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APFC SESSION THEME: FORESTS AND GREEN RECOVERY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Executive Summary

COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans offer immense opportunities for the forestry sector to contribute to a more inclusive, productive and greener economic recovery, and support a transition towards a healthier and more resilient Asia-Pacific region. This document identifies major impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the forestry sector. In general, forest enterprises and dependent communities have sustained significant adverse effects from lockdowns and disruptions to demand and supply chains. Where well-developed, community forestry has provided a safety net for rural communities, including those escaping growing unemployment in larger cities or abroad. Looking forward, the document also identifies entry points for forests and forestry to contribute to green recovery by restoring and creating jobs and increasing social protection in the short term and by supporting economic growth in the medium term. In the long run, the forest sector can help the global economy transition toward a more equitable, resilient, sustainable and carbon-neutral future. In Asia and the Pacific, regreening action, in particular through forest and landscape restoration, is likely to be a key pillar in forestry contributions to green recovery. Other important contributions include reducing deforestation and maintaining forest ecosystem services, building sustainable forestry value chains and creating business environments that encourage and enable better forestry practices and outcomes. These actions will require effective involvement of small-scale operators and local communities, supported through appropriate incentives, financing, technology, legal frameworks and governance arrangements.

Suggested action by the Commission:

The Commission may invite member countries to:

- Strengthen forest governance to contain the negative impacts of the pandemic and enhance contributions of the forest sector to the COVID-19 recovery phase.
- Consider provision of financial incentives to the forest sector to allow a shift from an emergency phase to a COVID-19 recovery phase.
- Create enabling conditions for the forest sector to access international assistance and financing in support of specific COVID-19 recovery measures.
- Promote the domestic production, sourcing and processing of legal and sustainable timber in support of a more circular economy and to improve or maintain access to increasingly demanding but also rewarding international markets.
- Collect and improve data on the number of jobs and the level of economic activity generated by the forest sector, to better inform the elements of the COVID-19 recovery response.
- Reflect on other priority actions enabling forestry to play a more prominent role in national COVID-19 recovery actions.

The Commission may wish to request FAO to:

- Support capacity building and provide technical assistance to underpin national efforts to enhance, redesign and implement policies and actions to upscale forest and landscape restoration (including agroforestry) and reduce deforestation and forest degradation, including in the context of green recovery actions.
- Support legal and sustainable forestry value chains with appropriate involvement of local communities, small-scale operators as well as women and youth, using innovative forest technologies and digital tools for improved transparency, monitoring and decision making.
- Strengthen the capacity of governments and relevant stakeholders as regards the sustainable management and use of forest biodiversity (including wildlife) and zoonotic disease prevention through the One Health approach.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the past several decades a range of critical threats have emerged to confront the world, including climate change, natural resource degradation and depletion, food insecurity, chemical pollution, accelerating species extinctions and, in recent times, a global pandemic. Global trends (including within the Asia-Pacific region) in such spheres as resource extraction, economic growth, demographics, emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, have started to test planetary boundaries and begun to pose potentially catastrophic risks to human development and well-being. In more recent times, a convergence of increasingly severe climate change impacts encompassing increasing temperatures, more frequent and severe climate-related disasters, dwindling ice-sheets and rising sea-levels, have intensified the clarion calls for action and generated a wide range of national, regional and global processes and initiatives designed to help address the challenges. To date, however, efforts have been insufficient to contain the deteriorating situation. The COVID-19 pandemic has further focused scrutiny on the challenges facing humankind and cast the spotlight on a need to use the economic recovery from the pandemic as an opportunity to ensure a global "green recovery", that also addresses a variety of social inequities and injustices, endemic poverty, and resource degradation.

2. Green recovery encompasses a package of environmental, economic and social reforms designed to promote economic recovery and facilitate change in a manner that is sustainable, equitable, resilient and climate-friendly. In the context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the reforms should aim to bring economies out of recession and recover prosperity, whilst also reducing greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to rehabilitation and restoration as well as enhanced sustainable use of renewable natural resources, building increased resilience into communities and infrastructure and helping to create more equitable societies. Broad green recovery approaches are expected to encompass three phased objectives: firstly, to create jobs and alleviate the most severe economic and social impacts in the short term; secondly, to support economic growth while encouraging more participatory approaches and enhanced environmental performance in the medium term; and thirdly, in the longer term, to help the economy transition toward more equitable, sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices that are underscored by low greenhouse gas emissions, significant progress in ecosystem restoration, enhanced community resilience and a declining incidence of poverty.

II. IMPACTS OF THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC INCLUDING ON FORESTS AND FORESTRY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

3. In 2020, according to World Bank data, global GDP declined by almost USD 3 trillion (3.3 percent) to USD 84.7 trillion from USD 87.6 trillion in 2019, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.[1] While the economic disorder caused by the pandemic has been similar in magnitude to that sustained during the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-2009, the social upheavals related to aspects such as illnesses, deaths, wide-ranging lockdowns, reverse migration, rural drift, misinformation, protests and associated social fractures have been far wider reaching and are likely to have much longer-term consequences. Typically, the most severe economic and livelihood impacts of the pandemic have fallen on the most vulnerable and least resilient groups in society. Economic stagnation, job losses, price increases (and

[1] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.CD

longer run inflationary consequences), disruptions to supply chains and curtailing of trade have affected many people, but disproportionately the poorest and most vulnerable.

4. As with many other industries and sectors, many forestry operations – including afforestation and reforestation, forest rehabilitation, silviculture, harvesting and wood processing –suffered, at least in the short run, significant adverse impacts from partial and full lockdowns and border closures experienced in many countries in Asia and the Pacific. Disruptions in the transport sector, including road and rail transport and international shipping, have impacted supply chains, increased production costs and were severely detrimental to trade in forest products, at least in the short term. These factors had negative flow-on impacts to forest sector employment in silviculture, harvesting and processing industries, while ecotourism and production of non-wood forest products (NWFPs), including the rural communities that depend on these, have also been impacted. The situation has been particularly challenging for many micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries, which make up the large majority of enterprises in the forest sector and account for over 50 percent of global forest-related employment.[2] It is notable, however, that trade in many forest products has rebounded quite strongly, though there remains considerable uncertainty and volatility in many markets.

5. Community forests have played a positive role in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural communities. Forests typically provide a subsistence safety net for rural communities in times of hardship, contributing (among others) to employment and food security, and as a source of fuelwood, building materials, fodder for livestock, and wood and non-wood products for sale or trade. A RECOFTC/FAO study[3] on contributions of community forestry to COVID-19 response and recovery in seven Asia-Pacific countries found: (i) evidence that when communities have robust land or forest tenure and user rights, both people and their forests fare better; and (ii) that the safety net aspect of community forest can be strengthened by ensuring the presence of various enabling factors including secure tenure, strong user rights, access to financing and markets, effective leadership and participatory decision-making.

7. Not all impacts of the pandemic have been negative, for forests or forest enterprises. In some countries, including some where deforestation and forest degradation continue to be problematic, pandemic lockdowns postponed human interventions, reduced human-wildlife interactions and conflicts and gave forests and wildlife a brief degree of respite from exploitation or harm, for example, through reduced roadkill. Conversely, shortfalls across supply chains combined with a growing demand for building materials for household renovation projects, have resulted in strong prices for many wood products and high returns to producers. In some instances, the pandemic has shortened supply chains and reduced carbon footprints by increasing the use of local or domestic production (rather than international trade in raw materials) and promoting more circular economies in which materials are re-used or re-purposed, rather than replaced.

8. In general, effects on forest protected areas, wildlife and conservation efforts have been mixed. In Bangladesh for example, a study[4] noted that a decline in tourism and reduced industrial activities also had positive impacts in terms of improved air and water quality and

[2] https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca8844en/

[3] https://www.recoftc.org/publications/0000391

[4] https://researcharchive.lincoln.ac.nz/handle/10182/14418

allowing wildlife greater scope to roam freely. On the other hand, illegal forest clearance and wildlife poaching accelerated, while ecotourism and Forest Department revenues were severely affected and animal rescue activities plummeted. Upsurges in illegal activities are also reported in a number of other countries. In Cambodia and Myanmar, for instance, 20 percent of respondents to a community survey reported an increase in illegal activities as a major concern.[5] In Nepal, the impacts of lockdowns in constraining forest monitoring and surveillance activities are reported to have encouraged increases in illegal logging and wildlife poaching.[6]

III. POTENTIAL FORESTRY SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO GREEN RECOVERY

9. A common government response to the economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has been to provide strong fiscal stimulus through increased government spending including through emergency social assistance and welfare payments, support to business enterprises and wage earners and large-scale expansion of infrastructure projects to promote employment. As well as promoting short-term economic recovery, such infrastructure investments – targeted wisely – can also promote increased human well-being, enhanced resilience and significant progress in ecosystem restoration in the longer-term. Economic recovery from the pandemic consequently also provides opportunity for significant investments in protecting and restoring both the natural and modified ecosystems that underpin economies, with forests providing particularly attractive options for investment due to their long run carbon sequestration potential. This would also help address future timber supply gaps, providing livelihood opportunities for poor rural communities, enhancing biodiversity and mitigating the impacts of some natural disasters. In this regard, the United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction advocates principles for “Building Back Better”, of strong relevance to green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic Forests have clear and present ability to help address the multiple crises of climate change, economic recession, poverty, and biodiversity loss.

10. Overall, there has been an extremely robust government response to economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2021, an OECD update on key findings from its green recovery database[7] noted that OECD countries and key partner economies have increased public spending on green recovery measures to USD 677 billion (up from USD 336 billion in April 2020). However, green recovery measures are still a small component of total COVID-19 spending, comprising only around 4 percent of the USD 17 trillion of spending allocated to COVID-19 rescue and recovery. More than 60 percent of green measures are sector-specific with energy and surface transport are by far the most targeted sectors. However, this suggests that opportunities are being missed across other sectors, such as forestry. Nonetheless, a number of positive examples specific to forestry have arisen in the Asia-Pacific region. A small set of examples, among others includes:

- A review by the World Economic Forum[8], highlights Pakistan’s efforts to implement a large-scale programme of afforestation as a noteworthy achievement.

[5] Op. cit. https://www.recoftc.org/publications/0000391

[6] https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Covid-19-SFM-impact-AsiaPacific.pdf

[7] https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/key-findings-from-the-update-of-the-oecd-green-recovery-database-55b8abba/

[8] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/04/countries-leading-post-pandemic-green-recovery/

- In 2020, India announced funding of USD 790 million to be approved under its Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority to generate employment through afforestation and forest restoration activities in urban, semi-urban and rural areas.

- In March 2020, the State Council of China issued Notices to ensure that planned afforestation and greening activities were continued in an orderly fashion despite the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic[9].

- In New Zealand, the Government's May 2020 Budget announced USD 750 million in conservation spending aimed at creating 11 000 jobs in the environmental sector,[10] while the country's Climate Change Commission is advocating to expand natural forest area by 300 000 hectares and plantation forest area by 380 000 hectares by 2035 as part of a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

11. Many potential forestry contributions to green recovery do not require invention of new techniques and processes, but rather a scaling up of existing activities and initiatives, within existing frameworks and processes. For example, forest management prescriptions under green recovery are unlikely to shift significantly from those already articulated for sustainable forest management, which already encompass principles for building resilience in forests and forest dependent communities. A key to successful implementation of green recovery programmes for forestry is to recognize the significant challenges – including the enormous influence of extra-sectoral factors, weak governance, the relative profitability of alternative land-uses, lack of clear tenure arrangements, limited financial and technical support, and inadequate political will – that have stood in the way of successful implementation of sustainable forest management in the past. In some instances, the policies and legislation that govern the forest sector – and its place within the wider landscape and economy – will need to be adjusted to ensure a more inclusive and sustainable sector that supports local value-addition, provides better and fairer access to markets and enables diversified income streams. Many of these issues were discussed during the FAO COVID-19 Forestry Webinar Week, held in June 2020, which focused on pandemic recovery contributions from the forest sector that could contribute to building back better. The upcoming 2022 edition of the "State of the World's Forests" will provide further details on solution pathways for managing, restoring and using forests and trees in ways that build more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable green economies in the context of a green recovery.[11]

12. The Third Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study (APFSOS III)[12] identified a set of "robust actions" to shape a sustainable future. These included several strongly relevant forestry contributions to green recovery in Asia and the Pacific:

(i) Put much more emphasis on maintaining and improving forest quality and restoring degraded landscapes.

(ii) Explore and invest in alternative economic development models that consider progress beyond growth.

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[9] https://app.www.gov.cn/govdata/gov/202003/23/456448/article.html

[10] https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2020-media-releases/investment-to-create-11000-environment-jobs-in-our-regions/

[11] APFC/2022/7, para 3-7.

[12] https://www.fao.org/3/ca4627en/ca4627en.pdf

(iii) Build the resilience of forests, landscapes and people in coping with climate change, shocks and uncertainties.

(iv) Commit sufficient resources and effort to make landscape approaches work.

APFSOS III also identified a range of other challenges confronting the Asia-Pacific region that might be addressed through green recovery measures including an increasing "timber supply gap" between wood production and consumption within the region, declining biodiversity and resilience in natural forests and long-run declines in forest areas in many Asia-Pacific countries. APFSOS III also identified a broad range of *Options for operationalizing the robust actions*, including specific recommendations for governments, private sector, civil-society, local communities and indigenous people's groups, research institutions and intergovernmental and development assistance agencies. Many of these are highly relevant to green recovery and reflect on the illustrative yet non-exhaustive list of themes identified below:

13. **Forest restoration:** A central pillar of forestry's potential green recovery responses is in the spheres of afforestation, forest rehabilitation and restoration. Activities within this sphere are already well-established within a variety of initiatives and processes. In the Asia-Pacific region, APFC has developed a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Forest Landscape Restoration, while an Asia-Pacific Rainforest Recovery Plan aimed "to restore 10 million hectares of degraded rainforest by 2020", and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) set a recently-achieved goal of increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million ha by 2020. Rebuilding the forest resource base and restoring forest ecosystems is likely to encompass relatively employment-intensive activities, whilst at the same time enabling increased productivity and resilience, and in the longer term proving a critical means for addressing major global challenges; from climate change and food insecurity to biodiversity loss and desertification. A variety of well-established techniques could be scaled up and accelerated as part of the green recovery to expand and restore forest resources, both in rural and urban areas, including through planting trees, assisted natural regeneration (ANR), agroforestry and urban forestry. In terms of short-run benefits, the forestry sector has a proven track record in employment-generation due to the combination of labor-intensive work and relatively low capital investment requirements. Some countries have already begun addressing COVID-related unemployment by pledging to create new jobs in afforestation, reforestation and agroforestry.[13]

14. **Reducing deforestation and addressing legality and sustainability issues:** A related strand of potential focus for forest-related green recovery efforts is to reduce deforestation, including through elimination of illegal or unsustainable logging and its associated trade. To directly address deforestation, a broad range of flagship initiatives and programmes have been identified by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the common goal formulated by the UN Secretary General of "Turning the Tide on Deforestation".[14] Halting deforestation and maintaining forest ecosystem services provide important benefits for climate, biodiversity and health while making food systems more sustainable.[15] Forest governance and the promotion of a more compliant and sustainable forest sector are a specific topic warranting acceleration within green recovery frameworks. The development of reliable assurance systems to demonstrate legality and sustainability of domestic timber sources, when used for products sold internationally, can add significant economic value whilst also creating

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[13] https://www.un.org/esa/forests/news/2020/06/policy-brief-on-forests-and-covid-19/index.html

[14] APFC/2022/7

[15] APFC/2022/4

new employment opportunities. Similarly, there are important opportunities to enhance forest-based employment through surveillance and monitoring measures to combat illegal logging ranging from low-technology forest patrolling in community forests to high-technology applications including remote sensing and drone surveillance.

15. **Community-based forestry:** To support and upscale community forestry activities, including by creating small-scale infrastructure and generating local employment in support of rural livelihoods, offers significant potential within green recovery frameworks. Similarly, promoting agroforestry and farm forestry can create durable assets and generate additional income and jobs. The community forestry approach has demonstrated its ability to strengthen the role of forests as safety nets, however, its full potential has yet to be realized. The COVID-19 recovery offers the opportunity to further strengthen national programmes by ensuring various enabling conditions are met. Key areas that would benefit from additional investment include expanding the size and improving the quality of community forests and ramping up capacity-development programmes for community forestry groups so that they can restore and improve the quality of the forest resources they manage, better participate in markets, including potentially harvesting and selling timber, where previously they may have been excluded, raise and manage more funds, recognize and address social disparities, help their communities endure the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic, and build resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

16. **Accelerating green value chains:** Forests provide an immense renewable resource that – if harnessed in a sustainable fashion – can make a substantial contribution to meeting future global demands for raw materials, while also providing an array of ecosystem services and circular approaches in support of green recovery. In the short-run, promoting the recovery of forest enterprises offers significant opportunity to restore livelihoods and employment and contribute to economic recovery. At the same time, attention should be given to "building back better", to ensure that in the future, forest enterprises operate in a greener, more inclusive and more sustainable fashion. A variety of entry points are available including: (i) significant potential to contribute to net-zero carbon economies through increased use of wood products and extending their product life-cycles within the building and construction sector; (ii) promotion of modern bioenergy sources such as wood pellets and biodiesels; (iii) utilizing new technologies to find new applications for wood use including in biochemicals, bioplastics and textiles; and (iv) promoting more efficient use of residues, minimizing waste and recycling products within circular economies. Governments may need to review policies and incentives in this regard to ensure these align with improved and greener environmental, social and economic goals.

17. **Biodiversity conservation, sustainable wildlife management and One Health**: As indicated by a FAO co-authored White Paper published in 2020 on "Building back better in a post-COVID-19 world by reducing future wildlife-borne disease spill-over to humans"[16], there is evidence suggesting that emerging wildlife-borne zoonotic infectious disease risk is more likely in forested tropical regions experiencing land-use changes (both permanent and temporary). Furthermore, biodiversity loss in disturbed, fragmented, or human-dominated landscapes results in proliferation of species more likely to be zoonotic disease hosts, increasing the risk of spillover into people. The FAO White Paper also makes concrete recommendations on how to prevent, detect and respond to wildlife-borne disease spill-over.[17]

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[16] https://www.fao.org/3/cb1503en/cb1503en.pdf

[17] https://www.fao.org/3/cb1490en/cb1490en.pdf

One of FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programmes therefore focuses on "Preventing the Next Zoonotic Pandemic" by *inter alia* mainstreaming a "One Health" approach in environment and natural resources sectors, including forestry.[3]

While the role of human and animal health sectors is clear and actively pursued for disease prevention and control, the potential contribution of the natural resource sectors, including forestry and wildlife, is poorly articulated for infectious disease risk reduction. In the Asia-Pacific, one ongoing effort to better engaging natural resources sectors, including forestry and wildlife, in the One Health approach refers to the establishment of the Field Training Program for Wildlife, Ecosystems, Biodiversity & Environment (FTP-WEBE) Professionals. Another relevant initiative is the *Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme*[18] (a global programme with field activities in Papua New Guinea), which has started to include One Health considerations in some of its operations that could be expanded to Asia-Pacific – as also supported by a regional FAO-led expert consultation on "health, wildlife and livelihoods" in 2021.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS

18. **Financing:** Many of the aforementioned activities involve a scaling up or acceleration of forestry programmes that have been advocated over many years. A focus on economic recovery from the pandemic offers new opportunities for forests and forestry to assume greater priority in national social and economic strategies and receive commensurate increases in budget allocations. Much depends on successful advocacy within government budgetary processes or broader international financing initiatives. For example, in some countries, afforestation and forest restoration could take greater prominence in NDCs on climate action. Other countries may wish to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use/management of forests in response to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Payments for forest ecosystem services have provided significant sources of revenue in Viet Nam and several other countries. In addition, some countries may benefit through seeking support from relevant multilateral funds, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). However, national green recovery initiatives could be much wider than just the sphere of government. A variety of vehicles for engaging with the private sector, civil society and other actors are available to supplement actions and investments by these entities. For example, judicious use of incentives – including tax breaks – can encourage desired activities, public-private partnerships provide a vehicle for joint action, procurement contracts can encourage the production of green products and services (including through eco-tourism), and a variety of de-risking instruments are available including blended finance and credit and political risk guarantees. In general, investments in sustainable forestry should be provided when most needed, demonstrate a large impact per dollar spent, and not crowd out private-sector investment. In other words, sustainable forestry investments need to be timely, cost-effective and strategic.

19. **Challenges and risks:** Countries in Asia and the Pacific should also take cognizance of several potential challenges likely to arise in relation to COVID-19 recovery initiatives. In terms of financing, many countries have incurred markedly higher levels of government debt in relation to implementing major economic stimulus packages of 2020-2021. The reverse side of this coin is that, at some point, debt will need to be repaid and this may lead to future austerity

[3] https://www.fao.org/3/cb0301en/cb0301en.pdf

[18] https://www.swm-programme.info/

programmes, which in turn will potentially make less funding available for green initiatives and/or official development aid. Countries should also exercise a degree of caution in terms of bundling a wide range of objectives into COVID-19 recovery packages. At a minimum, policymakers should ensure that short-term economic recovery plans do not accelerate deforestation and biodiversity loss, increase carbon emissions, leave humanity more vulnerable to climate impacts, or worsen the risk of wildlife-to-human disease transmission.

20. **Developing efficient, encouraging and enabling environments:** While increased government spending can provide initial impetus, longer term sustainable green recovery requires other economic actors also align their operations and activities with underlying green principles. An overarching responsibility for governments is to establish business environments that encourage efficient allocation and use of resources, whilst also encouraging and enabling entrepreneurship, within green parameters. Particular attention should be given to ensuring legal and sustainable extraction of forest products and sound forest governance. In fact, the appropriate definition and consequent enforcement of tenure and rights present a fundamental prerequisite to more sustainable forms of natural resource management, including locally-controlled forestry. Inclusive and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders is another critical element to ensure a “just transition” as part of COVID-19 recovery that pays appropriate attention to gender-equity and youth engagement as well as to effective recognition of the role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). Other aspects of enabling business environments might, in some countries, include encouraging development of shorter supply chains, more local and domestic sourcing of raw materials, and greater investment in domestic processing; including primary and remanufactured wood products and non-wood forest products. Such developments may be necessary to meet calls for “just-in-time” inventories to be replaced with “just-in-case” supplies. Income streams from forests might also be diversified to boost economic gains including complementary income streams through payments for ecosystem services schemes for carbon sequestration, watershed management, eco-tourism and so forth.

21. **Opportunities and synergies**: There is an urgent need to reverse negative trajectories associated with resource depletion, climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty, food insecurity, and others – of which many have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Solutions involving forests and trees exist, and there are opportunities to learn from and build on previous efforts to change the prevailing forest trajectories. This will require integrating and balancing environmental concerns with societal and economic needs, including for recovery. The good news is that promising forest-based solutions exist: (1) halting deforestation and maintaining forests; (2) restoring degraded lands and encouraging agroforestry; and (3) sustainably using forests (including wildlife management) and building green value chains. Putting the solutions in place will require robust political will, and in many cases, improved governance processes. As benefits of these solutions materialize, greater recognition and willingness should emerge to seize forestry contributions for sustainable economies and green recovery.