

## Concept Note

### Launch of the UN Forum on Forests Flagship Publication *The Global Forest Goals Report 2021*

#### Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

11.15 am – 12:05 pm, 26 April 2021

#### I. Background

The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests, and to halt deforestation and forest degradation. This landmark agreement was forged at a special session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in January 2017 and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2017.

At the heart of the Strategic Plan are six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. These goals and targets fully encompass and build on the solid foundation of the four Global Objectives on Forests of the United Nations Forest Instrument and are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Comprehensive forest monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) are essential for informed and evidence-based decision-making. Systematic data plays a critical role in efforts to demonstrate the contributions of forests to supporting livelihoods, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Since its inception, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) has invited Member States to submit voluntary national reports on progress made towards sustainable forest management. In the past, the focus was on tracking progress in the implementation of the proposals for action made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests. Following the adoption in 2007 of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (later renamed as the United Nations Forest Instrument), the focus shifted to appraising progress made in implementing the Instrument and achieving the Global Objectives on Forests. With the adoption of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests in 2017, the focus is now on progress made in implementing the Strategic Plan, and its Goals and targets. The first round of national reporting on progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan was conducted in 2019-2020.

National reports from Member States are one of the main sources of information to assess progress towards the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and targets. Recognizing the need to make effective use of information from these national reports, the UN Forum on Forests, at its thirteenth session (UNFF13) held in 2018, requested the UNFF Secretariat to prepare a concise flagship publication on progress towards achieving the Global Forest Goals of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030.

Furthermore, the Chair’s summary of the fourteenth session of the Forum (UNFF14) held in 2019 contained a suggestion to establish an informal advisory group (IAG) to provide advice on the development of the flagship publication. The informal advisory group for the flagship publication was established in 2019, comprising ten members nominated through the UNFF14/15 Bureau, with two representatives from each UN region. The IAG met four times, between February 2020 and April 2021. The Group discussed the scope, main objectives and main data sources for the publication, it also provided feedback and suggestions related to communication and outreach.

## **II. The Global Forest Goals Report 2021**

The “Global Forest Goals Report 2021” is the first flagship publication produced by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The publication presents an overview of progress towards achieving the Global Forest Goals and associated targets of the Strategic Plan. It provides a summary of actions taken and challenges encountered by Member States in their efforts to achieve the Global Forest Goals and highlights the areas of progress and areas where more action is required. The publication also demonstrates how progress toward the Global Forests Goals has contributed to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and outlines several “success stories” to illustrate best practice and innovative ideas.

The publication is based on fifty-two national reports submitted by Member States to the fifteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15) as well as nineteen voluntary national contributions announced by Member States. The information from national reports is supplemented with bio-physical data from FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.

## **III. Objective of the Launch Event**

The objectives are to:

- Present the key findings of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021
- Share experiences and lessons-learned in reporting on the progress towards the Global Forest Goals
- Encourage accelerated and amplified actions for the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030
- Promote the role and activities of the UN Forum on Forests in monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards the Global Forest Goals

## **IV. Modalities of the Launch Event**

The launch of the Global Forest Goals Report 2021 will take place from 11:15 a.m. (NY time) on 26 April 2021, as part of the opening day of the sixteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF16). UNFF16 will be held as a virtual meeting and the deliberations of the session (including this launch event) will be broadcast live on UN Web TV at <http://webtv.un.org>. The key points of the launch event will be reflected in the Chair’s summary of UNFF16.

## Programme

Chair/Moderator: **Jesse Mahoney**, Vice-Chair of UNFF16 and member of the informal advisory group (IAG) will preside over the launch event.

### Opening Segment

- **Liu Zhenmin**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UNDESA
- **Maria Helena Semedo**, Deputy Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

### Presentation of the key findings of the “Global Forests Goals Report 2021”

- **Alexander Trepelkov**, Officer in Charge, UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, UNDESA

### Panel presentations

- *Reversing the loss of forest cover through sustainable forest management*  
**Liu Xin**, Deputy Director-General, International Cooperation Center, National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China
- *Improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people*  
**Julius Kamau**, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kenya
- *Increasing the area of protected forests and other areas of sustainably managed forests*  
**Maureen Whelan**, Director, Canadian Forest Service – Trade and International Affairs Division
- *Mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management*  
**Davia N K Carty**, Manager, Strategic Corporate Planning, Forestry Department, Jamaica
- *Promoting governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management*  
**Boris Greguska**, Chief State Counsellor, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovak Republic
- *Importance of enhanced cooperation, coordination and data for monitoring progress towards international forest-related commitments*  
**Mette Wilkie**, Director, Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (5min)

### Closing remarks

Chair/Moderator: **Jesse Mahoney**, Vice-Chair of UNFF16

## V. Contact person

For all inquiries related to the launch event, please contact Tomasz Juszcak at [juszcakt@un.org](mailto:juszcakt@un.org).