Entity name:	African Forest Forum
Date of submission:	December 2020

Format for United Nations Forum on Forests regional/sub-regional partners reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the United Nations Forest Instrument

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
2. While considering the word limits, regional and sub-regional entities are invited to provide as much detail as possible in their answers, including regarding figures and deadlines, if applicable.
3. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
4. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
5. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org with cc: tavora-jainchill@un.org by 15 November 2020.

General Information

Information on Entity

Official Name:	African Forest Forum
Membership:	Over 2056 individuals from 51 African countries (94%) and 33 countries outside Africa with interest on the sustainable management and use of African forests and tree resources to enhance livelihoods, national incomes and stability of the environment on the continent
Mandate:	Provide a platform for sharing information and expertise, and create an enabling environment for independent and objective analysis, advocacy and advice on relevant policy and technical issues pertaining to achieving sustainable management, use and conservation of Africa's forest and tree resources as part of efforts to reduce poverty, promote economic and social development and protect the environment.

Entity's focal point

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Person to contact concerning the entity's report, if someone other than the entity's focal point

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Entity:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Entity/entities involved in the preparation of the report

Entity/Entities:	African Forest Forum Secretariat
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Global forest goal 1 and associated targets[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 and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide [2]

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

List of actions:

- Improving understanding of forestry and related policies and governance mechanisms, including multilateral environmental processes on these aspects, and promote forest law enforcement, good forest governance, fair trade in forest products and forest certification (Targets 1.1 and 1.3); continuous activity
- Enhancing understanding of extent and drivers of illegal logging and trade in forest products (Target 1.3), continuous activity
- Building African stakeholders' capacity to implement recommendations and decisions from global climate change agreements, including NDCs, REDD+ and the Kyoto Protocol under the Paris Agreement (Targets 1.1- 1.4), continuous activity
- Capacity building of forestry stakeholders in Africa on forest certification, forest governance and leadership, with the aim to improve policies and governance structures to sustainably manage, use and protect forests (Targets 1.1 and 1.3), continuous activity
- Enhancement of national forest governance by strengthening African capacity to effectively participate in multilateral environmental processes, and mainstream and implement decisions from them into their national policies and activities (targets 1.1-1.4), continuous activity
- Supporting the establishment of regional professional forestry associations as mechanisms to improve forest governance structures at the sub-regional levels (Target 1.3), continuous activity
- Promoting the role of forests in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) (Target 1.4), continuous activity
- Increasing capacity of African forestry stakeholders in integrating forest-based climate change mitigation and adaption aspects in forest policies by increasing understanding and coordination, in their national forestry sector, of NDCs, REDD+, IAF and relevant SDGs (Target 1.2; 1.4), continuous activity
- Facilitating establishment/operationalization of organized bodies/entities for business in Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as gums and resins (Target 1.3)

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015, [3] what types of action have been taken by your entity to support Member States 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, if applicable, (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

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

- Undertaking analyses of existing institutional frameworks to enable development of efficient ones (Targets1.1-1.4) (continuous activity)
- AFF facilitates implementation of SFM by creating a favorable environment for conceiving and implementation of policies and enforcement of laws and regulations as a means towards SFM as a contributor to social and economic development and towards improvement of the environment. (Targets 1.1-1.4) (continuous activity)
- Developing and strengthening platforms for sharing information and experiences in order to promote SFM in African forestry. Platforms developed and/or strengthened include Youth in Forestry Chapter and Women in Forestry Chapter (both as constituents of the Governing Council for AFF); professional forestry associations established for both eastern and western Africa, a forest products association initiated for western Africa, a WhatsApp Group for forest products traders in West Africa. (Targets 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3); (continuous activity)
- Assessing training needs for production and management of quality tree germplasm, surveillance of forest and tree pests and diseases, good forest governance, forest certification, and international negotiations related to forestry. Five training modules were developed, one for each area, to guide addressing the capacity gaps. (Targe 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4). (partly completed activity)
- Building capacity and skills for professional and technical training as well as for short courses for civil society organisations (including NGOs) and extension agents on basic science of climate change; carbon markets and trade; climate modelling and scenario development; international dialogues, processes and mechanisms on climate change. Eight (8) training compendiums were produced and shared widely. (Target 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4)

  (completed activity)
- Training trainers on Rapid Forest Carbon Appraisal. A total of 217 African stakeholders were trained in six countries. (Targets 13; 1.4) (completed activity)
- Training African forest-based small-medium enterprises (SMEs) with skills and knowledge on how to develop and engage on forest carbon business. 63 private sector people were trained.(in progress)
- Sensitising and strengthen forestry institutions on forest certification. A survery undertaken for Africa, information widely shared and a training manual on forest certification developed and used. (Target 1.3) (completed activity)
- Strengthening forestry institutions with knowledge skills and tools for quality tree seed production and management. A training module and seed testing protocol developed (completed activity)
- Development of sub-regional protocols for improved surveillance of forest and tree pests and diseases. A protocol developed. (Targets 1.3; 1.4) (completed activity)

[1] 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.

[2] Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

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

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- Support to countries to leverage global finance through GEF, GCM and GFFFN. Stakeholders in African forestry made aware of several global sources for financing forestry and trained on developing relevant project proposals. (Targets 1.3 and 1.4) (in progress)
- Building capacity of African forestry stakeholders in resource mobilization through developing climate change mitigation and adaptation bankable projects (Target 1.3) (in progress)

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Conducting studies to improve understanding, decisions and actions related to:

- Drivers of forest cover loss,
- Status of implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies such as REDD+
- Mechanism to restore/ rehabilitate degraded lands;
- Status and potential of forest certification,
- Status and improving surveillance of forest pests and diseases,
- Status, production and management of tree germplasm,
- Status, production and consumption of biofuels
- Status and future of public-private partnerships in forestry
- Forestry and green economic development
- Managing forests and landscapes in the context of climate
- Policies and initiatives relevant to forests and climate change
- Forest law enforcement and good forest governance
- Transboundary forestry in Africa
  (Targets.1.1; 1.2; 1.3;1.4);

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

- AFF collaborates with the Regional Economic Communities-(RECs) and the African Union Commission as well as national governments and other players at national level like the private sector, civil society, academia and research. AFF is the lead institution in the implementation of the seventh pillar of the ECOWAS Convergence Plan on Forests, namely "Information, education and communication". AFF has provided many forms of capacity building activities in individual African countries. Together with the African Union Commission and FAO, AFF pioneered efforts to develop a "Sustainable Forest Management Framework " that has been approved by African Heads of State for adoption by the RECs and individual African countries.

- AFF regularly organizes workshops, seminars and trainings to share knowledge and experiences with different African forestry stakeholders on multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the United Nations Forest Instrument. 86 stakeholders have participated in these activities.
- AFF organizes capacity building activities to prepare African delegates to UNFF sessions and also to mainstreaming decisions from international discourses and agreements (including UN-Forest Instrument) into their national processes. 83 stakeholders have participated in this.
- Also, African institutions and individuals in Member States are equipped with up-to date knowledge, skills and tools to improve sustainable forest management in their countries through
    - best practices in tree germplasm production and management for cost effective afforestation, reforestation, restoration programmes to increase forest area
    - best practice for management of pests and diseases to enhance profitability of afforestation programmes to increase forest area and enhanced resilience
    - development of national forest certification standards to enhance protection of forests
    - best models for developing and strengthening public-private-partnerships in forestry to increase investments in forestry and also supply of forest ecosystem services.
    - to articulate adaptation, mitigation and REDD+ in their NDCs

(c) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 1 in your region?

- High levels of poverty and food insecurity, increasing demand and decreasing supply of forest products and services, low technical capacity in African forestry and related institutions, under-financing forest conservation and management, weak participation of Africa in global processes related to forests, global warming and climate change, low commercialization in the forestry sector, lack of reliable and sufficient data of good quality to guide decisions in forestry, constraints related to tenurial arrangements and international trade arising from weaknesses in governance, policy and legal frameworks. Further, much of the African natural forests are not under any form of effective forest administration and management.
- While the role of forests in socio-economic development and environmental stability on the continent remains immense, it has not been appreciably explored.
- The goal of SFM has historically not been met on the continent largely because of constraints imposed by land use changes that are driven by population growth, demand for food, fuel, fibre and profit. These have put these resources are under threat of deforestation and degradation through human development activities that continue to be exacerbated by climate change
- Lack of or inadequate/meaningful alternative support options for people who mainly depend on forest resources for their livelihoods/survival.
- Weak private sector support in African countries to invest in forestry, largely because private sector actors are largely informal, lack visibility and organization, and rarely feature in national government plans and budgets.
- Increasing pressure to convert forest lands for other activities, mainly for agriculture, infrastructure, mining, and urban centres.
- Many countries lack capacity to leverage global financial resources that target this goal, like those under GEF, GCF, the World Bank and other financial institutions.
- Key global polluting countries deliberately refuse to recognise that climate change is human induced, and many more developed countries not wanting to acknowledge the seriousness of global warming and urgency to contain the same; resulting in very weak global markets for carbon as well as unrealistically low prices for carbon. These combine to very much discourage members state actors to implement CDM and REDD+ activities that could contain global warming through sale of forest carbon that could result into increased afforestation, reforestation and protection of forests.

(d) A

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets [4]

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 your entity to support Member States 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 if applicable (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

List of actions:

- Developing a framework for integrating forest and tree-based mitigation and adaptation options in different landscapes;(Target 2.5) (in progress)
- Strengthening the capacity of African forestry stakeholders for co-conception, co-designing, planning and implementation of measures to increase adaptation and resilience to adverse effects of climate change on forests and tree resources and on people who depend on them; (Target 2.5) (in progress)
- Sensitizing policy makers, through interactive forums, on the need to recognize the emerging role of the private sector in forestry development and to enhance the participation of the private sector at decision making level (Target 2.4) (in progress)
- Sharing of information on policies and enabling conditions for developing and strengthening public-private-partnerships (PPP) in the African forest sector (Targets 2.2; 2.4) (in progress)
- Facilitating the incorporation of forest related climate change issues into policies, plans, education and training at national and sub-regional levels (Target 2.5) (continuous)
- Sensitising forestry stakeholders, through interactive forums, on the importance of developing effective public private partnerships that enhance social inclusion, gender equitable practices and forest compatible livelihoods (Targets 2.1, 2.2; 2.4) (in progress)

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- Twenty-two country studies undertaken on private sector's participation in primary, secondary and tertiary forest production and utilization with the view to inform the development of an all-inclusive actors into an organised and cohesive sector that can articulate its issues. (Targets 2.1; 2.2; 2.4) (completed)
- Developed 6 training compendiums on climate change adaptation and mitigation for professional and technical foresters as well as for short courses (Target 2.5) (completed)
- Training African forest-based small-medium enterprises (SMEs) with skills and knowledge on how to develop and engage on forest carbon business. 63 private sector people were trained. (Target 2.5) (completed)
- Equipped African forestry stakeholders with new knowledge and skills on climate change modelling and scenario development with applications to the forestry sector. This was achieved through training of 116 stakeholders in African forestry from research and academia, government departments and non-governmental organisations (Target. 2.5) (completed)
- Deepened understanding on the value chains for forest-based products through research on charcoal, honey, gums and resins (Targets 2.1; 2.2; 2.4) (in progress)

[4] 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.

(ii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- Support to countries to leverage global finance through GEF, GCM and GFFFN. Stakeholders in African forestry made aware of several global sources for financing forestry and trained on developing relevant project proposals. (Target 2.2 and 2.5) (in progress)
- Facilitating establishment/operationalization of organized bodies/entities for business in Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as gums and resins (Targets 2.1 and 2.2) (in progress)

(iii) Technical and scientific actions

(b) What other action is being taken by your entity in support Member States to achieve goal 2?

- AFF continues to build the capacity of African delegates to participate effectively in multilateral environmental processes discourses like those under UNFF and UNCCD
- AFF supports national forest governance by strengthening African capacity to effectively mainstream and implement decisions from them into their national policies and activities
- To increase knowledge sharing platforms (face to face, and web-based) on private sector development in African forestry, and especially through a better understanding and strengthening of the value chains in timber and non-timber forest products.

(c) How does the action list above support Member States in the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

Better understanding and appreciation of the multilateral environmental processes by African forestry stakeholders will inform on measures Member States should take to develop more effective approaches for the sector to achieve the goals of the UN Forest Instrument.

(d) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 2 in your region?

Challenges

- The informal nature of the activities of the dispersed and largely unorganized private sector actors (SMEs) in African forestry makes the sector invisible to national planners, their contribution is difficult to quantify and harness, and all contribute to making it difficult to develop the sector.
- Insufficiency/ inadequacy of available and affordable technologies and capacities (technical and financial) among the SMEs
- Most of the SMEs actors have low negotiation capacity to effectively compete with bigger and more affluent commercial actors

Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets [5]

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 your entity to support Member States 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 if applicable, (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:

- Sensitised Member States on the need to develop or adopt policies that could accelerate forest certification in order to enhance sustainable forest management and protection of forests from illegal activities (Targets 3.1, 3.2,3.3)
- Document policy issues and best practices for conservation and improvement of genetic diversity of high value timber and non-timber species under pressure of overexploitation (Target 3.3)

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

- Strengthening the understanding and appreciation, by individuals and institutions, of forest certification as a mechanism for enhancing sustainable forest management. This was accomplished through capacity building that was based on training modules developed by AFF. (Targets 3.2 and 3.3)
- Equipping Member States with tools and skills for development of national forest certification standards (Target 3.3)
- Catalysed forestry institutions to incorporate forest certification into their programmes, policies, legislation, and education curricula (Target 3.3)

[5] 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.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Support to countries to leverage global finance through GEF, GCM and GFFFN. Stakeholders in African forestry made aware of several global sources for financing forestry and trained on developing relevant project proposals.(in progress)

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- Evaluation of status of forest certification systems in Africa and its potential to promote responsible forest management (Target 3.3)
- Evaluation of forest planning and forest management in different African forest types to inform decisions in policies, investments and actions in the forestry sector (Target 3.2)

(b) What other action is being taken by your entity to support Member States to achieve goal 3?

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

- Member states are already equipped with knowledge on forest certification, tools and skills to develop and develop national forest certification standards and through them promote responsible forest management (Target 3.3)

(d) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 3 in your region?

- Insufficient scientific information on changes occurring in forests ecosystems, extent of such changes and how to manage them.
- Lack of incentives for forest dependent communities to protect forests, including inequitable sharing of benefits derived from forests
- Limited awareness and appreciation, among the people, of the benefits of forest certification
- Practically absence of markets for certified timber and many non-timber forest products within Africa countries, hence little incentive to develop forest certification
- Forest certification is expensive and out of reach for small holder tree growers/farmers
- Limited capacity to contain the many illegalities in the sector, such as encroachment on forests for agriculture, illegal harvesting and trade in forest products.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets [6]

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 region to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Support to countries to leverage global finance through GEF, GCM and GFFFN. Stakeholders in African forestry made aware of several global sources for financing forestry and trained on developing relevant project proposals.(in progress) Building capacity of African forestry stakeholders in developing bankable projects for financing climate change adaptation and mitigation through REDD+. (in progress)

(b) Since 2015, has your entity been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources to support Member States in the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes ☐ No

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

Increased financial demands from many stakeholders on limited funding Limited capacity of African countries to develop bankable projects for forestry programmes

[6] 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, 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.

Progress towards target 4.3

(c) Please specify the actors/stakeholders with which your entity is cooperating:

☐ Governments

☐ Intergovernmental organizations/processes

☐ Private sector

☐ Non-governmental organizations

☐ Other (please specify):

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

(d) Since 2015, has your entity supported Member States in developing or implementing financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comments if needed:

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets [7]

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 region to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Strengthened the understanding and appreciation of, and the capacity for mainstreaming decisions from MEAs, , UN Forest Instrument in national forestry policies, plans and activities in the context of NDCs and SDGs (Targets 5.1, 5.3, 5.4) (continuous)

[7] 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.

Progress towards target 5.2

(b) Since 2015, has your entity supported Member States in promoting or participating in National/Regional/Sub-Regional initiatives to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Comments if needed:

Capacity building activities undertaken on strengthening forest governance and fair and transparent trade in forest products

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets [8]

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

Questions on goal 6

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

- Several capacity building activities on various SFM themes-towards a common understanding on the concept of SFM have been undertaken on the continent, including those on forest certification, leadership, good forest governance and transparent trade in forest products. More are planned on forest planning and forest management.(Target 6.3 and 6.4) (in progress)
- AFF web-based knowledge sharing platform that shares AFF produced knowledge products related to SFM as well as providing links to various databases on forestry resources. (Target 6.4) (continuous)

[8] 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.

Progress towards target 6.3 (cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation)

Please describe major actions taken in your region to regarding cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation.

- Established different stakeholders' and thematic platforms to share knowledge and experience on issues related to SFM, deforestation and forest degradation
- Studies are underway on forest planning and forest management to deepen understanding on cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(b) Are there criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used by your entity?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

- Criteria and indicators under development for the integration of adaptation and mitigation in activities related to forests and trees outside forests

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):

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(c) Since 2015, have actions been taken by your entity 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:

- Face to face stakeholders' forums organised to disseminate research findings and to impart information on best practices towards sustainable forest management
- AFF web-based knowledge sharing platform that shares AFF produced knowledge products related to SFM as well as providing links to various databases on forestry resources.
- Social media- Facebook, twitter, online group interactions platforms on forestry issues

Progress towards target 6.5

(d) Have actions been taken by your entity 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:

- Establishment of "Youth in forestry" and "Women in forestry" chapters that are represented in the Governing Council (Board) of AFF
- Incorporation of gender issues (women and youth) in AFF plans and activities

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your entity taken action to support Member States in promoting gender equality in the forest sector?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate action taken regarding 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:

- Establishment of "Youth in forestry" and "Women in forestry" chapters that are represented in the Governing Council (Board) of AFF
- Incorporation of gender issues (women and youth) in AFF plans and activities

(b) What action has been taken by your entity 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:

Success stories

8. Does your entity have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017– 2030? 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 Action taken: Goals and targets addressed: Outcome and results achieved: