

CONCEPT NOTE

Global WORKSHOP ON REPORTING ON PROGRESS TOWARDS GLOBAL FOREST GOALS AND TARGETS OF THE UN STRATEGIC PLAN ON FORESTS 2030

22 to 24 March 2023, FAO headquarter, Rome - Italy (hybrid)

I. Introduction

1. Through ECOSOC resolution 2022/17,¹ Members of the Forum requested the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS) to amend the format for voluntary national reporting, conduct a pilot phase using the amended format (with participation of interested countries), and to report back on the progress made to the Forum at its eighteenth session in May 2023. The same resolution requested the UNFFS to organize, in consultation with Members of the Forum, and jointly with FAO and other relevant members of CPF, a global workshop on reporting on progress towards Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and targets, with a focus on indicators that still have issues with data availability and estimation methodologies.

II. Background

2. Since its inception, UNFF continuously invited Member States to submit voluntary national reports on progress made towards sustainable forest management (SFM). In particular, the Forum called for reports on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and its GFGs. These reports serve as the main sources of information to assess progress in implementation of the UNSPF, and achievement of its GFGs. The first round of national reporting on the progress towards implementation of the Strategic Plan was conducted in 2019-2020. National reports from 52 countries were submitted to UNFF15. The information from national reports, combined with quantitative data from the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020² provided basis for Global Forest Goals Report 2021.

3. The analysis of the submitted reports revealed several challenges, including issues related to assessment methodology, access to data, and data availability. Data for quantitative targets, such as targets 1.1, 1.2, 3.1 and 3.2,³ are widely available and measuring progress towards these targets is relatively easy. However, lack of standardized and comparable statistical data remains a challenge for several other targets, notably those under GFG 2 and 4. The absence of, or difficulty in obtaining information related to the socioeconomic benefits of forests, their role in poverty eradication and income generation, employment, and health and food security poses a major challenge to assess the progress towards GFG 2. As these forest-driven benefits often accrue in the informal sector, it is even harder to obtain and measure such benefits. There is also a lack of reliable data on forest funding (GFG 4) due to the difficulty in accessing to financial information, including funding from private sector, as well as the complexity and fragmentation of forest financing landscape, and financial flows.

4. In light of the above, and in response to the request from Members of the Forum, the UNFFS and FAO are jointly organizing this global workshop. In response to paragraph 22 of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17, the UNFF Secretariat is also conducting a pilot phase for the use of the refined format for voluntary national reporting with interested countries. The pilot phase is currently ongoing, and it will end in February 2023. The results of the pilot will be shared with participants at the Global Workshop.

III. Objectives

5. The workshop will focus on identifying possible sources for data collection, and methodologies for monitoring and reporting on the GFGs and their targets, which are difficult to monitor and report on, due to the lack of statistical information and data. During the workshop, the results of the pilot phase for the use of amended reporting format, including lessons-learned and feedback will be also shared. Participants will have the opportunity to share their knowledge and national experiences with the access to and availability of forest data. Furthermore, lessons-learned on selected GCS indicators will be shared related to the improvement of methodologies and approaches to further enhance data availability. The workshop will also provide an occasion for experts to provide: i) additional suggestions, proposals,

¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/365/58/PDF/N2236558.pdf?OpenElement>

² These reports were the basis for the flagship publication: "Global Forest Goals Report 2021". The publication presented an overview of progress towards achieving GFGs and associated targets of the Strategic Plan. It provided a summary of actions taken and challenges encountered by Member States in their efforts to achieve the GFGs and highlighted the areas of progress and areas where more action is required.

³ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/184/62/PDF/N1718462.pdf?OpenElement>

and modification to the amended reporting format, and ii) suggestions to advance the work on selected indicators of the Global Core Set of forest related indicators for reporting on progress towards the GFGs.

IV. Date, venue, format and the expected outcome

6. The workshop will be held from 22 to 24 March 2023 in a hybrid format, at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. This workshop includes an in-person and virtual components. The daily meetings will be held from 9.30 am to 12:30pm, and from 2:00pm to 5:00pm local, Rome time. Arrangements will be also made to allow participants who wish to do so, to join the meeting through virtual means. The draft programme of work for the workshop is contained in the annex to this concept note. The meeting will be conducted in English. The meeting will be co-chaired by two Co-Chairs to be elected by participating experts in the workshop.

V. Participants and Meeting Registration

7. The workshop participants consist of experts from countries and CPF member organizations, who work on forest inventory, forest related data collection and reporting, and have a good knowledge of forest related reporting requirements to UNFF and/or FAO. All participants are expected to be familiar with the GFGs and targets of the UNSPF and the reporting requirements of the UNFF. Relevant experts from Member States who were directly involved in preparing national reports to UNFF15 and/or are involved in the pilot phase for the use of the amended reporting format, are particularly welcome to join this workshop. The Members of the Forum should send their nominations to the UNFF Secretariat through an official letter via respective Permanent Missions in New York, by **3 February 2023**. CPF nominations should be sent directly to the Secretariat by the respective head of entity using the entity's official letterhead. All communications should be sent to unff@un.org, with a copy to Ms. Edith Niamke at: niamke@un.org and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak at: juszcakt@un.org

VI. Background documents:

8. Relevant background documents are as follows:

- Amended format for voluntary national reporting on progress towards the implementation of UNSPF
- UNSPF (<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N17/184/62/PDF/N1718462.pdf?OpenElement>)
- Status of, and trends in, the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb9963en/>)
- An assessment of uptake of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc2223en>)
- The number of forest-and-tree-proximate people: A new methodology and global estimates: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2544en/cc2544en.pdf>
- Forest sector contribution to national economies 2015: The direct, indirect and induced effects on value added, employment and labour income: [Forest sector contribution to national economies 2015 \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/3/cc2544en/cc2544en.pdf)
- Contribution of the forest sector to total employment in national economies: Estimating the number of people employed in the forest sector: [wcms_862429.pdf \(ilo.org\)](https://www.fao.org/3/cc2544en/cc2544en.pdf)

VII. Travel support

9. Very limited resources are available to support the travel of one expert from eligible countries on a first-come, first-served basis and until the resources are available. Request for such travel support should be included in the official letter of expert nomination and sent to the UNFF Secretariat no later than **3 February 2023**. Due to administrative constraints, requests for travel support received after above-mentioned deadline will not be considered for possible travel support.

VIII. Contact Persons

10. For all issues related to the registration and travel support, please contact Ms. Edith Niamke at: niamke@un.org with cc to Mr. Tomasz Juszcak at: juszcakt@un.org.

Global Workshop on Reporting, 22 to 24 March 2023, FAO headquarter, Rome
Draft agenda and programme of work

Time	Wednesday, March 22 2023	Thursday, March 23 2023	Friday, March 24 2023
9:30am – 12:30pm	<p>Item 1. Opening remarks by representatives of UNFFS and FAO</p> <p>Item 2. Election of the Co-Chairs</p> <p>Item 3. Adoption of agenda and programme of work</p> <p><i>Coffee break and photo</i></p> <p>Item 4. Setting the scene:</p> <p>4.a Presentation by the UNFFS on the key features and state of preparation for the next reporting cycle to UNFF</p> <p>4.b Presentation by FAO on the key features and state of preparation for the next reporting cycle to FRA2025 process <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p>Item 5. Update on the Global Core Set of forest related indicators</p> <p>5.a Presentation of CPF report on the status of, and trends in, the global core set of forest-related indicators</p>	<p>Item 7. Key suggestions regarding data availability, data sources and methodology, and the next steps for selected goals, targets and indicators:</p> <p>7.a Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty – status and next steps; <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p>7.b Employment related to the forest sector – status and next steps; <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p><i>Coffee break</i></p> <p>7.c Share of wood-based energy in total final energy consumption - status and next steps; <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p>7.d Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable - status and next steps; <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p>	<p>Item 9. Summary of key points of the discussions by the Co-Chairs</p> <p><i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p>Item 10. Next step and closure of the meeting</p>
12:30pm- 2:00 pm	Break	Break	Break
2:00pm- 5:00pm	<p>5.b Presentation of the CPF report on the assessment of uptake of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators</p> <p>5.c Presentation by FAO on monitoring and reporting on forest related socio-economic issues <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p>6. Presentation by FAO on forest-related SDG indicators: forest area as a proportion of total land area (15.1.1), progress towards sustainable forest management (15.2.1) and the Mountain Green Cover Index (15.4.2) <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p> <p>Summary & outlook next steps (Co-Chairs)</p>	<p>Item 8. Pilot phase for the use of the amended format for reporting to UNFF:</p> <p>8.a Presentation by UNFFS on results, lessons learned and further improvement of the reporting format</p> <p>8.b Presentations from countries participating in the pilot phase of the reporting format <i>Interactive discussions among experts</i></p>	