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NEAR EAST FORESTRY AND RANGE COMMISSION

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

Amman, Jordan, 10 – 13 September 2023

FAO Forestry strategic planning

FAO Framework for Forestry 2024-31

Executive Summary

The FAO Forestry Division (NFO) has commenced a process to develop a new framework document for FAO's work in forestry between 2024 and 2031, to support the transformation of agrifood systems and maximize forestry's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and its Global Forest Goals. The FAO Framework for Forestry is expected to be finalized for consideration by the 27th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry.

Points for consideration:

The Commission is invited to take note of the process to develop a new framework document for FAO's work in forestry between 2024 and 2031 and provide guidance, as deemed appropriate.

Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 26th Session in 2022, the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) discussed FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. The Committee noted with appreciation the accomplishments of FAO's work in forestry and endorsed the priority areas of work in forestry in 2022-23 and beyond, and welcomed their strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, as well as their contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UNSPF's Global Forest Goals. The Committee also encouraged FAO to "continue to pursue its reinvigorated business model, including through better interlinking technical and operational work, fostering partnerships, and strengthening responsiveness to Members' needs and delivery at country level."
2. The FAO Council, at its 171st Session in 2022, also endorsed the proposed priority areas of work in forestry and welcomed their strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. It also requested FAO to actively continue to identify the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry, and for scaling up related activities.
3. In response to this request, the FAO Forestry Division (NFO) has commenced a process to develop a new framework document for FAO's work in forestry between 2024 and 2031. This framework aims to support the transformation of agrifood systems and maximize forestry's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, notably in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the UNSPF's¹ Global Forest Goals.
4. The starting points for the new framework for FAO's work in forestry are FAO's Basic Texts, FAO's vision, and the three Global Goals of Members², which guide the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. FAO's Strategic Framework seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind. These four betters comprise an organizing structure for the way in which FAO contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities). FAO implements the Strategic Framework through 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), which articulate FAO's thematic, technical comparative advantage and competency to deliver, through its regular Medium-Term Plans and Plans of Work and Budget.
5. The intended framework for forestry will support a more harmonized and coherent programme of work on forestry across the PPAs. It will outline FAO's vision on and mission in forestry in the context of FAO's Strategic Framework and the Global Forest Goals. This includes specifying objectives and targets related to FAO forestry support to Members to achieving the SDGs and Global Forest Goals, including through FAO strategies, key corporate initiatives and actions.
6. The basis for the objectives and targets will be the four priority areas of FAO's work in forestry as endorsed by the FAO Committee on Forestry and FAO Council in 2022:
 - i) Halting Deforestation and Enhancing Resilience
 - ii) Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Restoring Forest Ecosystems
 - iii) Enhancing Sustainable Production, Use and Livelihoods
 - iv) Data, Statistics, Analytics

¹ United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

² FAO. 2021. FAO Strategic Framework 2022-2031. Rome. 1. eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life; 2. elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and, 3. sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

7. The framework for forestry will furthermore specify guiding principles and priority action areas as well as implementation arrangements and modalities to monitor and review progress. It will outline how FAO's "accelerators" and cross-cutting themes³ will be implemented in forestry programmatic interventions. It will also operationalize FAO's reinvigorated, fit-for-purpose business model in forestry, aiming to ensure an inclusive and agile organization that is transparent, open, innovative, responsible, effective and impactful - and that serves its Members to achieve the *four betters*.

8. The framework for forestry is expected to be finalized for consideration by the 27th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry to be held on 22-26 July 2024, at FAO Headquarters, in Rome, Italy.

³ FAO defines four cross-cutting/cross-sectional "accelerators" in its Strategic Framework 2022-31: technology, innovation, data and complements (governance, human capital and institutions). FAO has identified the cross-cutting themes of gender, youth, and inclusion to be of critical importance to the 2030 Agenda.