

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories

To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)

5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszczak (juszczakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

Australia

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

Name: : Joseph Morrall

Title: : Director, International Policy - Forests and Agvet Chemicals

Address: : 70 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City ACT 2601

Organization: : Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Telephone: : +61 2 6272 4442

Email: : joseph.morrall@aff.gov.au

**3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:
(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)**

Name: : Katie Stokes
Title: : Assistant Director, International Policy - Forests and Agvet Chemicals
Address: : 70 Northbourne Ave, Canberra City ACT 2601
Organization: : Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Telephone: : +61 2 6272 5236
Email: : katie.stokes@aff.gov.au

**4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report:
(up to five)**

Institution Name:

Email address:

Address:

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 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

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

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

Target 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

Target 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

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 and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Natural Heritage Trust

Brief description of the action:

The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) supports forest restoration and conservation through projects delivered across Australia. From June 2023 to June 2028, funding will be delivered to support projects to address climate change and habitat loss. Recent projects have targeted ecological restoration in priority areas such as floodplain Eucalypt forests in Northern Australia and degraded regions of Queensland, with a strong focus on biodiversity protection and restoration.

Main results achieved for the action:

Under the current phase of the NHT, significant investment has been directed to expanding forest cover and protecting conservation forest landscapes. Through partnerships with landholders, Indigenous groups and environmental organisations, the NHT is contributing to increased forest area through on-ground reforestation and revegetation projects, particularly in the state of Queensland. These actions help reverse degradation and contribute to net gains in forested landscapes, especially in priority ecological corridors and degraded areas.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.5
3.2
5.3

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/natural-heritage-trust>

Action (short title):

National Reserve System - expanded conservation estate

Brief description of the action:

Since 2020, Australia has expanded the area of conservation forest estate within the National Reserve System (NRS). The NRS is Australia's network of protected areas (including national parks), conserving examples of natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. It is based on a scientific framework and acts as the nation's natural safety net against environmental challenges, also contributing to our 30 by 30 target under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Main results achieved for the action:

As of 2024, a total of 34.6 million hectares of Australia's native forest is protected in the NRS. This represents an increase from 33.6 million hectares protected in the NRS in 2020. The increase in conservation forest estate under the NRS strengthens the legal protection of Australia's forested landscapes and contributes directly to Target 1.1 by increasing the area of forest managed for conservation. The NRS ensures that a significant and growing proportion of forests is retained and managed for environmental outcomes. This contributes to forest area gains and supports ecological connectivity and biodiversity outcomes while ensuring long-term forest retention.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.5
3.1
3.2

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/nrs>

Action (short title):

Expanding plantation forests

Brief description of the action:

The Australian Government is supporting the expansion of the plantation forest estate, to increase the domestic supply of timber, contribute to Australia's carbon emission reduction targets and support regional communities through the retention and creation of regional jobs.

Main results achieved for the action:

Through the Support Plantation Establishment program, the Australian Government is providing over \$73 million in grant funding over four years from 2023–24 to 2026–27, supporting private industry, First Nations businesses, farm foresters and state and territory government forestry bodies to expand the Australian plantation forest estate.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
2.1
2.2
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
4.1
4.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/industries/support-plantation-establishment-program>

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

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme

Brief description of the action:

Australia's carbon market, administered through the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme, incentivises land sector emissions reductions and removals through approved methods. Approved forest-related methods under the ACCU Scheme include: the savanna fire management method, designed to reduce emissions and enhance carbon storage in northern forest and woodland ecosystems; the plantation forestry method, which credits emission reductions for carbon sequestered in plantations, harvested wood products and permanent forests; and the reforestation and afforestation method that encourages forest growers and landholders to establish and maintain trees, native or otherwise, on land previously used for agricultural purposes.

Main results achieved for the action:

The ACCU Scheme has allowed forest and land managers to diversify their income, providing stronger incentives to consider and invest in multiple outcomes for forests, including carbon sequestration and enhanced biodiversity. Savanna burning projects reduce the frequency and severity of late dry season fires by promoting early-season burns, which are less intense and result in lower emissions. There has been a significant uptake of savanna burning projects, particularly on Indigenous-managed lands, enhancing fire regimes and preserving native forest carbon stocks.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.4
2.5
3.2
4.2
5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://cer.gov.au/schemes/australian-carbon-credit-unit-scheme>

Action (short title):

Legal framework through Regional Forest Agreements

Brief description of the action:

Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) provide a long-term legislative and policy framework that ensures the ecologically sustainable management and conservation of forests. The agreements include requirements for sustainable harvesting, regeneration, and conservation, reducing the risk of carbon loss through degradation or land use change, and supporting the retention of forest carbon stocks over the long term.

Main results achieved for the action:

RFAs cover key forested regions across three states and provide a statutory framework to balance conservation, industry and climate outcomes. They include obligations to ensure harvested areas are regenerated and regrown, supporting long-term forest cover and ensuring carbon stocks are maintained and enhanced. This legal framework embeds sustainability into forest management and ensures carbon stocks of Australia's productive native forests are maintained.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A00965/latest/text>

Action (short title):

Enhancements to greenhouse gas monitoring and reporting through remote sensing

Brief description of the action:

Australia reports emissions and removals from forest land through its National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI) using internationally consistent methodologies under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.

The Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector includes carbon stock changes from native forests, plantations and reforestation. It also includes emissions from forest harvesting and sequestration from afforestation, reforestation, forest management and native forest growth.

The Australian Government was the first to introduce the use of remote sensing techniques into the NGGI, to detect forest loss and land clearing. Estimates of forest loss and land clearing for Australia, for each State and Territory are updated and published every year through this system.

Main results achieved for the action:

Since 2020, Australia has enhanced LULUCF monitoring through improved remote sensing, modelling and reporting of reforestation. In 2021, the total stock of carbon in Australia's forests was 19,417 million tonnes, representing a 0.05% increase since 2016. By enabling consistent national monitoring of forest carbon stocks and trends, the NGGI supports efforts to maintain and enhance carbon storage in forests and assess the impact of forest-related policies.

The LULUCF sector in Australia has been a net sink since 2015-16, absorbing more carbon dioxide than was emitted. In the year to December 2024, the LULUCF sector accounted for a net sink of -73.7 million tonnes of CO₂-e. This significant sequestration reflects the long-term decline in the rate of land clearing, leading to increased growth rates in Australia's forests.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.5
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/national-inventory-reports>

Target 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

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Forest Policy Statement

Brief description of the action:

The National Forest Policy Statement (NFPS) outlines Australia's national vision for forest management, promoting ecologically sustainable forest management, forest conservation and afforestation. It represents a joint commitment between the Australian Government and state/territory governments to sustainably manage all forest types. Work is underway to review the NFPS to reflect contemporary challenges and opportunities, including climate change and biodiversity loss.

Main results achieved for the action:

The NFPS underpins coordinated, cross-jurisdictional action to implement sustainable forest management across all Australian forest types, including native, planted, public and private forests. The policy framework has enabled national alignment on afforestation programs, forest conservation priorities, and restoration of degraded forest lands. The planned review of the NFPS will further strengthen policy coherence, reinforcing Australia's contribution to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.4
2.1
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/policies/forest-policy-statement>

Action (short title):

Regional Forest Agreements

Brief description of the action:

As outlined in Target 1.2, Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) ensure that harvesting in native forests is ecologically sustainable and embed requirements for continuous improvement in forest management, including obligations to regrow harvested native forest areas and maintain forest health over time.

Main results achieved for the action:

RFAs operationalise sustainable forest management by requiring ecologically sustainable forest practices, regeneration post-harvest, protection of high conservation value areas and continuous monitoring. They ensure forest management balances production and conservation outcomes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/policies/rfa>

Action (short title):

International Collaboration – Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership and Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use

Brief description of the action:

In 2021, Australia signed on to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) at UNFCCC COP26, committing to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030. Australia is also a founding member of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) established at UNFCCC COP27 in 2022. The FCLP carries forward the ambition of the GLD. It supports its goals to accelerate global progress to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

Main results achieved for the action:

Australia's involvement in the GLD and the FCLP reinforces the forward leaning ambition to address the climate, environmental and sustainable production challenges facing our planet.

The GLD and FCLP commitments strengthen Australia's domestic policy coherence by aligning national efforts with global objectives, including restoration of degraded forest landscapes and expansion of forest cover through plantation and conservation efforts.

Through these platforms, Australia supports collective international efforts to improve sustainable forest management practices and reduce deforestation drivers globally.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.4
2.5
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://forestclimateleaders.org/>

Target 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

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Fire management through First Nations Land Management

Brief description of the action:

First Nations-led land and fire management, including the use of cool burning (early dry season burning) is being supported across multiple jurisdictions through Indigenous ranger programs and state and territory partnerships. These practices draw on traditional ecological knowledge to manage fuel loads, reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfires, and improve forest health over the long term.

Main results achieved for the action:

These traditional fire regimes, particularly in northern and central Australia, have been shown to reduce the incidence and severity of large-scale wildfires, which are intensified by changes in climate. They promote climate-resilient landscapes by reducing the risk and severity of climate-driven fire events thereby protecting forest ecosystems. The traditional fire regimes also support biodiversity, maintain forest structure, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Scaling up these practices strengthens the adaptive capacity of forests by improving fire resilience and ecosystem function.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.5
5.3
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Biodiversity payments through the Nature Repair Market

Brief description of the action:

Australia has developed a world-first Nature Repair Market, designed to reward landholders for delivering measurable biodiversity outcomes, including through biodiversity stewardship payments. The legislated scheme recognises and incentivises forest management practices that enhance ecological resilience, including replanting native vegetation and managing invasive species, pests, and fire regimes.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Nature Repair Bill was passed in 2024, and the Nature Repair Market is now commencing implementation. Projects under the Nature Repair Market are designed to help landholders, Indigenous People, farmers and other key stakeholders implement adaptive forest management practices, including the reintroduction of native vegetation in degraded areas, planting trees on farmland and management of biodiversity corridors. Over time, these actions strengthen forest ecosystem resilience by funding adaptive management and restoration actions that enhance biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of forests to climate change.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
2.1
2.3
2.4
2.5
4.2
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
Other, please specify: 15.a

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/environmental-markets/nature-repair-market>

Action (short title):

National research institute for the forestry industry

Brief description of the action:

In March 2024, the Australian Government launched a national research institute, the Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI) to support transformative research, development and innovation for Australia's timber industry. One of AFWI's key focus areas is the identification and development of fire-resilient tree species, improved forest management systems, and climate adaption solutions for forestry in a warming and more fire-prone climate.

Main results achieved for the action:

AFWI is supporting research to improve the fire resilience of planted and native forests. Projects are underway to identify tree species and forest systems better suited to hotter, drier conditions and more frequent fire events. These projects will improve sector resilience, ensure reliable wood production, protect communities and contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing fire impacts and carbon emissions. AFWI also supports technological innovations in forest monitoring, early warning systems and silviculture for adaptive management.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.4
2.5
3.3
4.2
4.5
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/national/australian-forest-and-wood-innovations>

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Key challenges for Australia in achieving Global Forest Goal 1, include balancing timber supply with projected demand and managing environmental pressures.

Demand for timber and wood fibre is expected to grow significantly over coming decades, driven by population growth and increasing construction needs. While domestic log availability is projected to increase, the long lead times to produce the required timber means the sector cannot quickly respond to demand surges and creates pressure on existing forest resources.

Environmental factors also pose a significant challenge. Drought is a recurring feature of Australia's climate and is projected to increase in both frequency and intensity due to climate change. These conditions place stress on both native and planted forests, reducing regeneration capacity, increasing the risk of degradation, and impacting efforts to restore forest ecosystems. Climate-related disturbances such as bushfires and heatwaves further threaten forest health and long-term carbon storage potential.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

Target 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

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

Target 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

Target 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

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, 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.

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forestry Workforce Training Program

Brief description of the action:

The Forestry Workforce Training Program is an Australian Government-funded Program, delivered by ForestWorks, to support the delivery of skills and training to meet the requirements of Australia's forest and wood products sectors. The forestry industry is a significant employer in rural and regional Australia, directly employing 52,000 people.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Program will support people who work in forest, wood, paper, timber or timber furniture-making industries from diverse backgrounds, existing employees, as well as Indigenous Peoples and women, to develop and maintain the skills required to participate within the forestry workforce sector. This program is due to be rolled out in mid-2027 following the completion of extensive trialling and piloting studies.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.2
2.4
5.3
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://forestworks.com.au/forestry-workforce-training-program-2024/>

Action (short title):

Regional Forestry Hubs

Brief description of the action:

The Australian Government has committed to expand and extend the role of Regional Forestry Hubs. Hubs are designated geographic areas chosen to represent existing concentrations of wood supply resources, combined with significant existing processing and/or manufacturing operations, established domestic and/or international transport links, and strong potential for growth. They support forestry industries, including the forestry-workforce, and their communities.

Main results achieved for the action:

Regional Forestry Hubs were established to advance not only Australia's forestry regions, but the people who depend on the forests for their livelihoods. By enhancing these regions with the right infrastructure not just for the forestry workers but their families too, it preserves the importance of forests as economic, social and environmental centres. The Australian Government has extended Regional Forestry Hubs to June 2027, allowing for strategic planning, technical assessments and analysis to support growth in their regions.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.2
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
4.5
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.3
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/regional-forestry-hubs>

Target 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

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

PNG Forestry Twinning Program

Brief description of the action:

The Australian Government has partnered with Papua New Guinea to develop the PNG Forest Authority's capacity to develop their plantation industry, through the PNG Forestry Twinning Program.

This program will include technical support and knowledge sharing on plantation development and governance.

The success of the PNG plantation expansion relies on enabling customary landowners to engage in plantation forestry, which may include small-scale forest enterprises integrated into value chains and markets.

Main results achieved for the action:

The PNG Forestry Twinning Program commenced in 2025. There are a number of activities planned for implementation in late 2025, including guidelines for plantation development specific to PNG, plantation seed management training, communication and stakeholder engagement planning training, and further skills and training analysis.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

1.3

1.4

2.1

2.4

2.5

3.2

4.1

4.2

4.3

4.5

5.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

15.b

Weblink:

www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/international/regional#australia-and-papua-new-guinea

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Climate-Smart Agriculture Program

Brief description of the action:

Under the Natural Heritage Trust, the Australian Government has established the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program over five years from 2023-24. This program will drive Australian agricultural sustainability, productivity, and competitiveness. The Program contributes to building capacity, knowledge and accelerating the uptake of sustainable agricultural practices in the agriculture sector. Funding supports trials, on-farm demonstrations and implementation of practices that address local, regional and national natural resource management and sustainable agriculture priorities to deliver long term sustainable agriculture outcomes.

Main results achieved for the action:

Many of the projects funded by the program involve revegetation, the management of remnant vegetation or diversified farming systems including agroforestry. The various benefits of on-farm vegetation allow Australian producers to be more resilient and productive while requiring less inputs, contributing to Australia's food security.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
2.5
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/landcare/climate-smart>

Action (short title):

Development of farm forestry guidance material

Brief description of the action:

Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA), with funding from the Australian Government, collected, collated, analysed and published a volume of historic trials and publications related to small-scale, privately owned forests and farm forestry. This resulted in detailed guidance materials being prepared to help break down various knowledge barriers.

Main results achieved for the action:

Publication of a guidance document on management of farm forestry plantations for commercial timber production. This allows farmers to diversify their incomes for their long-term economic sustainability.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
2.2
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
4.5
5.3
5.4
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

https://fwpa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/FWPA_Farm-Forestry_FINAL.pdf

Action (short title):

Soil management

Brief description of the action:

Forests play a vital role in improving and maintaining soil quality, and healthy soils are essential for sustainable agricultural practices, contributing to food security and climate change resilience. Australia has made targeted investments in sustainable soil management, guided by the National Soil Strategy and the National Soil Action Plan.

Main results achieved for the action:

Soil management investments include efforts to understand, monitor and manage Australia's soil under various land uses, including natural vegetation, and making the data publicly available. Additionally, healthy soils are a pre-requisite to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Australian Government is supporting global soil action through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Soil Partnership, and within the region through the Pacific Soil Partnership.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
Other, please specify: 15.3

Weblink:

<https://research.csiro.au/nsmp/the-project/>, <https://ansis.net/>

Target 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

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Australian Government AU\$300 million forestry sector support

Brief description of the action:

In recognition that Australia's \$2.3 billion forestry industry supports the nation's economy and regional communities, the Australian Government is delivering a \$300 million suite of forestry initiatives to innovate and improve the capacity and capability of the sector.

Main results achieved for the action:

This funding includes a range of initiatives, including (but not limited to) support for:

- private industry, First Nations businesses, farm foresters and state and territory government forestry bodies to expand the Australian plantation forest estate to increase domestic timber supply and improve carbon outcomes
- forestry workforce training
- research, development and innovation for Australia's timber industry including for wood processors
- extending Regional Forestry Hubs, that support key regional forest communities.

These investments enhance economic development for rural forest communities.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 2.1
- 2.5
- 3.2
- 3.3
- 4.2
- 4.4
- 4.5
- 5.2
- 5.3
- 5.4
- 6.3
- 6.4
- 6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 15.1
- 15.2
- 15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry>

Action (short title):

Forest certification in Australia

Brief description of the action:

Forest certification demonstrates sustainable forest management practices, balancing the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests. Two independent forest certification bodies operate in Australia: an international scheme operated by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the Responsible Wood certification scheme, endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Main results achieved for the action:

In Australia, the area of certified forest management has shown steady increase since 2018. As at June 2023, a total of 20.4 million hectares of forest were certified for forest management under the PEFC, and 1.2 million hectares were certified for forest management under the FSC scheme. Certified forest management demonstrates the sustainability of the forest industry, and provides assurance for its broader contributions towards environmental outcomes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.5
5.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/australias-forests/certification>

Target 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

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030: Australia's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Brief description of the action:

Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 was developed to deliver Australia's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including action to meet the 30 by 30 target (protecting 30% of Australia's land by 2030), and to strengthen sustainable forest management (SFM) within conservation landscapes. Forests are integral to Australia's terrestrial biodiversity and climate strategy, and the plan commits to expanding and effectively managing the National Reserve System, which includes conservation forests.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Strategy aligns Australia's domestic forest policy with international biodiversity and climate objectives. It enhances the role of forests in biodiversity conservation and integrates sustainable forest management into climate and biodiversity planning. This has resulted in increased area of forest protected under the conservation estate since 2020. The Strategy also ensures active use of Regional Forest Agreements to ensure sustainable management and biodiversity conservation in productive forest landscapes. As at June 2025 around 24% of Australia's land has been protected and is contributing to the national 30 by 30 target.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
3.1
3.2
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australias-strategy-for-nature-2024-2030.pdf>

Action (short title):

Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme (ACCU) forestry methods

Brief description of the action:

Australia's carbon market, administered through the ACCU Scheme, incentivises land sector emissions reductions and removals through approved methods. Approved methods under the ACCU Scheme include the savanna fire management method, the plantation forestry method, and the afforestation and reforestation method.

Main results achieved for the action:

The forest sector is contributing to emissions reductions outcomes through approved forest methodologies. Activities include: establishing, converting or transitioning to forestry plantations; planting trees to establish a permanent forest formation; and managing and planning savanna fire activities in north Australia by reducing the frequency and severity of late dry season fires by promoting early-season burns, resulting in lower emissions, enhanced fire regimes and preserving native forest carbon stocks.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.4
3.2
3.3
4.2
5.3
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://cer.gov.au/schemes/australian-carbon-credit-unit-scheme/accu-scheme-methods#vegetation-methods>

Action (short title):

Advancing engagement through international platforms

Brief description of the action:

Australia contributes to international efforts linking forests with climate change through engagement in key multilateral platforms, including the UNFCCC and the UNCBD, as well as other international forest processes including FAO Committee on Forestry and the International Tropical Timber Organization.

Main results achieved for the action:

Advancing the integration of forests into broader international engagement ensures forests are highlighted as essential to climate and biodiversity outcomes in global fora. Further, it promotes a cross-sectoral view of sustainable forest management that supports carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection and resilience.

Broad engagement also supports international partnerships that reinforce forests' role in addressing climate risks. Australia's international actions position forests as multifunctional systems, delivering biodiversity and climate outcomes, while aligning with the Paris Agreement, CBD and other conventions.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.4
5.3
6.1
6.2
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/international/forums>

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

A key challenge in achieving Global Forest Goal 2 in Australia is balancing the multiple uses of forests, particularly between productive forestry and conservation outcomes. Ongoing public debate regarding native forest harvesting has affected the forestry sector's social licence, influencing policy decisions and land use planning across jurisdictions. These dynamics create challenges in maintaining long-term certainty for forest-based industries, particularly in regions reliant on forestry for employment and economic development, resulting in challenges associated with Australia's future timber supply.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

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

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

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

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, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Roadmap for protecting and conserving 30% of Australia's land by 2030

Brief description of the action:

The Australian Government has developed the National 30 by 30 Roadmap (the Roadmap) to help coordinate action to achieve the national target to protect and conserve 30% of Australia's land and 30% of its marine areas by 2030 (the '30 by 30' target). The Roadmap sits under Australia's Strategy for Nature 2024-2030 (see Target 2.5) and aligns with Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The Roadmap considers landscape-scale planning to recognise potential trade-offs between biodiversity conservation and other productive land uses, including forestry.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Roadmap, developed and agreed with all state and territory Environment Ministers, coordinates national action to support the achievement of the target. It explains the role of protected and conserved areas in achieving the 30 by 30 land target, describes the principles to guide efforts, raises awareness of programs that support the target, and identifies indicators for tracking progress.

A primary mechanism to deliver on the Roadmap is the National Reserve System and the demonstrated increase in forest area conserved under this system. Since 2020 the area of Australia's native forests protected within the National Reserve System has grown from 33.6 million hectares to 34.6 million hectares, directly contributing to the 30 by 30 target, strengthening the long-term conservation outcomes and supporting global targets for increasing protected and conserved forest areas.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 2.5
- 3.2
- 5.3
- 6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/achieving-30-by-30/national-roadmap>

Action (short title):

National Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) Framework

Brief description of the action:

In 2024, Australian Environment Ministers endorsed a national framework for recognising and reporting OECMs, referred to as Conserved Areas. These are areas managed for conservation outside the formal protected area system, including private land, Indigenous-managed land, and areas used for other purposes such as production forests – that deliver biodiversity outcomes. The framework supports the recognition and scaling up of effective area-based conservation measures across forested landscapes.

Main results achieved for the action:

The OECMs framework is expected to enable significant growth in forest conservation efforts beyond protected areas, contributing directly to the global 30 by 30 goals and improving the recognition of sustainable forest management. The OECMs framework has been finalised and published, including tools for landholders and managers to identify, assess and report Conserved Areas. Implementation is expected to improve recognition of conservation efforts across diverse land tenures, including forested areas not formally protected.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
2.4
2.5
5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/land/achieving-30-by-30/conserved-areas/national-oecms-framework>

Action (short title):

Nature Repair Market

Brief description of the action:

The Nature Repair Market will incentivise actions to restore and protect the environment. The scheme allows landholders, including those managing forested landscapes, to generate biodiversity certificates for projects that deliver measurable improvements in nature. Supported methods under the market may include projects that establish new conserved areas, which can qualify as OECMs under the National OECMs Framework.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Nature Repair Market is expected to incentivise the creation and formal recognition of conservation areas on private and Indigenous-managed lands, increasing the area of forests managed primarily for biodiversity outcomes. By facilitating investment in conservation and restoration projects on forested land, this mechanism directly contributes to Target 3.1 as it seeks to increase areas designated as protected or conserved. It also complements Australia's efforts to achieve the 30 by 30 target under the Global Biodiversity Framework.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.5
4.2
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://cer.gov.au/schemes/nature-repair-market-scheme>

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

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Regional Forest Agreements

Brief description of the action:

As outlined in target 1.2, Australia's Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) establish a regional, integrated approach to forest management that balances economic, environmental and social values. RFAs identify forests available for conservation and sustainable use and require that public native forests available for harvesting are managed in accordance with approved long-term forest management plans, which include regeneration and ecological sustainability requirements.

Main results achieved for the action:

Approximately 22 million hectares of public native forest in RFA regions are managed under long-term, regionally specific forest management plans. These plans are underpinned by regular monitoring, forest inventory updates, and adaptive management to ensure sustainability.

RFAs are a primary mechanism for ensuring large-scale forests are covered by long-term management plans in Australia. Their emphasis on ecological sustainability, regeneration, and integrated land use planning aligns with Australia's approach of sustainable forest management.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.4
2.5
3.3
5.3
5.4
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/policies/rfa>

Action (short title):

Forest plantation management plans

Brief description of the action:

Australia's plantation estate, covering approximately 1.8 million hectares, is managed through long-term forest management plans developed by public and private growers. These plans are often certified under national or international forest certification schemes, requiring sustainable harvesting practices, biodiversity protection and replanting commitments.

Main results achieved for the action:

Plantation forests are a key component of Australia's long-term forest management footprint. Their structured planning, sustainable harvesting cycles, and certification mechanisms contribute directly to expanding the proportion of forests managed under long-term management plans. Commercial plantation forests in Australia are managed under operational plans designed to ensure long-term productivity and ecosystem outcomes. Plantation forests also contribute significantly to domestic wood supply, alleviating pressure on native forests and reinforcing sustainable resource use.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.4
2.5
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/australias-forests/plantation-farm-forestry>

Action (short title):

State and territory government forest management plans

Brief description of the action:

State and territory governments – who are responsible for the day-to-day management of forests - oversee forest management and practices plans. These can include detailed information on standards, planning and monitoring of forests, as well as key systems, practices, processes and procedures for sustainable forest management. For example, the New South Wales government requires landholders wishing to undertake forestry operations on their property to have an approved Private Native Forestry Plan (PNFP) that includes a Forest Management Plan (FMP). A FMP describes proposed forestry operations within the PNFP area. The FMP provides key information to forestry operators including: type and condition of forest; the known presence of any threatened flora and fauna; harvesting/silvicultural methods used; forest regeneration requirements; environmental protection measures; and road crossing planning.

Main results achieved for the action:

As at 2021, a total of 37.7 million hectares (28%) of Australia's forests were covered by management plans relating to their conservation and sustainable management. Management plans are in place for 25.9 million hectares of forest in the National Reserve System, and 10.8 million hectares of multiple-use public forest and forest in the Defence estate (under Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures – see Target 3.1). In addition, management plans are in place for the area of private forests certified under either the Responsible Wood certification scheme or the Forest Stewardship Council.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.3
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-and-primary-industries/forestry-nsw/farm-forestry/forest-management-plans#toc-what-is-a-forest-management-plan>

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

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forest certification

Brief description of the action:

As outlined in Target 2.4, two independent global forest certification bodies operate in Australia, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). They aim to promote responsible and sustainable forest management and forest product supply. Forest managers and owners in Australia can choose to have their forests certified under the FSC, and/or the PEFC-endorsed Responsible Wood scheme.

Main results achieved for the action:

The area of certified forest in Australia has shown steady increase since 2018. As at June 2023, a total of 20.4 million hectares of forest were certified for forest management under the Responsible Wood scheme, and 1.2 million hectares were certified for forest management under the FSC.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.5
3.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/australias-forests/certification>

Action (short title):

Australia's framework for sustainable forest management

Brief description of the action:

Australia has a comprehensive framework designed to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of its forests. Elements under the framework include:

- A national policy framework – Australia's 1992 National Forest Policy Statement (currently under review) promotes the conservation and sustainable management of forests.
- Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) – 20 year agreements underpinning regional approaches to balance conservation and production from native forests.
- Australia's Sustainable Forest Management Framework of Criteria and Indicators, adapted from the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators.
- State and territory frameworks – jurisdictional legislation and codes of practice are applied to ensure environmentally responsible forestry practices.
- Forest certification – independent third party forest certification to credible forest management standards applies to most of Australia's production forests.

Each of these elements are subject to intermittent review, to ensure they remain fit-for-purpose and continue to ensure sustainable forest management in Australia.

Main results achieved for the action:

Australia's productive forests are managed under this strong sustainable forest management framework, ensuring the sustainability of timber products sourced from Australian forests.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.5
1.4
2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/australias-forests/forest-mgmt>

Action (short title):

Strengthening Australia's illegal logging laws

Brief description of the action:

Australia has had illegal logging laws in place since 2012 to combat illegal logging and promote the trade of legal timber products. The laws require that certified timber and wood products entering the Australian market are legally and sustainably sourced, reinforcing sustainable forest management, globally.

Main results achieved for the action:

On 3 March 2025, Australia strengthened its illegal logging legislative framework for greater alignment with international best practice, streamlining the existing due diligence obligations and enhancing compliance and enforcement activities. The strengthened framework also allows for timber testing technologies to verify importer's claims of timber species and origin. Strong illegal logging laws help to ensure that forest products imported into Australia have been sourced from legally and sustainably managed forests.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.4
5.2
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
Other, please specify: 15.7

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/policies/illegal-logging>

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

**19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

Australia faces several interrelated challenges in achieving Goal 3, particularly in increasing the area of protected and sustainably managed forests and the proportion of forest products sourced from such areas. One key challenge is competing land use pressures. Forested areas are increasingly subject to demands from other land uses such as agriculture, urban development, and infrastructure, which can constrain opportunities for expanding conservation or production forests. Balancing these pressures while maintaining forest ecosystems is a continuing policy and planning priority.

Another challenge is balancing societal expectations. There is growing demand for both the conservation of forest ecosystems and the sustainable production of timber and other forest products. Despite sustainable forest practices, this dual objective can create tension between environmental and forestry groups. Communicating the importance of sustainable forest management in achieving environmental, social and economic goals is critical to building understanding and maintaining social licence for forestry operations.

Australia is also impacted by fluctuations in global trade and supply chains. Disruptions to international markets, including volatility in the supply and continued or increased demand for sustainably sourced forest products, have, in recent times, affected domestic availability. Addressing these challenges requires coordination across government and industry to sustain and diversify markets, ensure ongoing investment in Australia's own forestry industry to minimise reliance on trade, and support evidence-based decision-making and public confidence in sustainable forest management practices, including through enhanced certification processes.

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 4: 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

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, 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.

Target 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

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Australian Government \$300 million to support Australia's forest industries to innovate and improve capacity and capability of the sector

Brief description of the action:

The Government is delivering a suite of initiatives totalling over \$300 million to strengthen, support and continue Australia's sustainable forestry sector. Initiatives include:

- reviewing Australia's 1992 National Forest Policy Statement to ensure it meets contemporary objectives for future wood and fibre needs
- supporting the development of a Timber Fibre Strategy
- supporting plantation establishment
- forestry workforce training
- forest and wood innovations
- wood processing innovation
- combating illegal logging.

Main results achieved for the action:

Funding has enabled industry capacity building, forestry innovation hubs and plantation expansion aligned with sustainable forest management practices. It has resulted in increased certainty for long-term investment in sustainable forestry practices and has supported efforts to ensure sustainable fibre supply.

The suite of initiatives directly supports the mobilisation of domestic financial resources for sustainable forest management across Australia. This plan enables greater engagement across the Australian forestry network, resulting in a more cohesive industry able to deliver tangible long-term outcomes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 2.4
- 3.3
- 4.2
- 4.5
- 5.2
- 5.3
- 6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry>

Action (short title):

International contributions in support of sustainable forest management

Brief description of the action:

Australia contributes to global sustainable forest management through financial and technical support to international organisations such as the International Tropical Timber Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Forum on Forests, and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade.

Main results achieved for the action:

Australia's contributions serve to raise the profile of sustainable forest management and the use of sustainable forest products, promote timber legality, and support forest conservation, restoration and capacity building in developing countries.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
3.3
4.2
4.3
4.5
5.2
6.1
6.2
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/international>

Action (short title):

International support for sustainable forest management through bilateral cooperation

Brief description of the action:

Australia further contributes to the advancement of sustainable forest management practices through bilateral engagement and capacity development with key partners.

This includes cooperative meetings and capacity development including sharing technical expertise. The Australian Government, through the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has a number of formal and informal bilateral arrangements on forests with key partners.

Main results achieved for the action:

DAFF meets annually or biennially to share updates and important information with key forestry partners.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
2.1
2.4
2.5
4.2
4.3
4.5
5.1
6.3
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/international/regional>

Target 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

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes

**22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding
Private domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance
Private international funding
Blended financing

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

Target 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

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Tropical Asia Forest Fund 2 (TAFF-2)

Brief description of the action:

Australia has invested approximately \$13 million in the TAFF-2 fund, managed by New Forests, as part of the Australian Climate Finance Partnership overseen by the Asia Development Bank. TAFF-2 is a blended finance initiative aimed at unlocking sustainable investment in tropical forestry across Southeast Asia.

Main results achieved for the action:

The fund is expected to mobilise up to \$300 million in total financing in support of sustainable forest management, reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and improved forest governance in the region. In 2022 TAFF-2 used this funding to invest in conserving and restoring Thailand's second largest peat swamp forest, the Kuan Kreng Landscape, which covers an area of 70,715 hectares.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
4.1
4.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/development/topics/development-issues/blended-finance>

Action (short title):

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research Forestry Program

Brief description of the action:

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Forestry Program contributes to conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources to establish, manage and sustainably use forests. This provides social, economic and environmental benefits to partner countries and Australia.

Main results achieved for the action:

ACIAR's forest projects span East and South-East Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, the Pacific and South Asia. The Forestry Program focuses on aspects of forestry value chains that have good economic potential and benefits for communities. Areas of focus include development of silvicultural systems, forest restoration, improved germplasm, harvesting and processing approaches, and the management of threats.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
3.1
3.2
4.1
4.3
4.5
5.1
6.3
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.aciar.gov.au/program/forestry>

Target 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

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Encouraging wood in construction under the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership

Brief description of the action:

Australia collaborates with both developed and developing partner countries under the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), aimed at taking forward the ambition to 'halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030...' under the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. Through the FCLP, Australia and partner countries are sharing knowledge and experiences under a sub-initiative aimed at 'advancing policies and approaches that support low carbon construction and increase the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in the built environment.'

Main results achieved for the action:

The FCLP and its members are working with the private sector and NGOs to further encourage timber in construction. Australia partnered with Japan, Korea and Fiji to deliver a webinar in May 2025 on 'Promoting Wood Culture' highlighting sustainable wood as a viable and favourable choice in the construction industry.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.4
2.5
3.3
4.2
4.5
5.3
5.4
6.3
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

<https://forestclimateleaders.org/>

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)

Governments
Intergovernmental organizations and/or processes
Private sector
Non-governmental organizations

28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)

North-South
North-North
Triangular

29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)

Science
Technology
Innovation

Target 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

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

Yes

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

Australia is committed to robust forest monitoring, assessment and reporting. In the most recent reporting cycle, Australia's State of the Forests Report moved to a web-based product, allowing for rolling updates to the 44 indicators based on the availability of new data. This new 'online-first' approach permits a focus on key metrics, data updates at variable frequencies, and the opportunity to highlight key advances in forest monitoring as they occur.

This new national reporting process also includes the release of a five-yearly Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis, replacing the previous process which updated and published all indicators in a single report (hardcopy and online versions) every five years.

Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023 is a summary of the best-available data for the 44 indicators, with 25 indicators updated in late 2023 and 2024. Data from Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018 are presented for the other 19 indicators, which will be progressively updated in 2025.

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

Yes

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

2024

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Lack of data on private funding - the Australian Government does not collect data on private sources of domestic or international funding, or international partnerships at the state and territory government level. While it may be privy to some information on such partnerships, it is unable to assess the degree of financial resource flows in total.

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 5: 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

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

Target 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

Target 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

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

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, 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.

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

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

Yes

**39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)**

National sustainable development plans

Target 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

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Strengthening Australia's illegal logging laws

Brief description of the action:

As per Target 3.3, Australia has had illegal logging laws in place since 2012 to combat illegal logging and promote the trade of legal timber products. The laws require that certified timber and wood products entering the Australian market are legally and sustainably sourced, reinforcing sustainable forest management, globally.

Main results achieved for the action:

On 3 March 2025, Australia strengthened its illegal logging legislative framework for greater alignment with international best practice, streamlining the existing due diligence obligations and enhancing compliance and enforcement activities. The strengthened framework allows for the use of timber testing technologies, to verify importer's claims of timber species and origin.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
Other, please specify: 15.7

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/policies/illegal-logging>

Target 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

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

Improved enforcement of existing legislation
Import controls
Bilateral agreements between exporting and importing countries

Target 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

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Robust legislative and policy sustainable forest management frameworks

Brief description of the action:

Australia maintains a strong legislative framework to ensure the sustainable management and legal use of forests. This includes:

- the Regional Forest Agreements (RFA) Act 2002. Responsibility for implementing and managing RFAs is shared between the Commonwealth and state governments
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, the Australian Government's main national environmental legislation
- the National Forest Policy Statement, agreed by the Australian Government and all state and territory governments
- state and territory forestry legislation and codes of practice.

Together, these instruments establish clear legal requirements and institutional responsibilities for sustainable forest management across jurisdictions. Australian government agencies work closely with states and territories, local communities and relevant stakeholders including First Nations people, to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to forest management.

Main results achieved for the action:

Australia's comprehensive governance framework underpins effective forest governance and law enforcement by ensuring forestry operations meet rigorous environmental and legal standards. This reduces the risk of illegal and unsustainable practices, and ensures forests are managed responsibly to achieve environmental, economic and social outcomes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3
5.2
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/australias-forests/forest-mgmt>

Action (short title):**Brief description of the action:****Main results achieved for the action:****This action also contributes to these GFG targets:****This action also contributes to these SDG targets:****Weblink:**

Target 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

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

Australia employs a range of mechanisms to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and implementation of forest-related policies and programs. These mechanisms promote coordination, transparency and inclusive decision-making across government levels and sectors.

One key mechanism is the Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership (the Partnership), which provides a forum for industry, unions and government to consult, exchange advice and information, and promote cooperation within the forest and wood products industries. The Partnership serves as a coordination and consultation platform for initiatives, such as leading the development of a new Timber Fibre Strategy, ensuring stakeholder views are integrated into policy design.

Public consultation processes are systematically used to inform forest-related regulatory reform and policy development. For example, recent reforms to Australia's illegal logging laws involved multiple formal consultation rounds, including discussion papers, online submission portals, industry roundtables and feedback processes. This mechanism ensured that diverse views informed the final government approach.

Stakeholders are also engaged through intergovernmental working groups, technical advisory panels, and calls for public submissions on draft policies. These mechanisms provide opportunities for forest industry stakeholders, organisations, First Nations peoples, and the broader public to contribute to forest planning and strategic program delivery. Collectively, these mechanisms ensure that forest-related decision-making in Australia is participatory and informed by a wide range of perspectives, enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of forest governance frameworks.

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

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Australia's approach to forest governance is shaped by an integrated structure, informed by national constitutional arrangements, where forest management is primarily the responsibility of state and territory governments. While national policies provide strategic overview, the variation in regulatory frameworks and implementation practices across jurisdictions can create challenges in achieving consistent and coordinated sustainable forest management (SFM) outcomes. This requires ongoing collaboration and alignment between different levels of government. Internationally, Australia supports the promotion of SFM and timber legality frameworks in partner countries. However, the effectiveness of strengthening frameworks within these countries can vary depending on differing governance capacities, limited enforcement mechanisms and institutional contexts. Tailored approaches and sustained technical assistance are necessary to foster resilient governance systems aligned with international standards. For Australia, aligning domestic forest policies with the UN Forest Instrument and the SDGs means navigating multi-level governance, often across portfolios. National and subnational governments, industry, First Nations peoples, and communities all have roles in ensuring that forests are managed for multiple benefits. This requires substantial coordination to ensure that forests contribute to sustainable development, from climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation to supporting local livelihoods, consistent with both the UN Forest Instrument and the SDGs. The challenge lies in translating these broad global objectives into coherent, coordinated and well-resourced governance arrangements that work within Australia's forest policy landscape. This highlights the importance of continued capacity building, policy coherence, and multi-level cooperation to strengthen governance frameworks that support SFM and contribute to the broader 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 6: 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

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

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

Target 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

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.

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

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Cross-government collaboration to manage multiple forest uses

Brief description of the action:

Australian forests are maintained for their full range of environmental, social and economic values through cross-agency collaboration at a national level, in line with agencies' respective mandates. Strong agency collaboration between the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, which maintains responsibility for production forestry; and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, which carries responsibility for forest conservation, including climate and biodiversity goals, is key. The Australian Government also works closely with state and territory governments, who manage the day-to-day operations of forests.

Main results achieved for the action:

Cross-sector coordination and cooperation to deliver positive outcomes for forests is demonstrated through implementation of national legislation, plans and strategies, including (but not limited to):

- Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002 - long term agreements underpinning regional approaches to balance conservation and production from native forests
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Australia's 1992 National Forest Policy Statement (currently being reviewed to ensure it meets Australia's contemporary objectives for forests) promotes the conservation and sustainable management of forests
- State and territory frameworks - jurisdictional legislation and codes of practice are applied to ensure environmentally responsible forestry practices.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.3
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3
4.1
4.5
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.4
6.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Cross government collaboration to support international SFM initiatives

Brief description of the action:

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) works with other Commonwealth agencies including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to deliver sustainable forest management projects internationally.

Main results achieved for the action:

- Capacity building activities delivered through DAFF and ACIAR
- Contributions to multilateral organisations including the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the UN Forum on Forests to deliver SFM outcomes

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.4
2.5
3.3
4.1
4.2
4.3
5.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
15.b

Weblink:

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

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Climate change
Biodiversity
Rural development
Land use

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

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a

maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Australia's State of the Forests Report

Brief description of the action:

Australia's State of the Forests Report (SOFR) is developed using the framework of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, established under the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests. Australia has accepted the seven criteria developed by the Montreal Process, and adapted the indicators to better suit the country's unique forests.

Criteria and indicators provide a common understanding of the components of sustainable forest management, and a common framework for describing, assessing and evaluating progress towards sustainable forest management. The SOFR measures progress and informs decision making.

Main results achieved for the action:

Reporting on Australia's forests via SOFR has now moved to an online-first publishing approach, enabling the 44 individual indicators to be updated as new data becomes available, and replaces the previous process which updated and published all indicators in a single report. The progressive update and rolling publication of indicators will be accompanied by the publication of a five-yearly SOFR Synthesis with summaries of the best-available data on the 44 indicators at the time, thereby continuing the five-yearly reporting cycle. The most recent Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023 is the first such Synthesis to be prepared.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.2
- 1.3
- 2.4
- 4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr>

Action (short title):

Participation in the Montreal Process Working Group

Brief description of the action:

Australia remains an active participant of the Montreal Process Working Group (MPWG), including as an active participant in intersessional work.

Main results achieved for the action:

Australia was proud to host the 32nd Working Group meeting in Sydney in 2023. A key outcome of MPWG32 was the development of the 'Sydney Initiative' which aims to stimulate discussion amongst Montreal Process member countries on how the criteria and indicators could be used to identify forest degradation, and inform policy and management. Australia continues to play an active role in this Initiative.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
3.2
4.3
4.5
5.1
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/international/forums/montreal>, <https://www.montreal-process.org/index.shtml>

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

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

**52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

National or subnational

Regional or international (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)

**53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

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):: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment

Target 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

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Support for the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in forest processes through regional engagement

Brief description of the action:

Australia's regional engagement including through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC) seeks to ensure the Global Forest Goals remain front of mind in the development of strategic plans, to ensure policies and programs support delivery of the UNSPF.

Main results achieved for the action:

Ongoing engagement in the APFC by Australia and other members ensures that Asia-Pacific regional perspectives are incorporated into broader workplans, including the FAO Committee on Forestry. Australia was proud to host the 30th session of the APFC in Sydney in 2023.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5
4.1
4.2
4.3
5.3
6.1
6.2
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:****Action (short title):**

Increase of Australia's Indigenous forest estate

Brief description of the action:

Australia's Indigenous forest estate - the forest over which Indigenous peoples and communities have ownership, management or co-management, and/or rights of use for customary purposes - comprises 79.9 million hectares of forests, representing 60% of Australia's total forest area. This is an increase of 10.4 million hectares over the area reported in Australia's State of the Forests Report in 2018. The increase has occurred in all Indigenous Protected Areas, Indigenous Land Use Agreements, and areas subject to Native Title.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increasing the Indigenous forest estate means that Australia's Indigenous peoples and communities have increased opportunities to contribute their vast traditional knowledge to the management of Australia's forests.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
4.5
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

Australia's Forestry Ministers Meetings provide a forum for ministers with responsibility for forestry from the Australian, state and territory governments to discuss and share approaches to priorities affecting the forest and wood product industries.

Australia's Strategic Forest and Renewable Materials Partnership (the Partnership) provides a forum for industry, unions and government to consult, exchange advice and information, and promote cooperation within the forest and wood product industries. The Partnership has up to 15 members appointed by the Australian Government on the basis of their: expertise; understanding of social, economic and environmental issues facing the forest and wood products sector; and ability to contribute to the long-term interests of the industry.

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Similar to the challenges associated with achieving GFG5, Australia's approach to forest management requires a cross-sectoral approach, and includes cooperation and coordination across Commonwealth, state and territory governments. Further, governments are committed to incorporating views of industry, First Nations people and regional communities. This sharing of responsibilities and commitment to incorporate stakeholder views leads to challenges associated with coordination at multiple levels. As a result, it can be difficult to drive national approaches to shared forest issues within Australia.

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area	X					
1.2 Carbon stock		X				
1.3 Implementation of SFM		X				
1.4 Resilience and adaptation			X			
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people						X
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises			X			
2.3 Food security		X				
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development		X				
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation		X				
3.1 Protected areas		X				
3.2 Long-term forest management plans		X				
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests		X				
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM			X			
4.2 Increased forest related financing		X				
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships		X				
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing			X			
4.5 Forest-related information		X				
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies		X				
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance	X					
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes		X				
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning			X			
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation		X				
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets		X				
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders		X				

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

Yes

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

Australia announced its Voluntary National Contribution to the UN Global Forest Goals in 2019. Under the VNC, Australia's commitments to the GFGs included: increasing the nation's productive forests; ongoing commitment to ecologically sustainable forest management; emissions reductions through forest management and monitoring; and combatting illegal logging and associated trade.

Progress to date:

Australia ranks 7th in the world for forest coverage, with 3% of the world's forest area. Australia's forests cover approximately 133.6 million hectares, which is around 17% of the total land area. Australia's total forest area increased by 0.75 million hectares over the five-year period from 2016-2021, maintaining the increase in total forest area that has been observed since 2008.

Australia has approximately 28 million hectares of forest available and suitable for commercial wood production, though as some of this land is either privately owned or restricted from harvest by prescription, the area of forest subject to production forestry is lower.

Australia has strong legal frameworks in place to ensure ecologically sustainable forest management, including Regional Forest Agreements and the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act at a national level, as well as state and territory forest management frameworks.

Australia's emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are reported through the National Inventory Report. Reporting for the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector in the National Inventory Reports covers emissions and sequestration associated with management practices that affect carbon stores in vegetation and soils, including forests and forestry. Emissions from the LULUCF sector have been decreasing since 2006, and since 2015 the sector has been a net sink, absorbing more carbon dioxide than is emitted.

Australia has strong illegal logging laws in place to combat illegal logging and promote the trade of legal timber products. From March 2025, these laws have been strengthened, and aligned with international best practice.

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

**62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:
(Select all that apply)**

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

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

Australia is actively working to promote gender equality in the forest sector through a combination of professional development, international collaboration, and industry-led initiatives.
At a government level, Australia integrates Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion considerations into international capacity-building efforts, including supporting the development of inclusive forestry leadership.
Australia's forest industry also lead efforts in promoting gender equality in the forest sector.
- Forestry Australia's Mentoring Program for Women in Forestry supports women in the forestry sector by providing tailored mentoring and professional development opportunities to build leadership skills, enhance career progression, and strengthen gender diversity within the profession.
- Forest industry stakeholders proactively monitor gender diversity across the sector. Data from the 2023 Forest and Wood Products Australia annual Gender and Diversity survey demonstrated a 9% increase in female participation in the forestry workforce between 2021 and 2023, including an increase in the proportion of female executives over the previous two years. This annual survey reflects industry efforts to improve female representation and inclusion in Australia's forestry sector.

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

**64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?
(Select all that apply)**

Social media activities
Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

Australian forest industry bodies such as Forestry Australia have held webinars and workshops to provide interested and informed individuals and groups with information on Australian forestry, the forest industry, emerging trends and developments for the IDOF themes. These have included:
IDOF 2025 - Forestry Australia webinar - Active Management - what it is and how might it be implemented (an overview of the recent review of active management).
IDOF 2023 - Forestry Australia webinar - Opportunities, Innovation & Forest Products (opportunities and challenges for wood products, the emerging trends and the role that forests will play in the future).

Weblink:

<https://www.forestry.org.au/webinar-active-management/>, <https://www.forestry.org.au/webinar-the-future-of-forests-opportunities-challenges-for-forestry-wood-products/>

International Forest Day Action:

Annual Australian and state/territory forestry department social media announcements to celebrate the day and raise awareness of the vital role and contributions of forests.

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/news/international-day-of-forests-2024>,
<https://www.forestrycorporation.com.au/about/releases/2021/recognising-role-of-sustainable-forestry-on-international-day-of-forests>, <https://www.facebook.com/ForestrySouthAustralia/photos/-happy-international-day-of-forests-did-you-know-that-2025-marks-150-years-of-so/1256389316175924/>

International Forest Day Action:

Industry bodies also regularly observe International Day of Forests through media announcements to support annual themes, highlighting various activities, including tree planting events across Australia.

Weblink:

<https://ausfpa.com.au/afpa-celebrates-the-united-nations-international-day-of-forests-21-march-2025/>,
<https://www.greenfleet.com.au/blogs/news/international-day-of-forests-2024>

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

Cultural burning to manage forests and land, and generate carbon credits

Brief description:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have used fire to manage the land and maintain ecosystems for over 65,000 years. This is called cultural burning, fire-stick farming or cool burning. Cultural burning maintains a traditional ecological practice that has worked effectively for tens of thousands of years. These practices are deeply intertwined with First Nations peoples' cultural and spiritual heritage. Cultural burning uses small fires lit in a mosaic pattern to reduce fire fuel while protecting tree canopy, clearing the ground and encouraging new growth. It reduces emissions and helps to store carbon by reducing the frequency and extent of large, intense fires that release large quantities of carbon and methane into the atmosphere. Other benefits include improving soil health, increasing biodiversity and ecosystem function and resilience, improving habitat quality and pastures, protecting life and property by reducing catastrophic fire risk and delivering economic, social and cultural benefits for Australia's First Nations.

It can be used in a range of ecosystems including grasslands, savanna, woodlands and rainforests but the methods differ between different ecosystems.

One of the ways the Australian Government finances and helps to support cultural burning in savanna ecosystems is through the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme.

The ACCU Scheme works by creating incentives for Australian landholders, communities and businesses to adopt new practices and technologies to reduce emissions or sequester carbon.

Participants can earn a carbon credit unit for every tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent stored or avoided by a project under the Scheme. The carbon credit units can be sold to the private sector to generate income.

ACCU Scheme projects are regulated and must be carried out in accordance with a methodology determination – which are legislative instruments made under Australia's Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011.

There are two methods under the ACCU Scheme that credit reductions in emissions and increases in carbon stored as a result of changes in Australian savanna fire management practices. The savanna fire management methods recognise First Nations peoples' traditional burning practices.

Projects under savanna fire management methods can earn ACCUs by using strategic low intensity cool burns during the early dry season to reduce the frequency of large, high intensity fires in the late dry season that release higher quantities of greenhouse gas emissions.

Main results achieved:

Savanna fire management methods are used in over 24 million hectares of north Australian savanna and abate around 1.2 Mt of emissions each year.

The 34 Indigenous owned and operated savanna fire management projects account for 70% of the area of all savanna fire management projects and around 74% of the credits issued.

GFG targets addressed:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.2
5.3
5.4
6.5

Weblink:

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction/accu-scheme/methods/savanna-fire-management-emissions-avoidance>, <https://www.ilsc.gov.au/what-we-do/sfm/>

Title:

Development of state-of-the-art genomic resources for pine breeding

Brief description:

Under the Australian Government's National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (operating under 'Australian Forest and Wood Innovations'), research was undertaken to improve fibre production by incorporating genomics into Australian Pine breeding. Key advancements resulting from the project include a de novo genome assembly, creating a genomics dataset of breeding germplasm diversity, introducing a DNA assay for conifers in Australia, and correcting breeding program pedigrees. These innovations aim to enhance international competitiveness in the plantation sector.

Main results achieved:

The project prioritised building genome assemblies to discover Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms and identified over 3000 founder trees contributing to the program. Genomic data from these samples will aid in developing genotyping assays. The project also rectified pedigree errors and demonstrated the potential of single-step genomic selection in *P. radiata*. Immediate benefits include integrating genomic data into breeding processes, correcting pedigree mistakes, and increasing genetic gain rates by 15-20%.

GFG targets addressed:

1.4
4.5

Weblink:

<https://nifpi.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NS038-Development-of-resources-for-pine-breeding-to-enable-single-step-genomic-selection-Final-Report.pdf>

Title:

Boosting fibre through wood processing innovation

Brief description:

Through the Australian Government's Accelerate Adoption of Wood Processing Innovation program, co-investment has supported privately owned wood processors to adopt cutting-edge technology and update processing facilities. The program focuses on improving the efficiency and sustainability of Australia's wood processing sector by enabling businesses to install advanced scanning and optimisation systems that maximise the use of harvested logs.

Main results achieved:

For one such recipient, the upgrade of new scanning and log optimisation technology funded under this program has significantly improved processing efficiency by increasing fibre recovery rates by around 3% per log. Advanced scanners analyse the unique shape of each log to determine the optimal cutting pattern, reposition logs for the best recovery and continue re-scanning and adjusting before the first cut is made. This ensures the maximum volume of sawn boards is extracted from each log.

This increased fibre recovery is important in the context of supply constraints, particularly following the 2019-20 bushfires in New South Wales. The improvements achieved through this program directly contribute to more efficient use of Australia's forest resources, reducing waste and enhancing the supply of structural timber for the housing sector. It also demonstrates how innovation in processing technology supports sustainable forest management by optimising outputs from existing harvest volumes, thereby reducing pressure on forest resources.

GFG targets addressed:

2.2
2.4
3.3

Weblink:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/forestry/industries/support-plantation-establishment-program/case-studies>

Please review your responses. Click on the blue button below to download a PDF copy of your report.

If you wish to make changes, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Back" button to return to the section navigator. To continue with your submission, click on "Upload and Submit" at the bottom of the page.

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The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The file size should not exceed 2MB.

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[Signed cover letter - UNFF Voluntary National Report.pdf](#)

Please indicate the date of submission of the national report:
(DD/MM/YYYY)

07/07/2025

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In case of any issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) at the UNFF secretariat.