submitted its first National Forest Reference Level to UNFCCC in 2017 and the revised final one in 2018.

(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

Existing legal, policy and strategic provisions, institutional reforms and financial and technical actions at all levels have long implications on forestry sector. These measures aim at reducing the deforestation and/or forest degradation and supporting for afforestation and/or reforestation activities which support the implementation of UN forest instrument in Nepal.

(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

- Coping with negative impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems and biodiversity is a challenge
- Forest degradation due to forest fire, overgrazing and invasive species are other challenges.
- Use of forest land for construction of infrastructures is also a challenge to conserving forests

(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Voluntary national contribution not yet submitted. It is being prepared.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Forest occupies a total of 5.96 million ha which is 40.36% of the total area of Nepal. Other wooded land (shrub and sparse forest with <10% crown cover) covers 0.65 million ha (4.38%). Forest and other wooded land together represent 44.74% of the total area of Nepal. Efforts are made to maintain present forest cover with an aim to increase it to 45 % by 2030.

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets⁵

⁵ Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

Associated targets

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

- (i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions

- Continuation of the Leasehold Forest Policy, 2002 (Target 2.1; 2.2; 2.3; continuous)
- Continuation of the NTFP Development Policy, 2004 (Target 2.1; 2.3; continuous)
- Implementation of Scientific Forest Management Procedure, 2014 (Target 2.4, 2.5; continuous)
- Implementation of NBSAP 2014-2020 (Target 2.5; continuous)
- Development of Forest Sector Strategy 2016-2025 (Target 2.1, 2.2, 2.5; continuous)
- Development of Nepal National REDD+ Strategy, 2018 (Target 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5; continuous)
- Ecotourism Promotion in Community Forest Procedures, 2018 (Target 2.1, 2.5; Continuous)
- Development of Forest Enterprise Development Procedure, 2018 (Target 2.1,2.4,2.5; Continuous)
- Formulation of National Forest Policy, 2019 (Target all five; continuous)
- Development of National Climate Change Policy, 2019 (Target 2.5; continuous)
- Development of National Agroforestry Policy, 2019 (Target 2.1, 2.3; continuous)
- Endorsement of Forest Act, 2019 (Target 2.1, 2.5; continuous)

Description of actions:

Nepal is considered as one of the pioneer countries for community forestry. It is widely known for pro-poor forest policies, sustainable management of the forests, biodiversity conservation, and economic benefits of the local communities.

Nepal has recently reformulated the National Forestry Policy, based on the lesson learnt from earlier Forest Policies of 2000 and 2015, with the vision of social, economic and cultural prosperity of Nepal through managed forests and

balanced ecosystems. It provided the basis for the development of new Forest Act, 2019 to ensure sustainable management of all types of forests and promote community stewardship in forest management and utilization.

National Climate Change Policy 2019 envisions to contribute to the social and economic prosperity of the country through developing climate change resilient society. It has incorporated SFM, Agroforestry, Wetlands, Ecosystems, Integrated Watershed Conservation, REDD+, PES etc. under the Forest, Biodiversity and Watershed Conservation sector. Nepal has also developed National Agroforestry Policy, 2019 with the aim of developing agroforestry systems benefiting local communities. The Forest Sector Strategy aims to promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems, biodiversity and watersheds for national prosperity. REDD+ strategy emphasizes to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through SFM while ensuring environmental, social and gender safeguards.

Based on Leasehold Forest Policy patch of degraded forests is handed over to households below poverty line for 40 years to practice livelihood-based agro-forestry in a way that twin objective of poverty reduction and environmental restoration is achieved. The recent procedures on Forest Enterprise and Ecotourism aim to support the local communities by providing subsidies in the development of forest-based enterprises. Similar to leasehold forestry practices, some land within community forests is allocated for economically poor households to practice agro-forestry and other income generation activities based on a contract between community forestry user group and the households.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

- *Restructuring of the Government's Forestry Institutions (Ministry and Departments)*
- *Set up the Provincial Forestry Institutions (Ministry and Forestry Directorate)*
- *Upscaling of Herbs Productions and Processing Company Limited (HPPCL)*
- *Strengthened forestry related CSOs and networks (FECOFUN, ACOFUN, Community Forestry Coordination Committee) and organizations of private entrepreneurs (e.g. FENFIT, JABAN, NEHPAA, FNCCI-AEC)*

Description of actions:

Nepal has restructured forestry governance according to the recent constitutional provisions. Then Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation has been reorganized as Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) that added Climate Change and Environment into its key mandates. In 2018, the MoFE set the goal to generate the year-around employment to over 110,000 persons through forestry activities.

Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and Department of Forests and Soil Conservation are mandated for the administration of PAs and wildlife conservation, and sustainable management of forests respectively, together with supporting the livelihoods of forest dependent communities.

For the first time, the Constitution has set up federal structure in Nepal. Restructured 84 Division Forest Offices, under the Provincial Forestry Directorate and Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment; are mandated for the overall management of all types of forests and support Local Forest User Groups (LFUGs). About 30,000 Community-based Forestry Groups (Community Forest Groups: 22,266; Community-based Leasehold Forest Groups: 7,484; Collaborative Forest Management Groups: 31, Buffer Zone Community Groups: 1200) have been working to enhance forest productivity and revenue, fulfil forest product's needs, reduce poverty and conserve biodiversity. Over two-third households in Nepal (Total HHs: 5.4 million; Beneficiary HHs: 3.9 million) are organized into community-based forestry groups.

Nepal Herbs Production and Processing Limited (HPPCL), established in 1981, has been up-scaled for the increased cultivation, processing and trade of medicinal and aromatic plants with the participations of local and forest dependent communities.

The civil society organizations (FECOFUN, ACOFUN, HIMAWANTI--as described in Goal 1) are working for ensuring rights of communities and women in forest resources, while at the same time mobilizing people's participation in sustainable management of forests. Private sector organizations, such as FenFIT (described in Goal 1), Jadibuti Association of Nepal (JAWAN), Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (NEHHPA) and Agro Enterprise Centre (AEC) under Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) , as mentioned in Goal 1 such as Federation of Community Forestry User Groups, Association of Collaborative are working for the cultivation, processing, value addition and trade of timber and non-timber forest products.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- *Annual Program and Budget Allocation by Government of Nepal, Provincial and Local Governments*
- *Annual Program and Budget Allocation by Fund of various FUGs (e.g. CFUGs and CFM Funds)*
- *Private Sector Investment*
- *Establishment of Forest Development Fund*
- *Programs and Plans of Development Partners (Donor-funded projects)*

Description of actions:

For the first time, the MoFE has envisioned Forestry as an important economic sector that ensures economic, social and environmental benefits. Accordingly, the GoN has immensely increased the program and budget to promote three sub-sectors---forest-based enterprises, ecotourism and plantations since FY 2018/19. The total annual budget in these three sub-sectors has increased to about USD 4.0 million in Fiscal Year 2019/20 compared to USD 1.5 million in Fiscal Year 2018/19. Similarly, all seven provincial governments have increased the fiscal budget in line with this objective.

Average annual income of community-based forestry groups, mainly Community Forest User Groups and Collaborative Forest Management Groups in the past 3 years, have estimated to be over USD 50 million mainly from the sale of timber and non-timber forest products. The Forest Act, 2019 requires that at least 25% (~USD12.5 million) of their income be invested in forest management activities, and 50% (~USD25 million) in poverty reduction, enterprise development and women empowerment.

Private sector has also invested in timber processing and manufacturing, non-timber forest products, ecotourism and bioenergy enterprises.

The Forest Act, 2019 provisions the Forest Development Fund that can be used for the conservation, promotion and development of forests ensuring biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. This fund may receive endowment from governments, individual persons and organizations, development partners as well as the set proportion of the revenue generated through the sale of forest products, compensation of forest land provided to infrastructure development projects and Payment for Ecosystem Services.

Various conservation and development partners have been providing technical and financial supports mainly to assist community-based forest management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood promotion and capacity development.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- *Increase forest productivity through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)*
- *Assigned the Forest Research and Training Centre (FRTC) for the technical audit of SFM*
- *Use of Remote Sensing and GIS in Forest Resource assessment and wildlife population monitoring*
- *Preparation of species conservation plan for 10 threatened wildlife and five tree species*
- *Capacity building training to government officials and local communities*
- *Establishment of Breeding Seed Orchards, Gene Bank and advanced forest nurseries*

Description of actions:

The Ministry of Forests and Environment has set SFM as the priority program aiming to increase forest productivity, ensure sustainability, maintain forest health and vitality, and increase employments and revenue from forestry sector. FRTC is carrying out technical audit of SFM. A number of technical training and workshop have been regularly organized for capacity development of the government officials and communities. The FRTC regularly carries out essential research, development and outreach activities.

Management plans have been formulated by relevant authorities (government agencies, community groups) for the management of all type of forests and protected areas. The detailed and systematic resource assessments are mandatory to prepare any management plans. The Annual Allowable Harvest of timber and non-timber forest products is fixed based on the Mean Annual Increment, which in turn, is based on information obtained through forest resource assessment. Depending on the thresholds set in Environment Protection Act and Regulation, Environmental Impacts are assessed before management plans are approved.

The population census of tiger, rhino, wild elephant, water buffalo and swamp deer has been carried out in the past four years. The species conservation plans for following threatened species have been prepared and implemented: i) Rhino, Elephant, Black buck, Snow leopard, Red Panda, Pangolin, Dolphin, Pheasants, Vulture, Gharial and ii) Rosewood, Rhododendron, Walnut, Pterocarpus and Magnolia. A total of 50 Breeding Seed Orchards and 122 Seeds stands have been established across the country by Department of Forests and Soil Conservation for the superior seed productions.

Remote sensing and GIS, LiDAR, Photogrammetry, PRA/RRA etc. have been used as the decision-making tools for all types of forest management.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

- Government of Nepal has prepared private sector friendly laws. It has facilitated private sector roles in resource management and socio-economic development. Altogether 26 plant species (23 timber and 3 non-timber) cultivated in private lands were deregulated in a way that the owner of the resource or the buyer/entrepreneurs can use or transport the material without any intervention from the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation.
- Since FY 2018/19, the Government through the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation and the Department of Plan Resources is providing financial subsidy to Forest User Groups (FUG) and Cooperatives to establish and run forest-based enterprises and ecotourism.
- The National Agriculture Research and Development Fund (NARDF) provides supports to promote NTFP/MAPs cultivation program in community forests, leasehold forests and private land.
- FNCCI has established “Agro Enterprise Centre” for promotion of agriculture and forest-based enterprises.
- Various organizations of NTFP traders, farmers and businesspersons e.g. JABAN, NEHHPA have increased investment in the sector. They have invested money in the cultivation of MAPs (Chamomile, Mentha, Palmarossa, Citronella, Lemon grass etc.), processing and value addition ensuring the buyback guarantee of the products.
- Government has implemented various projects (e.g. Hariyo Ban, EnLiFT, EBA2 etc.) and program in collaboration with various development partners for the sustainable management of forest resources, biodiversity conservation, mitigating adverse impacts of climate change and empowering local and forest dependent communities.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

All the legislative, policies, institutional, technical and financial progresses made by Nepal as mentioned above directly support the implementation of the UN forest instrument, as all of these aim to enhance sustainable forest management, improve forest governance, increase forest sector investment and ensure the stakeholders participation.

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country

- Despite Nepal's strong will and well-developed plan, the country is facing many challenges to achieve Goal 2. The major challenge is the inadequate investment. A total of 44.74% of the nation's land cover (Forest: 5.96 million ha; Other wooded land 0.65 million hectare) is being managed with limited financial resources. In order to achieve the goal and objectives of various plans and programs, forestry sector demand additional resources than what is available from the Government of Nepal. In recent years, the foreign aid has been declined in forestry sector in Nepal.
- Nepal has demonstrated successful biodiversity conservation in the world. Number of many wildlife species, such as Tiger (and its prey species), Rhinos and Leopards have increased. As a result, the incidences of the human-wildlife conflicts have risen significantly. The resource and technology for the minimization of the conflicts is not sufficient.
- The outmigration rate especially from the middle mountain region is very high. It has changed the demographical, and socio-economic conditions of the region which has direct impact on the management of the forest resources.
- The climate change has negatively impacted the livelihoods of the rural communities. The scarce resource of the country is being used largely to mitigate the adverse impact originated from global warming and resultant climate change for what Nepal's contribution is insignificant.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Voluntary national contribution has not yet been submitted. It is under preparation.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

The Global Forest Goal 2 is very timely and significant for Nepal and many other developing countries. This global goal requires the collaborative efforts of the government agencies, international communities, development partners, local communities and private sector. It demands huge technical and financial resources. However, the development support from international communities and conservation partners have largely dropped down for Nepal in recent years. International communities, bilateral agencies and development partners should invest more to fulfil the endeavor and aspiration of Government of Nepal.

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets⁶

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

Associated targets

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy

⁶ Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

List of actions:

- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 (5th amendment, 2018)
- Enactment of Forest Act, 2019
- Formulation of Forest Policy, 2019
- Development of Forestry Sector Strategy (2016 – 2025)
- Enactment of and Amendment to CITES Act, 2016 (1st amendment, 2018)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2014-2020)
- Chure Conservation and Management Master Plan, 2017
- Deregulation of private forest to facilitate private sector engagement.

Description of actions:

There are 20 protected areas in Nepal, with an area of 3.44 million ha, accounting for 23.39% of the total area of the country. National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (NPWC) Act, 1973 is the main legal instrument for declaring and managing protected areas in Nepal. Fifth amendment to the NPWC Act has provision to manage biological corridors in addition to the provision to declare and manage National Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Hunting Reserves, Strict Nature Reserves, Buffer Zones and Conservation Areas. NPWC Act states that protected areas should be managed based on the management plans .

Parsa wildlife reserve was extended by 128 sq. km in 2015 and the reserve was changed to Parsa National Park in 2017. Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve has a status of National Park in 2017.

Forest Act, 2019 aims at conservation and management of forest resources in Nepal through various management modalities including 'government-managed forests', 'community forests', 'collaborative forests', 'leasehold forests', 'religious forests', 'private forests', 'agro-forests', 'urban forests' and 'public land forests'.

Forest Policy, 2019 is the umbrella policy and guiding document for managing forest, biodiversity, protected areas and watersheds.

Forestry Sector Strategy (2016-25) emphasizes the sustainable management of forests and sustained flow of forest products and services.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

- Organizational restructuring according to federal structure (described in Goal 1 and 2).
- Increase in the staff position for protected area management
- Graduation of Parsa Wildlife Reserve and Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve to Parsa National Park and Shuklaphanta National Park respectively in 2018.
- Increase in the number of community-based forest user groups practicing sustainable forest management
- Increase in the number of Commercial Leasehold forests
- Transformation of protected forests into forest conservation areas
- Establishment of Nepal Ban Nigam Limited (Nepal Forest Corporation Limited)
- Accreditation of Plant and Soil Laboratories

Description of actions:

Government of Nepal approved the organization and management survey report of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation in 2015 and the number of staffs positions almost doubled to 1,909. Increase in the number of frontline staffs yielded better protection and effective management of national parks, wildlife reserves and buffer zone.

About 400 forest user groups are implementing scientific forest management program in different collaborative and community forests in Nepal. Seven block forests (government managed forest), with an area of ca.15,000 hectare, are implementing scientific forest management program. Altogether, ca. 90,000 hectare of forest land is managed based on ten years forest management plan under the scientific forest management program.

Over 7,500 leasehold forest user groups are managing about 43,000 hectare of forest lands in Nepal. Forests are leased for 40 years and handed over to leasehold forest user groups for environmental conservation and livelihood improvement of poor families.

Ten protected forests of about 190,000 hectares is now converted to forest conservation area.

Recently, Nepal Ban Nigam Limited is established as a public entity to collect, distribute, supply and process forest products in Nepal.

(iii) Financial

List of actions:

- Regular allocation of Government budget for protected areas and other conservation activities
- Allocation of 30 to 50% of the park/reserve income to local communities for community development
- Mobilization of income of community and collaborative forest user groups from sale of forest products
- Establishment of forest development fund for a/reforestation, sustainable forest management and other forest development activities
- Mobilization of official development assistance in forestry sector

Description of actions:

Government of Nepal is providing regular financial resources for the management of protected area on annual basis. Block forest, protected forest (now forest conservation area), and community and collaborative forest user groups are also getting Government funding for forest management program and activities.

National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973 make provisions for 30 to 50% of the national park/reserve income to be used for conservation and community development activities in the buffer zone surrounding national parks and wildlife reserves.

Based on scientific forest management plan, community and collaborative forest user groups are generating substantial amount of money especially from sale of forest products and mobilizing it in the conservation and community development activities.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- Management of protected areas and forests based on management plans
- Research and survey/monitoring of wildlife populations
- Production of forest products based on sustained yield principles
- Use of remote sensing and GIS in forest and protected area mapping and inventory

Description of actions:

Described under Goal 1 and 2.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?

Nepal Army is involved in the protection of national parks and wildlife reserves in Nepal. Community based organizations such as community based anti-poaching units (CBAPUs), buffer zone community forests etc. are active at local level. Government of Nepal also join hands with conservation partners such as WWF, IUCN, ZSL in the management of wildlife and protected areas. Government of Nepal is also engaged in regional and international forum such as SAWEN, CITES, RAMSAR convention and Global Tiger Forum.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

All policy and legislative reforms, institutional changes, and other technical and/or financial actions aim at protection and effective management of wildlife and protected areas as well as community-based forest management. The national park/wildlife reserves, protected forests, block forests, collaborative and community forests are managed based on five to ten years management plans, whereas leasehold forests is leased for 40 years. Sustainable management of forest areas are on increasing trend. There is significant increase in the production of forest products from the implementation of scientific forest management programs. The revenues generated from the sale of forest products are in turn invested in sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation.

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?

- Human –wildlife interactions are increasing, where resultant conflict is becoming a major challenge.
- Despite having good management plans for each protected areas and forest management units, the full implementation is lagging due to inadequate financial resources and technology.
- Adequately trained human resources is also a challenge in the management of forests, wildlife, protected areas and biodiversity.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

No.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Nepal has adopted a landscape approach to conservation since 2000 integrating protected areas, forest ecosystems, wetlands, biological corridors, agro-ecosystems and community-based institutions. Now, Nepal has identified five conservation landscapes: Terai Arc Landscape, Chitwan-Annapurna Landscape, Sacred Himalaya Landscape, Kanchenjunga Landscape and Kailash Sacred Landscapes, where ecological and social systems are integrated for better conservation efforts. Use of modern information technology (such as drone, sniffers dogs, SMART Patrolling etc.), regional collaboration and international cooperation, participation of women, indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation program, institutional reforms and timely amendments in the legal mechanisms are important factors in the management of protected areas and forests in Nepal.

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets⁷

⁷ Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19,

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

Associated targets

- 4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased
- 4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased
- 4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased
- 4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Questions on goal 4

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Nepal has taken remarkable policy, programmatic and budgetary actions to access to and mobilize financial resources in order to enhance sustainable forest management.

Policy actions: Nepal has endorsed National Forest Policy (2019) that aims to access and mobilize resources from both internal and external sources for sustainable forest management. Fifteenth Periodic Plan of National Planning Commission of the Government (2019-2024) estimates and identifies sources of funding for NRs 43.7 billion (USD 437 million equivalent) for the first three years (2019-22) in forest and environment related programs out of which nearly 60 percent will be directly spent in Sustainable Forest Management and associated activities

Programmatic and budgetary actions: Emission Reduction Program Document (2018) of the government has allocated US\$182 million for its implementation over the period (2018-2028), out of which US\$ 11 million allocated to SFM, US\$ 4.8 million for handing over community-based forest management and US\$ for a/reforestation, which directly contribute to SFM. The REDD+ program with the World Bank's FCPF targets to receive US\$ 45 million for result-based payment by 2025, which will be, in turn, spent in SFM and other activities related to Forest Goals.

Nepal is also developing Forest Investment Program under Climate Investment Fund with a total amount of US\$ 24 million out of which significant volume will be spent on Sustainable Management of Community-based Forest Management.

Nepal has submitted 2 funding proposals to GCF, one with FAO (US\$ 47 million) and one with IUCN (US\$ 31 million) as accredited agencies. Substantial part of the projects will be used for SFM and forest related activities. The proposal with FAO has been presented in the 24th Board Meeting for approval. Two more GCF proposals are being prepared--one with UNDP and the other with WWF.

and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far

Nepal is yet to announce a Voluntary National Contribution. However, Nepal has submitted Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC. NDC commitment number 12 (maintain forest cover) and commitment number 13 (pilot sub-national REDD+ program to reduce 14 million metric tonnes of CO₂-e in 5 years) are directly related to Sustainable Forest Management.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

(c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the sources:

Public domestic funding

Private domestic funding

Public international funding, including official development assistance

Private international funding

Blended financing

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

- The official development assistance, particularly the bilateral assistance in forestry sector has decreased.
- The public domestic funding through budget is not sufficient to invest to bring all types of forests under sustainable management. Contribution of community forestry groups to SFM is increasing, but that is also not sufficient to cover all forests.
- Private sector has little capacity to invest in SFM due to policy barrier to provide finance to forestry private sector. The number of forest-based enterprises are not adequate enough to absorb forest products that can be harvested from SFM. Forestry private sector is not willing to invest in SFM due to long gestation period and other financial policies. So far, they have been able to invest mostly in non-timber forest products and few forest-based enterprises, such as saw mills and furniture firms. Concessional loan or subsidy to private sector to invest in SFM and plantation vis-a-vis in forest-based enterprises is crucial, but there are hindrances in providing support to private sector.
- Payment for ecosystem services has not been properly established.

Progress towards target 4.3

(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other

Types of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- North-North
- Triangular
- Technical
- Financial
- Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Production of timber or non-timber products
- Other (please specify):

Progress towards target 4.4

(e) Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

- Yes No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

- 2–5 years
- 5–10 years

- 10–20 years
- More than 20 years

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets⁸

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The following actions have been taken to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets:

1. Nepal has integrated forests into the national periodic plans (such as 14th Plan and 15th plan's approach paper) with an aim to increase the forest sector's contribution to the livelihoods of the local people and the national economy while maintaining healthy ecosystems. Similarly, forests have been well integrated into Nepal's plan to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in Goal 12, Goal 13 and Goal 15 although forestry sector contributes to almost all Goals directly or indirectly.
2. Forest laws have been amended and forest administration has been restructured in line with the federal restructuring of the State. Legal and logistic arrangements have been improved to enhance law enforcement and governance (described in Goal 1 and 2).
3. Forestry programs and activities are being carried out in coordination and collaboration among three tiers of government (Federal, Provincial and Local) and relevant non-government stakeholders. Local communities are managing nearly 40 per cent of the country's forests under community forestry, leasehold forestry, collaborative forestry and other community-based management modalities.
4. A legal provision of environmental assessment for development projects has provided space for the forest sector's engagement in decision making relating to development planning.

⁸ Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Not applicable

Progress towards target 5.1

(c) In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

National sustainable development plans and/or

Poverty reduction strategies

Progress towards target 5.2

(d) Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation

Improved enforcement of existing legislation

Export controls

Import controls

Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

(e) Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Various policies and plans have provisions for cross-sectoral and multi-level coordination and collaboration in the forest affairs. National Forest Policy 2019 ensures coordination among stakeholders in making policies and laws and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. National Biodiversity Coordination Committee is in place under the chair of the Minister of Forests and Environment for providing policy guidance to biodiversity conservation in the country and reporting to Convention on Biological Diversity. National Agroforestry Policy 2019 has a provision of an Inter-ministerial Agroforestry Coordination Committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. Similarly, Nepal National REDD+ Strategy has formed a multi-stakeholder forum for decision making relating to REDD+ in Nepal. Forest Protection Plan 2013 has formed a Central Forest Protection Committee chaired by the Minister, Ministry

of Forests and Environment, that constitutes members from other ministries, Nepali Army, Nepal Police and Armed Police Force. At the local level, the Plan ensures coordination and collaboration among relevant government and non-government organizations and civil society to protect forests. The National Planning Commission coordinates government agencies in planning (long-term as well as annual) and monitoring of forestry plans and programmes. There are other various institutions, including the Wildlife Crime Control Coordination Committee (WCCCC) at the policy level, the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) at the central implementation level and its field units at the district level and the National Tiger Coordination Committee (NTCC), involving a number of government organisations at the central as well as local levels.

(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms are in place in community-based forest management models, including community forestry, collaborative forestry and Buffer-Zone Community forestry. The Forest Act 2019 ensures joint planning and management of collaborative forests by the Divisional Forest Office, local governments and local communities. The Act provides specific roles, rights and responsibilities to the Divisional Forest Office and forest users' groups in planning and implementation of forestry activities. Similarly, District Forest Sector Coordination Committee (DFSCC), which engages in planning, implementation and monitoring of forestry activities, involves both government and non-government stakeholders at district level. During policy formulation, a multistakeholder task force is created involving government agencies, civil society organizations, local community groups and forestry private sector.

Progress towards target 5.4

(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

A mandatory environmental assessment system involves the forest sector in land use planning and development if forest area is used.

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets⁹

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

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

⁹ Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The following actions have been taken to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets:

1. Conditional budget allocation mechanism allows federal government to allocate budget for the sub-national governments (Province and local level) to implement particular forestry activities that are deemed to be important but may not be in the priority of the sub-national governments.
2. Sustainable forest management has been ensured through sustainable forest management and community forest management guidelines.
3. Participation of all major stakeholders, including women, indigenous peoples and local communities, has been ensured during the making of forest-related policies. The National Forest Policy 2019 and The Nepal National REDD+ Strategy 2018 ensure the participation of these stakeholders in the planning and implementation of forestry activities.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Not Applicable

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

- National or subnational
- Regional or international¹⁰
- Other (please specify):

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

- To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
- To monitor and assess forest conditions and management
- To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management
- To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

¹⁰ For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Forest offices, Forest User Groups, Federation of Forest User Groups and NGOs have been involved in creating awareness on sustainable forest management through training, workshop and study tour. National Standards for Forest Certification (under FSC) have been prepared and communicated to key forestry stakeholders.

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

The government has provided policy framework to facilitate participation of major groups, including women, indigenous peoples and local communities in policy making, planning and implementation of forestry activities related to the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030. Environmental and Social Management Framework developed for implementing sub-national REDD+ ensures mandatory engagement of women, indigenous peoples, local communities and other marginalized groups in designing, implementing, monitoring and benefit-sharing of REDD+, which basically relies on sustainable forest management for emission reduction.

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

- Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
- Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
- Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions
- Other

Please provide a brief description:

Policy and legal actions

1. National Forest Policy 2019 aims to eliminate gender discrimination in forest-based organizations including government, community-based, private sector organizations and

cooperatives The Policy also guides to include 50 percent women in forestry sector organizations.

2. Forest Act, 2019 recognizes the need to allocate minimum 50 percent of incomes from community-based forests (Community Forests and Collaborative Forests) for poverty reduction, enterprise development and women empowerment.

Programmatic actions:

1. Community forestry user groups contains one female and one male from each household in the group as members, while in its executive committee, at least 50 percent of the members should be women and either the chairperson or secretary must be women as per Community Forestry Development Guidelines 2014. Thus, more than 22,000 chairpersons or secretaries in community forests are women currently. The FECOFUN and its province and municipal chapters also follow suit, i.e. have at least 50 percent women members, while either chairperson or secretary in each committee is women.

(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?

- Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
- Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
- Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)
- Social media activities
- Other

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

International Day of Forests 2019 was observed in Nepal with several activities, including launching of National Forest Policy, 2019, Nepal National REDD+ Strategy, 2018 and digital board to display forest related data and information in forestry complex, Babarmahal, Kathmandu. Special poster was also designed and demonstrated in the program revealing forest related information. Honorable Minister of Forests and Environment in Nepal was the chief guest of the program. Media campaign, plantation activities, rallies and workshops were also held in Kathmandu and in District Forest Offices across the country. The following links capture some of the activities:

1. <http://www.fao.org/nepal/news/detail/en/c/1186330/>
2. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/a-video-to-help-you-see-the-beauty-of-forests-on-world-forest-day/>

Success stories

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

Success story 1: Community forestry

Action taken:

Nepal has transformed about 35 percent of its total forest area to community forests (about 2.3 million hectares out of 6.6 million hectare). By the end of July 2019, there have been formed 22, 266 community forestry user groups comprising of nearly half of the population in the country. Forest Policy, Laws and Guidelines were conducive for community forestry development. Annual programs and budget were allocated for forming user groups, making forest management plans and handing over forests to the user groups. Community forestry has multiple objectives and outcomes, including but are not limited to, forest restoration, sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, livelihood improvement of local people, women empowerment, and forest governance improvement.

Goals and targets addressed:

Goal 1, Goal 2 and Goal 3 are mainly addressed, while other 3 Goals are also partially addressed.

Outcome and results achieved:

Due to the program, forest area in the middle hills has been increased by 10% over 15 years, while rate of deforestation has decreased in Siwalik hills from 1.3 to 0.8 percent. Income from forests increased in terms of both volume of harvested forest products and their values in monetary terms. Women empowerment is significant since at least 22,000 women as either chairperson or secretary are leading community forestry governance. As a pilot study, 35 community forests were assessed against FSC certification principles and found to be meeting all the requirements to be certified.

How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Increase of forest area, adoption of collective action for sustainable forest management and meeting three out of six Forest Goals contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Froests 2017-2030.

References:

1. <http://frtc.gov.np/downloads.php?id=18>
2. <https://www.thecommonsjournal.org/articles/10.18352/ijc.594/>
3. <https://www.mdpi.com/2079-9276/8/2/85/htm>

Annex II

Draft global core set of forest-related indicators

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and global forest goal 1. Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.1
2. Forest area annual net change rate	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and target 1.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
3. Net greenhouse gas emissions (source)/removals (sink) of forests, and carbon balance of harvested wood products	1. Extent of forest resources 4. Productive functions of forest resources	Kilotons of carbon dioxide emissions per year	2	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat	Measures progress towards targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and measuring, reporting and verifying requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas	2. Forest biological diversity	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 2.5 and 3.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
5. Change in area of primary forests	2. Forest biological diversity	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 15

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
6. Proportion of forest area disturbed	3. Forest health and vitality	Percentage of forest area	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
7. Area of degraded forest	3. Forest health and vitality	Hectares	3	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Linkages to strategic objective 1 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (2008–2018), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
8. Above-ground biomass stock in forest	4. Productive function of forest resources	Tons per hectare	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
9. Volume of wood removals	4. Productive function of forest resources	Cubic metres	1	ECE/FAO/ International Tropical Timber Organization/ Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
10. Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption	4. Productive function of forest resources	Percentage	2	ECE and FAO	Linked to target 7.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
11. Forest area with a designated management objective to maintain and enhance its protective functions	5. Protective functions of forest resources	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Linked to target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
12. Employment related to the forest sector	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number of full-time equivalents	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
13. Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
14. Contribution of forests to food security	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	To be decided	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
15. Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	United States dollars	3	OECD, World Bank	Measures progress towards global forest goal 4 and targets 4.1 and 4.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with targets 15.a and 15.b of the Sustainable Development Goals
16. Existence of national or subnational policies, strategies, legislation, regulations and institutions that explicitly encourage sustainable forest management	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards global forest goal 5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
17. Existence of national or subnational forest assessment process	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
18. Existence of national or subnational stakeholder platform for participation in forest policy development	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
19. Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 1.3 and 3.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
20. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.3 and 3.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
21. Existence of traceability system(s) for wood products	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards targets 3.3 and 5.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Abbreviations: ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

^a Tier 1: methodology and data in place. Tier 2: methodology in place, data challenges. Tier 3: methodology and data both present challenges.