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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 10.2 of the Provisional Agenda

### Seventeenth Regular Session

Rome, 18–22 February 2019

## UPDATED DRAFT FUNDING STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

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## I. PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Funding Strategy is to mobilize financial resources and to strengthen international cooperation to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to implement the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action), adopted by the FAO Conference at its Thirty-eighth Session in June 2013, to contribute to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international commitments on forests.

## II. PRIORITY AREAS OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

2. The Global Plan of Action identifies a total of 27 strategic priorities at national, regional and global levels grouped into the following four priority areas:

- Improving the availability of and access to information on forest genetic resources
- Conservation of forest genetic resources (*in situ* and *ex situ*)
- Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources
- Policies, institutions and capacity building

3. It acknowledges that the importance of each strategic priority may differ significantly in different countries and regions. Strategic Priority 27 calls for action to “*strengthen efforts to mobilize the necessary resources, including financing, for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources.*” The Global Plan of Action further acknowledges that resource mobilization for its implementation requires due attention and efforts at all levels, including coordination with numerous initiatives under way within countries, regionally and globally.

## III. OBJECTIVES OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

4. The Funding Strategy has the following objectives:

- to mobilize financial resources from the existing multilateral financing mechanisms to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action by mainstreaming actions on the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources into large and holistic country-led actions that are designed to enhance the implementation of sustainable forest management, including conservation and use of forest biodiversity, and forest-based adaptation and mitigation measures for climate change;
- to further seek and mobilize financial resources from all possible sources for strategic and specific actions on forest genetic resources at national, regional and international levels; and
- to cooperate with relevant ongoing forest financing initiatives, in particular the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) established by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), to make available information on, and facilitate access to, existing and emerging funding sources.

5. The mainstreaming and strategic actions on forest genetic resources for which financial resources are mobilized under the Funding Strategy should address the priority areas of the Global Plan of Action, and be in line with relevant international agreements. Furthermore, these actions should be tailored to meet specific needs and conditions of different countries and regions, and be fully aligned with existing forest, biodiversity, climate change, food security and other relevant policies.

6. In addition to making information available on funding sources, the cooperation with ongoing forest financing initiatives should also promote the integration of forest genetic resources into national forest financing strategies and create awareness on the fundamental role of these resources in sustainable forest management.

#### IV. FINANCIAL RESOURCES RELEVANT TO THE FUNDING STRATEGY

7. The Funding Strategy covers all known and potential sources of financial resources, including:
- financial resources allocated at national level for the conservation, use and development of forest genetic resources, in accordance with each country's national capacities and financial situation;
  - the main multilateral financing mechanisms for forests, i.e. the Global Environment Facility (GEF)<sup>1</sup> and the Green Climate Fund (GCF),<sup>2</sup> providing co-funding for large and holistic country-led actions to enhance the implementation of sustainable forest management, including forest restoration, forest-based adaptation measures and REDD+<sup>3</sup> activities;
  - other multilateral, as well as bilateral and regional, support to countries, regional networks and international organizations for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
  - financial resources provided by foundations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other sources for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
  - extra-budgetary funds made available for FAO to provide technical and financial support to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at national, regional and international levels, and/or to the implementation of broader projects on sustainable forest management including components on forest genetic resources; and
  - FAO Regular Programme resources, including the Technical Cooperation Programme.
8. The control of these financial resources is scattered between, and often within, countries and other entities or mechanisms. In addition to controlling their own financial resources, countries eligible for GEF and GCF financing can decide on their priorities for using the funds allocated to them by the two multilateral financing mechanisms. In the case of the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme, countries can also define, through Country Programming Frameworks, their priorities for FAO action at country level.
9. Developed countries and other donors make decisions on the allocation of international development assistance or investments based on their own criteria and aims that may, or may not, reflect the priority areas of the Global Plan of Action. The same applies to the funding criteria or priorities used by foundations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and others. This situation makes it necessary to increase coordination within countries as well as among entities involved in multilateral, regional and bilateral financing, and to seek synergies while mobilizing financial resources from different sources for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. Furthermore, it is also crucial to continue creating awareness of the importance of forest genetic resources.

#### V. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FUNDING STRATEGY

10. Most of the relevant financial resources to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action are beyond FAO's control. Therefore, FAO can only play, in collaboration with its partners and subject to the availability of resources, a facilitating role in mobilizing financial resources for this purpose, building on its existing partnerships with the GEF and the GCF, as well its ongoing contributions to the international arrangement on forests. In parallel, FAO will explore ways to increase human and financial resources available for its work on forest genetic resources as these resources are currently very limited.
11. There is increasing evidence that multilateral financing mechanisms and other donors are recognizing the importance of managing forest genetic resources, and that they are willing to support this work as part of larger projects or programmes that support sustainable forest management,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thegef.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.greenclimate.fund>

<sup>3</sup> Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

including forest restoration, forest-based adaptation measures and REDD+ activities.<sup>4</sup> However, FAO's experience from supporting countries in the preparation of project proposals for GEF and GCF funding suggests that national agencies leading the preparations of GEF and GCF proposals are often poorly aware of the need for national-level action on forest genetic resources, and that they may have little collaboration with those national agencies and other stakeholders that are dealing with forest genetic resources. Concerning FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme, the findings of the 2016 evaluation of FAO's work on genetic resources indicate that countries give forest genetic resources lower priority in Country Programming Frameworks as compared to animal and plant genetic resources.

12. To address these problems, it is necessary for national agencies and other stakeholders dealing with forest genetic resources to identify strategic and specific actions on forest genetic resources, and prioritize them, so that they can be brought to the attention of those national agencies that are acting as GEF and GCF focal points, and interacting with other donors. The identified strategic actions on forest genetic resources should also be communicated to relevant ministries and FAO country offices for consideration in Country Programming Frameworks. If a country has already developed a national strategy for forest genetic resources, the strategic activities have readily been identified in this document.

13. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) shall oversee, based on the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (the Working Group), the implementation of the Funding Strategy. In this regard, several considerations should be kept in mind.

14. First, the Global Plan of Action is voluntary and non-binding by nature, and it should be implemented in line with existing national legislation and international agreements. Second, the sources of the financial resources from which funding for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action will be sought are not under the direct control of the Commission. Third, collective actions are needed by Members of the Commission and other actors to implement the Funding Strategy.

15. The Commission encourages its Members to identify strategic actions on forest genetic resources that are necessary to enhance the conservation, sustainable use and development of these resources in the country, and to communicate the identified actions to relevant national agencies leading resource mobilization with different donors and the development of large country-led projects to the implementation of sustainable forest management, including forest restoration, forest-based adaptation measures and REDD+ activities. Based on the identified strategic actions, Members of the Commission are then encouraged to formulate brief concept notes describing the identified strategic actions in detail, including proposed timeframes for necessary activities and financial resources needed to implement them. The identification of the proposed strategic actions should be supported by relevant information, such as the country progress reports on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and/or the country reports to *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. The Commission also encourages its Members to communicate the identified strategic actions on forest genetic resources to relevant ministries and FAO country offices for consideration in the formulation of Country Programming Frameworks.

16. The Commission encourages FAO to continue promoting the mainstreaming of forest genetic resources when supporting eligible countries in preparing project proposals to the GEF, the GCF and other multilateral or regional financing mechanisms. It further encourages FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds for its work on forest genetic resources and enhance its cooperation with the GFFFN to provide information on existing and emerging funding sources available for developing countries to enhance the management of their forest genetic resources. Furthermore, the Commission encourages FAO to continue strengthening its partnerships with international, regional and national agencies to facilitate the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

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<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.2, paragraph 11.

## **VI. MONITORING AND REVIEW**

17. The Commission shall monitor the implementation of the Funding Strategy based on different sources of information. These sources include FAO progress reports to the Commission, global assessment reports on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and reports released by the GEF and the GCF on their funding to forest-related actions, as well as information gathered by the GFFFN on the status and trends on global forest financing. The Commission also invites its Members to inform the Secretariat on country-led actions that are supported by various multilateral and regional financing mechanisms, as well as bilateral donors, to implement the Global Plan of Action.

18. The Commission is scheduled to review the Global Plan of Action at its Twentieth Regular Session in 2025. It shall then also review the Funding Strategy, as necessary.