



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

**Twenty-seventh Session**

**Rome, 22–26 July 2024**

**Implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the  
Committee**

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

Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs  
Secretary

Committee on Forestry  
Tel. +39 06 57055762

[Malgorzata.BuszkoBriggs@fao.org](mailto:Malgorzata.BuszkoBriggs@fao.org)

Please copy: [COFO@fao.org](mailto:COFO@fao.org)

## I. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry

### Committee on Forestry decisions and recommendations

(all paragraph numbers and letters correspond to the Report of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry<sup>1</sup>; all item numbers correspond to the Provisional Agenda of the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry<sup>2</sup>)

#### Action points

#### Status of actions on COFO26 recommendations<sup>1</sup>

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 26TH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY<sup>1</sup>

#### Item 4 STATE OF THE WORLD'S FORESTS 2022: FOREST PATHWAYS FOR GREEN RECOVERY AND BUILDING INCLUSIVE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

#### 13. The Committee:

a) took note of the key findings of the 2022 edition of the State of the World's Forests (SOFO 2022) and its three interrelated pathways, and recognized the potential of forests to help mitigate the impacts of global challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

See points 13 b)–g).

b) invited FAO and Members to use and disseminate SOFO 2022 findings, as appropriate, to work collectively to halt forest loss and degradation, restore degraded lands and drylands and enhance the sustainable management and use of forest resources, taking into account national priorities and circumstances, and to promote the important role of forests and their social, economic and environmental benefits, including as a contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Global Forest Goals.

FAO's biennial flagship report SOFO<sup>3</sup> was launched in May 2022, with a press release in the six official United Nations languages, a video news release and a social media video. In 2023, the publication continued to be widely promoted in opinion editorials, press releases and other communication products where possible. The SOFO flagship web page<sup>4</sup> was viewed 8 014 times in 2022 and 7 129 times in 2023. The #SOFO2022 hashtag has been delivered 45 million times with a reach of over 24 million. Seventy news outlets have featured 87 news stories related to SOFO 2022, and there are over 22 citations in blogs, policy documents and other publications. The publication has been shared on Twitter (over 1 550 tweets), Wikipedia and Facebook by over 1 600 users for a total overall attention score (Altmetrics) of 1 795. Publication downloads in 2022

<sup>1</sup> COFO/2022/REP

<sup>2</sup> COFO/2022/1 Rev.1

<sup>3</sup> FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022 – Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies*. The State of the World's Forests (SOFO). Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9360en>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/home/fao-flagship-publications/the-state-of-the-worlds-forests>

	reached over 2 500. The SOFO 2022 video <sup>5</sup> drew more than 25 000 views across channels. A new animation video called “Geya and the three forest pathways” <sup>6</sup> was launched in English, French and Spanish.
c) highlighted the technical role of FAO to support scaling up sustainable agriculture practices to contribute to conservation and sustainable use and management of forests, minimizing environmental degradation, increasing productivity, and unlocking the potential of science and innovation, with particular attention to addressing main drivers of deforestation, <i>inter alia</i> as described in SOFO 2022.	<p>See update on Item 6 Agriculture and forestry linkages (below).</p> <p>In 2022, FAO and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) published an <i>Asia-Pacific roadmap on innovative technologies in the forest sector</i>.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>In 2023, FAO published the <i>Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study</i>.<sup>8</sup></p> <p>Technical and scientific innovation continues to be fundamental to forest-based climate action with many submissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) using FAO’s Open Foris (over 200 000 users from more than 180 countries) and platforms such as the System for Earth Data Access, Processing, and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL) (over 15 000 users), which are FAO open-source Digital Public Goods that help countries measure, monitor and report on forests and land use.</p> <p>In 2023, FAO carried out workshops for Asia and the Pacific<sup>9</sup> and Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>10</sup> on forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition. As a result of the workshop, priorities were defined for the sustainable use of forest plants, fungi and insects.</p> <p>A document on “Non-wood forest products for healthy diets, nutrition for all, and bioeconomies for sustainable food and agriculture” was presented at the 33rd Session of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC).<sup>11</sup></p> <p>FAO developed a guidance note aimed at improving standards and methods for capturing wild and forest foods in dietary intake surveys at scale. The note targets survey planners and managers collecting dietary data at the population level; health and development practitioners conducting monitoring and evaluation; and researchers and</p>

<sup>5</sup> FAO. 2022. State of the World’s Forests 2022: Green Recovery, Building Inclusive & Sustainable Green Economies [video]. [Cited 24 April 2024].

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWt5laGVf\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWt5laGVf_U)

<sup>6</sup> FAO. 2022. Geya and the three forest pathways [video]. [Cited 24 April 2024]. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V13IZEirr\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V13IZEirr_A)

<sup>7</sup> Roshetko, J.M., Pingault, N., Quang Tan, N., Meybeck, A., Matta, R. & Gitz, V. 2022. *Asia-Pacific roadmap for innovative technologies in the forest sector*. Bangkok, CIFOR.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0377en>

<sup>8</sup> Nair, C.T.S., Matta, R., Kumar, R., Lee, S. & Thomson, L. 2023. *Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study 2023*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6201en>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc7209en/cc7209en.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc7214en/cc7214en.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> FO: LACFC/2023/4

	<p>decision-makers interested in wild and forest foods, and nutrition-sensitive policies and programmes to improve nutrition and enhance the sustainability of food production and consumption.</p>
<p>d) invited Members to strengthen cooperation on science, research, technology and innovation to support conservation and sustainable use and management of forests and the production and use of forest products, including through the voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices, research and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and through increased global, regional, and interregional partnerships, including with micro-, small- and medium-scale producers.</p>	<p>See update on Item 9.5 Development of regional action plans for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022-25) (below).</p> <p>“Forest and Innovation” has been agreed upon as the theme for the 2024 International Day of Forests, as proposed by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).</p> <p>SOFO 2024 focuses on “Forest-sector innovations towards a more sustainable future” and will be launched at the 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 27). The publication provides highlights on the state of the world’s forests and explores the transformative power of innovations in the forest sector through 18 case studies. It identifies key enabling actions that can encourage and scale up responsible and inclusive innovation to optimize forest-based solutions to global challenges.</p> <p>FAO implemented capacity-building activities on early warning, prevention, control, monitoring and surveillance of forest invasive species, for forest health practitioners in over 80 countries around the world. This was conducted through a series of webinars and in-person workshops using FAO’s regional forest health and invasive species networks in Africa (7–9 November 2023),<sup>12</sup> Asia and the Pacific (23–27 October 2023), Europe and Central Asia (30 August 2023),<sup>13</sup> and the Near East (10–13 September 2023)<sup>14</sup> as platforms, with the aim of ensuring the vitality of forests and the rich biodiversity that they host.</p>
<p>e) invited FAO to continue supporting the provision of sufficient, reliable information and knowledge, the development of innovative tools, as well as mobilization of finance on the topics covered in SOFO 2022, for science- and evidence-based policy decisions and effective programmes for forestry and agrifood systems transformation and development at national, regional and</p>	<p>Transformative progress was made in developing quality forest data to accelerate countries’ efforts towards achieving the SDGs.<sup>15</sup> FAO views SEPAL<sup>16</sup> as an innovative key platform for achieving specific remote sensing-based analysis for monitoring forests and specific SDG targets and facilitating restoration planning and investment decisions.</p>

<sup>12</sup> FABI. 2023. Workshop increases awareness and promotes discussion of forest health in Africa. In: *FABI*. [Cited 24 April 2024]. <https://www.fabinet.up.ac.za/index.php/news-item?id=1524>

<sup>13</sup> REUFIS. 2023. Annual meeting of the Forest Invasive Species Network for Europe and Central Asia (REUFIS) on Digital solutions for better forest health monitoring in Europe and Central Asia. In: *REUFIS*. [Cited 24 April 2024]. <http://www.reufis.org/event/annual-meeting-of-the-forest-invasive-species-network-for-europe-and-central-asia-reufis-on-digital-solutions-for-better-forest-health-monitoring-in-europe-and-central-asia/>

<sup>14</sup> FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa. 2023. Twenty-sixth session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission. In: *FAO*. [Cited 24 April 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/neareast/events/details/Twenty-sixth-session-of-the-Near-East-Forestry-and-Range-Commission/en>

<sup>15</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>16</sup> [www.un-spider.org/links-and-resources/gis-rs-software/system-earth-observation-data-access-processing-and-analysis](http://www.un-spider.org/links-and-resources/gis-rs-software/system-earth-observation-data-access-processing-and-analysis)

global levels and contributing to poverty eradication efforts, in a coherent manner according to, and dependent on, national context and capacities.

In the coming years, SEPAL will further advance the generation of high-integrity forest and land-use data, enabling countries to attract public and private actors for forest-related actions towards the achievements of the SDGs. Building on SEPAL, FAO – together with partners – launched the Forest Data Partnership,<sup>17</sup> which aims to halt and reverse forest loss by collaboratively improving global monitoring of forests and supply-chain tracking, and accelerating restoration.

On Earth Day 2023, FAO and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland launched a new programme – Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests (AIM4Forests)<sup>18</sup> – a 5-year programme to leverage technical innovation for creating data and information to accelerate national-level forest pathways.

In January 2024, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved 3-year project “Building Global Capacity to Increase Transparency in the Forest Sector (CBIT-Forest): Accelerating Capacity Building, Knowledge Sharing and Awareness-Raising” (2024–2026).<sup>19</sup> Building on the successful 2020 Global Remote Sensing Survey (RSS),<sup>20</sup> FAO developed a special study on the extent and dynamics of mangroves and published *The world’s mangroves 2000–2020*<sup>21</sup> on the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem in July 2023. Based on this report, an interactive story “Unlocking the secret of mangroves: Mapping and tracking mangrove forests to safeguard these ecological treasures” was also published.<sup>22</sup>

Another RSS-based thematic study to quantify the share of agriculture-driven deforestation linked to small-scale and large-scale farming,<sup>23</sup> both for cropping and livestock production, was launched in May 2023 at the plenary of the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), in Rome.

An update on forest products statistics and innovation in data collection has been provided through the digital brochure *Sustainability by numbers – Forest products at FAO*.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>17</sup> [www.forestdatapartnership.org](http://www.forestdatapartnership.org)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/projects/aim4forests/en/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/en/>. Press release available here: <https://www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data/news-and-events/news/detail/Charting-a-transparent-path-for-global-forest-data-and-innovative-climate-action/en>

<sup>20</sup> FAO. 2022. *FRA 2020 Remote Sensing Survey*. FAO Forestry Paper, No. 186. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9970en>

<sup>21</sup> FAO. 2023. *The world’s mangroves 2000–2020*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7044en>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.fao.org/interactive/remote-sensing-mangroves/en/>

<sup>23</sup> Branthomme, A., Merle, C., Kindgard, A., Lourenço, A., Ng, W.-T., D’Annunzio, R. & Shapiro, A. 2023. *How much do large-scale and small-scale farming contribute to global deforestation? Results from a remote sensing pilot approach*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5723en>

<sup>24</sup> FAO. 2023. *Sustainability by Numbers – Forest products at FAO*. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7561en>

	Biannual updates on forest products statistics have been made available through FAOSTAT Forestry Production and Trade <sup>25</sup> through the upgraded Statistical Working System.
f) invited FAO to continue raising awareness about the socioeconomic role of forests, including on the role of forest-based value chains as an essential element in the development of a bioeconomy.	<p>FAO continues to increase awareness and provide information on the socioeconomic role of forests in the development of a bioeconomy. Several reports were published, notably on the role of wood residues in the transition to sustainable bioenergy,<sup>26</sup> the contribution of the forest sector to total employment in national economies and estimating the number of people employed in the forest sector,<sup>27</sup> and the number of forest- and tree-proximate people.<sup>28</sup></p> <p>In cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI), assessments are being carried out that focus on i) building a sustainable circular bioeconomy in Africa through forest products trends, opportunities and challenges; ii) emerging employment and decent work opportunities and challenges in the forest sector; and iii) forest product demand and supply perspectives in a bioeconomy transition in the context of climate change dynamics.</p> <p>Two social media videos, were launched and promoted on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Weibo.<sup>29</sup> They were viewed over 1.5 million times on Facebook alone.</p>
g) invited FAO to continue supporting Members' efforts, upon request, to promote that small-scale producers, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities take an active and leading role in scaling up action on the ground on the forest pathways.	Please refer to update on points 14 c) and g).
<p><b>Item 5 FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF WOOD AND NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS – MEETING DEMANDS AND SUPPORTING RESILIENT LOCAL ECONOMIES</b></p>	

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/FO>

<sup>26</sup> Thiffault, E., Gianvenuti, A., Zuzhang, X. & Walter, S. 2023. *The role of wood residues in the transition to sustainable bioenergy*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3826en>

<sup>27</sup> Lippe, R.S., Schweinle, J., Cui, S., Gurbuzer, Y., Katajamäki, W., Villarreal-Fuentes, M. & Walter, S. 2022. *Contribution of the forest sector to total employment in national economies - Estimating the number of people employed in the forest sector*. Rome and Geneva, FAO and ILO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2438en>

<sup>28</sup> Newton, P., Castle, S.E., Kinzer, A.T., Miller, D.C., Oldekop, J.A., Linhares-Juvenal, T., Pina, L., Madrid, M. & de Lamo Rodriguez, J. 2022. *The number of forest- and tree-proximate people – A new methodology and global estimates*. Forestry Working Paper No. 34. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2544en>

<sup>29</sup> FAO. 2022. Sustainable Wood: Climate-friendly cities [video]. [Cited 24 April 2024]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1xq3r9rfmQ> and FAO. 2022. Sustainable wood: Housing a growing population [video]. [Cited 24 April 2024]. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgAYBkVP-w>

<b>14. The Committee:</b>	
<p>a) took note of the recommendations of the XV World Forestry Congress, including the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood, to promote and scale up sustainable wood products as part of national strategies, support the promotion of multiple environmental objectives and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to include them, as appropriate, in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and strategies, plans, and projects of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (UN Decade).</p>	<p>FAO continues to promote the recommendations of the XV World Forestry Congress and its Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood<sup>30</sup> by raising awareness about the socioeconomic role of forests in the development of a bioeconomy and supporting countries in further developing forest-based value chains. The promotion and scaling-up of forest products were further discussed during the sessions of the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions<sup>31</sup> (RFCs) in 2023.</p> <p>FAO organized a global consultation on sustainable wood-use policies in February 2024 in collaboration with the CPF’s “Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World” (SW4SW) joint initiative, and supported national dialogues, such as the National Forest Policy Dialogue on “The future of the forestry and wood-based industries sector in Türkiye in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy” in September 2023.</p> <p>FAO is completing a report titled “Stocktaking of sustainable wood policies and approaches to encourage and assess the carbon emissions reduction potential of harvested wood products and their integration in nationally determined contributions” to be published in May 2024, in which special attention will be given to the Asia and the Pacific region.</p> <p>For more information, please also refer to document COFO/2024/4.</p>
<p>b) recommended FAO to support Members to promote the development and sustainable consumption and production of wood and non-wood forest products, contributing to improved livelihoods, including through building capacities of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>FAO launched a new project funded by the European Union (EU). A project brief called “Greening the humanitarian response in displacement settings” was published.<sup>32</sup></p> <p>FAO also launched an interregional project on “Strengthening Country Capacities to enable Forest-Based Contributions to Healthy and Sustainable Agrifood Systems” in support of a possible initiative on forest foods, as called upon by COFO 25.</p>
<p>c) encouraged FAO to continue to support Members to enhance their ability to monitor and demonstrate legal and sustainable wood production and value addition as an essential contribution to trade in legally harvested wood products and sustainable consumption of wood products.</p>	<p>FAO is supporting the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the EU and the Central African Republic, which includes support for the development of a Timber Legality Assurance System. As part of a GEF project in Solomon Islands, FAO is supporting the</p>

<sup>30</sup> FAO. 2022. *Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood*. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0247en/cc0247en.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> [FAO Regional Forestry Commissions](#)

<sup>32</sup> FAO. 2023. *Project brief: Greening the humanitarian response in displacement settings – Ecosystem restoration and sustainable forest management for enhanced energy access and livelihood resilience*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5353en>



	<p>development of a roadmap for the improvement of legality certification and value addition along export-oriented wood value chains.</p> <p>Through the Sustainable Forest Trade in the Lower Mekong Region project of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme),<sup>33</sup> FAO is supporting the development and expansion of voluntary certification and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) permitting systems for wood products. FAO is mobilizing funds to resume and expand the support provided through the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme (2008–2022).</p> <p>In 2023, FAO developed a new EU-funded Forest Governance and Value Chain Programme (2023–2028) in support of forest governance and assurance and certification systems, as well as value chain development for forest sector investment.</p>
<p>d) acknowledged the need to accelerate sustainable use of non-wood forest products and their value chains, including better access to technology, markets and data, for improved food security, nutrition, health and livelihoods.</p>	<p>FAO carried out workshops for the Asia and the Pacific<sup>34</sup> and Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>35</sup> regions on forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition and defining priorities for the sustainable use of forest plants, fungi and insects. FAO continues to promote the sustainable upgrading of non-wood forest product (NWFP) value chains through multiple projects and programmes.<sup>36</sup></p>
<p>e) recommended FAO to promote awareness-raising, capacity building, research and innovation, and to facilitate access to markets and investments – including through global, regional and national policy dialogues, as appropriate – and technical exchanges, for an effective contribution of sustainable wood products and their value chains to mitigate climate change and support climate adaptation, substituting carbon-intensive products and increasing resilience to climate change, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests’ (CPF) joint initiative “Sustainable Wood for a</p>	<p>FAO, in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ITTTA), finalized a roadmap to improve the sustainability of wood value chains and regional trade in wood in the Congo Basin, developed in consultation with stakeholders in 2022, following up on the SW4SW Dialogue for African Francophone countries held in 2019.</p> <p>FAO organized a second SW4SW National Dialogue in Cameroon in December 2022,<sup>37</sup> resulting in the elaboration of a roadmap to strengthen the wood value chains geared to</p>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.un-redd.org/>

<sup>34</sup> FAO & Korea Forest Service. 2023. *Proceedings from the workshop: Forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition, 22–24 May 2023.*

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/4fa2d33c-08ff-480e-a13a-751e98880a71/content>

<sup>35</sup> FAO. 2023. *Proceedings from the workshop: Forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition, 10–15 May 2023.*

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/d2d1b39a-e13f-4ebc-916d-f186e0f391e1/content>

<sup>36</sup> This includes programmes such as national ones in Pakistan (TCP/PAK/3904/C2), Jordan (TCP/JOR/3901), the Sudan (GCP/SUD/083/GCF) and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (GCP/VEN/023/GFF); regional ones in Africa (AFR100- GCP/GLO/1208/GER, GCP/GLO/523/ITA-F, TCP/RAF/3902, TCP/RAF/3903); and global ones (TCP/INT/3509, UNREDD Technical Assistance for REDD+ Implementation UNJP/GLO/795/UNJ, Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme-GCP /GLO/980/GFF, Forest and Farm Facility).

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cameroun/actualites/detail-events/fr/c/1627737/>



Sustainable World” (SW4SW) and the inclusion of sustainable wood in FAO's Climate Change Action Plan.

domestic and regional markets, and the generation of recommendations for the Wood Promotion Centre (CPB – Centre de promotion du bois). A 2023–2027 action plan for the Wood Promotion Centre based on the roadmap was endorsed for resource mobilization by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife of Cameroon in February 2023.

FAO supported the organization of the National Forest Policy Dialogue on “The future of the forestry and wood-based industries sector in Türkiye in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy.” A mid-term and long-term strategy for sustainable management of wood supply and demand will be required to address possible bottlenecks in terms of wood material provision in the medium term.

FAO, in collaboration with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), is conducting a global stocktaking of sustainable wood policies and existing policy platforms on wood policies and wood in the bioeconomy, as part of the Wood for Globe project, aligned with the SW4SW joint initiative of the CPF. This collaboration aims to support regional policy exchanges to advance sustainable wood use to achieve the SDGs and the climate objectives. As part of this collaboration, a global policy dialogue on sustainable wood-use policies took place in February 2024.

FAO, the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC), the National Directorate of Industrial Forestry Development of Argentina, and the National Poplar Commission of Argentina organized the symposium on “Sustainable forest value chains for more resilient, inclusive and carbon-neutral economies in the face of environmental challenges”<sup>38</sup> at the VIII Latin American Forestry Congress in March 2023, in Mendoza, Argentina. The symposium presented the situation of production forests and their wood value chains in Latin America and how, in the face of the new challenges that arise, the existing mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge between countries are advancing, showing these experiences and the lessons learned.

FAO co-organized, with the Brazilian Forest Service, the IUFRO, CIFOR and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), the SW4SW Regional Dialogue for Latin America and the Caribbean from 15 to 17 October 2023 in Curitiba, Brazil. The SW4SW Regional Dialogue gathered regional stakeholders from governments, the private sector, civil society and academia to discuss regional priorities for enhancing sustainability in the timber sector and promoting the contribution of sustainable wood products to the bioeconomy and the overall economy.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.fao.org/argentina/noticias/detail-events/es/c/1635732/>

	<p>FAO, together with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO), organized a SW4SW Regional Dialogue in October 2023, discussed the challenges and opportunities in promoting sustainable wood production and use, and identified priority actions at regional level, linking this with the relevant outcomes of the 30th session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), the SW4SW initiative and the EU-funded Forest Governance and Value Chains Programme.</p> <p>FAO has conducted extensive awareness-raising on the role of forest products in the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy with a wide variety of stakeholders in various fora, such as Woodrise, the International Tropical Timber Council and the European Commission.</p> <p>At the 30th APFC “Dialogue Day”, FAO hosted a side event entitled “Wood Products: Building blocks for a sustainable bioeconomy in Asia and the Pacific”. The event outlined possibilities for achieving climate change mitigation through sustainable production and use of wood products.</p> <p>Following up on a FAO presentation to the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) Governance Working Group in Douala, Cameroun, in July 2023, the working group agreed to pursue discussions with FAO regarding FAO’s support to the Working Group on Sustainable Wood Value Chains, and the two organizations have agreed on technical collaboration.</p> <p>In February 2023, FAO published and launched the e-learning course “Developing bankable business plans for sustainable forest-based enterprises”<sup>39</sup> in French and English. Over 1 500 people registered for a technical webinar on the topic. As of September 2023, over 700 people have accessed the English version of the course.</p>
<p>f) recommended FAO to continue supporting Members with technical expertise to strengthen policies, inclusive financial mechanisms, transparency, legal and institutional arrangements, where possible, to enhance sustainability and increase the productivity of wood and non-wood forest products’ value chains from natural and planted forests for both domestic and international markets, as a contribution to a sustainable bioeconomy.</p>	<p>FAO, working in collaboration with the IPC, the TreeDivNet<sup>40</sup> network and IUFRO published an <i>Unasylva</i> issue<sup>41</sup> focused on planted forests and their contributions to achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>FAO co-organized with the Institut Européen de la Forêt Cultivée (IEFC), the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), IUFRO, TreeDivNet, the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry of Kenya, the International Congress on Planted Forests 2023 (ICPF 2023) – a global knowledge</p>

<sup>39</sup> <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=988>

<sup>40</sup> <https://treedivnet.ugent.be/index.html>

<sup>41</sup> FAO. 2023. Towards more resilient and diverse planted forests. *Unasylva* No. 254 – Vol. 74 2023/1. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8584en>

	<p>exchange forum that took place from 7 to 10 November 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya and gathered 130 participants from 35 countries.</p> <p>FAO co-organized with the Yale School of the Environment and The Forest Dialogue a 15-week open webinar series on “Smallholder planted forests and trees for climate, restored landscapes and livelihoods.”</p>
<p>g) recommended FAO to support Members to enhance and facilitate access of family farmers, producer organizations and small and medium enterprises to markets, industries, innovation and finance for sustainable wood and non-wood forest products value chains, including through existing programmes such as the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF).</p>	<p>FAO, through the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), has continued to directly finance forest and farm producer organizations. In 2022, the FFF scaled up its impact and supported 564 forest and farm producer organization enterprises based on sustainable resources to improve returns for their members.</p> <p>The Mountain Partnership continues to promote local economies through a certification and labelling scheme for ethical, fair and organic mountain products (Mountain Partnership Products Initiative);<sup>42</sup> a grant programme for innovative entrepreneurship in collaboration with the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme (Business Incubator and Accelerator for Mountains and Islands);<sup>43</sup> linking cultural heritage with ethical, contemporary fashion (Fashion for Fragile Ecosystems);<sup>44</sup> and a voluntary alliance for vulnerable communities in mountains and islands (Coalition of Fragile Ecosystems).<sup>45</sup></p>
<p>h) invited FAO to consider collecting, assessing, and disseminating good practices of sustainable production and trade of charcoal and other forms of wood energy, with a view to supporting Members’ efforts and dialogue towards the transition to sustainable uses of wood fuels and meeting the SDG targets of sustainable energy for all by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.</p>	<p>A policy brief was launched jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), entitled <i>Issue Brief - Forests, Energy and Livelihoods</i>.<sup>46</sup></p> <p>An assessment of the conduciveness of national policies and strategies for interventions in the charcoal sector of 31 African countries,<sup>47</sup> as well as a study on the role of wood residues in the transition to a bioeconomy<sup>48</sup> were published. A comprehensive review of the regulatory framework of the charcoal value chains across districts at subnational</p>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/regionalcooperation/climate-change-and-mountain-forests/mountain-partnership-products-initiative/en/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/resource-mobilization/business-incubator-accelerator/en/>

<sup>44</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/regionalcooperation/climate-change-and-mountain-forests/fashion-fragile-ecosystems/en/>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/regionalcooperation/climate-change-and-mountain-forests/coalition-of-fragile-ecosystems-cofe/en/>

<sup>46</sup> UN. 2023. *Issue Brief – Forests, Energy, and Livelihoods*. <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ISSUE-BRIEF-Forests-Energy-Livelihoods-March2023-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Mwampamba, T.H., Herzog, S., Pelletier, J., Kachaka, E.Y., Agyei, F., Aniston, A., Chinder, G., Mabele, M.B., Muvatsi, L.K. & Ramilanajorohavirelo, M. 2022. *Are policies in Africa conducive to sustainability interventions in the charcoal sector? A preliminary assessment of 31 countries*. Forestry Working Paper No. 36. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3413en>

<sup>48</sup> Thiffault, E., Gianvenuti, A., Zuzhang, X. & Walter, S. 2023. *The role of wood residues in the transition to sustainable bioenergy – Analysis of good practices and recommendations for the deployment of wood residues for energy*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3826en>

	<p>level was completed in Uganda (June 2023), with recommendations to the government and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Information and good practices on the sustainable production and trade of charcoal and other forms of wood energy in Africa have been collected and put online for dissemination through the “The Wood Energy Catalogue”<sup>49</sup>, a portal for knowledge and information sharing on wood energy issues.</p> <p>FAO published a guide for forest landscape management in the Bidibidi refugee settlement in Uganda,<sup>50</sup> in close collaboration with national and local government agencies and international partners. By September 2023, the plan has guided the restoration of 100 hectares (ha) of degraded forests in the Bidibidi refugee settlement.</p> <p>FAO mobilized EUR 1.2 million in funding from the EU Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) to support the project “Greening the Humanitarian Response in Displacement Settings: Sustainable Forest Management and Ecosystem Restoration for Enhanced Energy Access and Livelihood Resilience.”<sup>51</sup> This project is currently under implementation in Djibouti, Somalia, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.</p> <p>FAO updated the assessment methodology and developed an online tool to collect data and conduct analysis on the environmental impact in displacement settings in support of the project “Greening the Humanitarian Response.”</p>
<p>i) encouraged FAO to support Members to accelerate South–South and Triangular Cooperation, including through voluntary sharing of knowledge and practices, research, and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms with a view to promoting the development and use of sustainable wood and non-wood forest products, addressing the challenges faced by developing countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), on this issue.</p>	<p>FAO has continued to support best practice documentation and knowledge sharing. As part of this, two initiatives were launched to improve the way South–South knowledge management is approached.</p> <p>The Making Every Voice Count for Adaptive Management (MEV-CAM) initiative<sup>52</sup> was launched in 2020 to spark a discussion on beneficiaries’ ownership of change and the way in which valuable knowledge is shared and upscaled through different Southern regions in the world. The MEV-CAM initiative is endorsed by the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems as one of the main activities geared towards scaling up South–South collaboration opportunities that enable countries to meet land restoration commitments and create more resilient agrifood systems.</p>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.fao.org/wood-energy/about/en/>

<sup>50</sup> FAO. 2023. *Forest Landscape Management Plan for the Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Yumbe District, Uganda: 2023–2028*. Kampala. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6197en>

<sup>51</sup> FAO. 2023. *Project brief: Greening the humanitarian response in displacement settings – Ecosystem restoration and sustainable forest management for enhanced energy access and livelihood resilience*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5353en>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/making-every-voice-count/en/>

	<p>The second initiative, the WeCaN Nurturing Community of Knowledge Practice for Women in Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems<sup>53</sup> provides a South–South mutual learning space for women leaders to share experiences, good practices and policies, through knowledge exchange, partnership building, and capacity-development opportunities.</p> <p>The WeCaN initiative is also endorsed by the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems<sup>54</sup> as a critical activity to support gender responsiveness at the policy level in their agreed workplan 2022–2024.</p> <p>FAO has continued to support countries in overcoming climate change challenges by (1) linking countries to relevant knowledge hubs, (2) developing core themes that allow the application of tailored and demand-driven technical support, and (3) providing a platform for South–South exchange for scaling evidence-based good practices. The global GEF 7-funded Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (DSL-IP) continues to work on how participating countries in the targeted regions (Africa and Central Asia) can be supported by following a programmatic approach centred on overcoming common management challenges.</p> <p>FAO has facilitated discussions through the Global Peatlands Initiative, its Members’ South–South exchange on sustainable livelihoods in peatland landscapes aiming to advance improved peatland conservation, restoration and other management.</p>
<p>j) invited FAO to engage with Members and public and private sectors, on sustainable development in its three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) and to foster science and innovation.</p>	<p>See update on point 26 c).</p>
<p>k) recommended FAO to continue supporting, as appropriate, increased cooperation and coordination between international policies and activities related to wood and non-wood forest products, especially through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to maximize synergies and co-benefits.</p>	<p>FAO organized a global workshop on sustainable wood-use policies in February 2024 in collaboration with the SW4SW joint CPF initiative. Furthermore, FAO supported the organization of sessions and events at the RFCs in 2023 to identify pathways for increasing regional cooperation and coordination to promote the sustainable use of wood and NWFPs.</p>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc1910en>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/working-group/en/>

<p>l) encouraged Members to promote, as appropriate, in line with national contexts and priorities, the analysis of ecosystem services trade-offs, especially those directly impacting women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, when making decisions about increasing or continuing the sustainable production of forest products.</p>	<p>In 2023, FAO published the SOFO 2022 background study on the role of forest ecosystem services to support the green recovery.<sup>55</sup></p>
<p><b>Item 6 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY LINKAGES</b></p>	
<p><b>17. The Committee:</b></p>	
<p>a) acknowledged the multiple linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors, and underscored the need to achieve better synergies between them through intersectoral approaches, for more sustainable agrifood systems.</p>	<p>For more information, please also refer to document COFO/2024/3.</p> <p>FAO carried out workshops for the Asia and the Pacific, and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions on forest food systems and their contribution to food security and nutrition. As a result of the workshops, priorities were defined for the sustainable use of forest plants, fungi and insects.</p> <p>FAO held an event at the 33rd Session of the LACFC focusing on the cornerstones for the transition to a sustainable bioeconomy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event identified opportunities to strengthen linkages between agriculture and forestry in the context of a transition to a sustainable bioeconomy.<sup>56</sup></p> <p>FAO launched a project that aims at “Strengthening Country Capacities to Enable Forest-Based Contributions to Healthy and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Five Countries (Cameroon, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines and Viet Nam).</p>

<sup>55</sup> Brander, L.M., de Groot, R., Schägner, J.P., Guisado-Goñi, V., van ‘t Hoff, V. & Solomonides, S. 2023. *The role of forest ecosystem services to support the green recovery – Evidence from the Ecosystem Services Valuation Database*. Forestry Working Paper, No. 38. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7151en>

<sup>56</sup> [https://www.fao.org/americas/events/event-detail/33rd-session-of-the-latin-american-and-caribbean-forestry-commission-\(lacfc\)/en](https://www.fao.org/americas/events/event-detail/33rd-session-of-the-latin-american-and-caribbean-forestry-commission-(lacfc)/en)

	<p>In 2024, FAO published the <i>Information Brief: The wildlife–livelihoods–health nexus: challenges and priorities in Asia and the Pacific</i>.<sup>57</sup></p> <p>FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) launched a new global project aimed at addressing the critical issue of deforestation while also highlighting the transformative role that agriculture supply chains can play as a solution. The “Building Global Capacity on Halting Deforestation and Conversions from Agricultural Commodities” (BiG-CHANCE) project sets out to harmonize the agricultural and forestry sectors to achieve climate, biodiversity, land degradation neutrality and sustainable development targets.</p>
<p>b) requested FAO to continue actively identifying the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry and scaling up its related activities in the relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of its Strategic Framework.</p>	<p>Forest-related issues are being integrated in PPAs such as “Better Nutrition 1: Healthy diets for all” (BN1), “Better Nutrition 2: Nutrition for the most vulnerable” (BN2), “Better Life 3: Achieving sustainable urban food systems” (BL3), and “Better Environment 2: Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture” (BE2), as outlined in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.<sup>58</sup></p>
<p>c) recommended FAO to continue collecting and analysing necessary science- and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies, including on the direct and underlying drivers of deforestation and land degradation, by further enhancing consistency between agricultural and forest datasets, and compiling case studies and good practices which should be reported at COFO 27, and requested the COFO Secretariat to share this information with the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Secretariats.</p>	<p>In the framework of the BiG-CHANCE project and UN-REDD Programme, FAO recently started to develop an interactive repository, structured as a “solution-tree” illustrating the systemic dimension of the actions needed to foster positive linkages between agriculture and forestry. Through this platform, users will easily find examples of solutions, measures and tools for halting deforestation and boosting sustainable food systems.</p> <p>Based on the dataset of the Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) RSS, FAO developed a technical paper on large-scale and small-scale farming contributions to global deforestation,<sup>59</sup> aiming to build evidence-based knowledge on agriculture and forestry interdependencies for better decision-making.</p> <p>FAO has collaborated with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) since November 2023 to develop an evidence-based report on the importance of forests for agricultural productivity with a focus on non-carbon climate benefits and forest–water interactions to be published in 2025.</p>

<sup>57</sup> FAO. 2024b. *Information brief: The wildlife–livelihoods–health nexus: challenges and priorities in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9861en>

<sup>58</sup> FAO. 2021e. *FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/29404c26-c71d-4982-a899-77bdb2937eef/content>

<sup>59</sup> Branthomme, A., Merle, C., Kindgard, A., Lourenço, A., Ng, W.-T., D’Annunzio, R. & Shapiro, A. 2023. *How much do large-scale and small-scale farming contribute to global deforestation? Results from a remote sensing pilot approach*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5723en>



<p>d) invited FAO to support Members, upon request, to further identify opportunities and implement actions to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and strengthen coordinated policy responses towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recommending that these initiatives do not create unnecessary barriers to trade and benefit the situation for small-scale producers who are key for global food production.</p>	<p>FAO mobilized additional funds from Japan and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) amounting to USD 4.5 million to strengthen the capacities of seven countries to curb deforestation and related greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Through the UN-REDD Programme, FAO is providing support on new tools to integrate elements of reduced deforestation in agricultural supply chains, addressing the agriculture–forest nexus. This includes technical assistance for adapting existing geospatial information on forests and land use to new market requirements related to deforestation. Notably, the <i>OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains</i> (developed with the support of Germany) has been published and is being tested in Colombia with the coffee sector.<sup>60</sup></p>
<p>e) invited FAO to conduct, subject to available extrabudgetary resources, a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, including agroecological principles and practices and other innovative approaches, to update the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) categories covering production systems integrating trees and forests, and to report on progress to COFO 27, and requested the COFO Secretariat to share this information with the COAG and COFI Secretariats.</p>	<p>Resource mobilization for the FRA special study on agroforestry was completed and the work has started. The study is foreseen to be published in 2025.</p> <p>For more updates, please refer to document COFO/2024/3.</p>
<p>f) recommended FAO to lead discussions with Members, as well as with relevant international organizations as appropriate, to define “forest degradation” within the FRA process.</p>	<p>Updates on existing national forest degradation definitions, degradation monitoring systems and their results were collected as part of the FRA 2025 data collection. These data will serve as a basis for further work on an operational forest degradation definition, which will be initiated in 2024.</p>
<p>g) encouraged FAO to continue playing an active role in relevant international and regional fora by promoting open dialogue on enhancing and promoting sustainable agrifood systems and further working with other international partners, including all relevant stakeholders and particularly members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to upscale synergies between agriculture and forestry.</p>	<p>FAO continued to play an active role at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF),<sup>61</sup> the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the UNFCCC, and the SDG Summit (held in New York in September 2023), in promoting sustainable agrifood systems through the CPF.<sup>62</sup></p>

<sup>60</sup> OECD & FAO. 2023. *OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains*. Paris, OECD Publishing.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc6595en>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/index.html>

<sup>62</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023>

<p>h) invited FAO to report regularly on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture and forestry sectors.</p>	<p>FAO is launching a comprehensive modular umbrella programme on mainstreaming biodiversity with forestry as an entry point. This evolving programme takes into consideration the main recommendations of the recent FAO and CIFOR global review of biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry.<sup>63</sup></p> <p>The programme comprises a substantive contribution to the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its Action Plans, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other global frameworks such as the Global Forest Goals and the SDGs. The programme will address protection, restoration and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and is designed to provide an overarching framework for FAO's work under which global, regional and national initiatives and projects (ongoing and future), supported by a variety of resource partners, can be accommodated.</p> <p>During 2022–2023, FAO developed a Regional Plan for Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors in the Pacific.</p>
<p>i) on drivers of deforestation and land degradation, requested FAO to put greater emphasis on ways to decouple growth in agricultural production from forest and other biodiversity loss, keeping in mind the necessity of poverty eradication and fighting hunger, and the needs of developing countries in terms of financial assistance and capacity building.</p>	<p>FAO published a paper on halting deforestation from agricultural value chains and the role of governments<sup>64</sup> and a business handbook on deforestation and due diligence in agricultural supply chains.<sup>65</sup></p> <p>FAO is collaborating with the Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT) to carry out an assessment to identify key forest or agriculture commodity supply chains and landscapes in the Lower Mekong countries that are expected to have the most significant forest impacts and potentials over the next decade.</p> <p>FAO is one of the implementing agencies of the Sustainable Cocoa Initiative supported by the European Union in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana, aiming to achieve sustainably produced cocoa, meaning that producers receive a fair price, there is no child labour and no negative impacts on forests. The FAO-led GCF PROMIRE project in Côte d'Ivoire also supports agroforestry models for cocoa production and no encroachment on forests.</p>

<sup>63</sup> Harrison, R.D., Shono, K., Gitz, V., Meybeck, A., Hofer, T. & Wertz-Kanounnikoff, S. 2022. *Mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry*. FAO Forestry Paper, No. 188. Rome, FAO and Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2229en>

<sup>64</sup> DeValue, K., Takahashi, N., Woolnough, T, Merle, C., Fortuna S., and Agostini, A. 2022. *Halting deforestation from agricultural value chains: the role of governments*. Rome, FAO. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2262en>

<sup>65</sup> OECD & FAO. 2023. *OECD-FAO Business Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains*. Paris, OECD Publishing. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc6595en>

<p>j) invited Members to promote greater and inclusive policy coherence between the agriculture and forestry sectors, including through integrated land-use planning, landscape approaches and secured access to land, as well as support to small-scale producers, family farmers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Please refer to point 26 c).</p>
<p><b>Item 7 FOREST SOLUTIONS FOR COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE</b></p>	
<p><b>18. The Committee:</b></p>	
<p>a) welcomed FAO's work on forests and climate change in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031.</p>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/6.2. Refer to points 18 b) – d).</p>
<p>b) recommended FAO to continue its support for strengthening the role of forest ecosystems in global climate policy, and support Members, upon their request, in developing their capacities for forest-related climate action, facilitating access to climate finance, and scaling up action on the ground, and report back to the Committee on this work, as appropriate.</p>	<p>FAO continued its support for forest-related climate action, including through engagement in over 30 events at the 2022 UNFCCC COP 27 in Sharm-El-Sheik, continued national capacity-development activities through flagship initiatives, such as UN-REDD and the Global Peatlands Initiative, and development and implementation of several GCF proposals to scale up action on the ground.</p> <p>FAO Forestry played an active role in UNFCCC COP 28 in Dubai,<sup>66</sup> United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023, particularly through support for the COP 28 Presidency thematic program on Nature, Land Use and Ocean and a series of high-level events.</p> <p>Points 18 c) and 18 d) below highlight support to Members.</p>
<p>c) invited FAO to assist Members in optimizing the mitigation, adaptation and resilience potential of forests by halting forest loss and degradation, restoring degraded lands and drylands, and implementing sustainable forest management, taking into account national contexts, priorities and capacities.</p>	<p>FAO continued its work on forest-based mitigation largely through its REDD+ programme, including through policy support, strengthening measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems, and helping countries to access climate finance,</p>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/fao-at-cop-28/en>

including USD 3.7 million of newly approved funds for strengthening REDD+ capacities in West African countries.

Through its REDD+ projects and initiatives, FAO has continued to boost the decoupling of agriculture supply chains from deforestation, managing trade-offs between livestock and forest production, especially through the REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) projects in Latin America (Argentina, Chile and Colombia).

The engagement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women in forest-based solutions to climate change was also strengthened through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Social Forestry initiative in Southeast Asia (under the UN-REDD Programme), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) initiative in West Africa, and country-level support in Côte d'Ivoire, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. Many of these initiatives included support to local forest livelihoods and enterprises through the development of forest value chains, aiming to add value to standing forests.

Through the Global Peatlands Initiative, FAO supported peatland restoration monitoring in Indonesia to support emissions reductions and fire and flood risk reduction. In the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, FAO supported the inclusion of peatlands in national land-use planning, and climate plans and strategies, including through peatland definition and assessment efforts.

FAO published a report on peatlands and climate planning<sup>67</sup> at UNFCCC COP 27 and an analysis on wetlands in climate commitments,<sup>68</sup> assessing ways in which peatlands and other wetlands, both forested and non-forested, have been included in climate commitments.

FAO cooperates with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on a project on global approaches to securing carbon, water and biodiversity in peatlands, with focus on the Congo Basin, in the context of a larger German IKI-funded project.

In the Sahel, FAO's Action Against Desertification programme continued its support to the implementation of the African Union's Great Green Wall through large-scale restoration interventions on the ground, using mechanized ploughs in Nigeria, Senegal and the Sudan, where over 3 000 ha have been planted for restoration during the last

<sup>67</sup> FAO. 2022. *Peatlands and climate planning – Part 1: Peatlands and climate commitments*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2895en>

<sup>68</sup> Schiettecatte, L.-S., Crumpler, K., Beltrán, E.R., Joosten, H., Elshehawi, S., Machado, D.G., Dionisio, D. & Bernoux, M. 2022. *Wetlands in climate commitments*. Rome, FAO & Greifswald Mire Centre. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/fa9fd57b-5bb4-4caa-908a-c0f832113baf/content>

	<p>2 years. A new funding agreement with the EU for USD 4.5 million was signed in this regard to enhance knowledge for action in implementing Africa's Great Green Wall.</p> <p>Through the Mountain Partnership Secretariat, FAO in its role as the lead United Nations agency on mountains is contributing to the organization of the upcoming dialogue on mountains and climate change at the UNFCCC SBSTA 60, as mandated by the global stocktake,<sup>69</sup> and is supporting the Nairobi Work Programme with its priority thematic area on mountains, high-latitude areas and the cryosphere for 2024.<sup>70</sup> The 174th Session of the FAO Council<sup>71</sup> recognized and reaffirmed the leading role of FAO as the main agency for sustainable mountain development within the UN system, and called for the development of the Global Action Plan on Mountain Regions Development 2023-2027, to support the Five Years of Action as declared by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution (A/RES/77/172).<sup>72</sup></p> <p>FAO will publish a guide for enhancing national forest biosecurity in 2025, which will support the preparedness, prevention and control of invasive species as one of the key causes of forest degradation.</p> <p>FAO will publish an updated <i>Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry</i> in 2024.</p>
<p>d) recommended FAO to assist Members in implementing integrated risk management approaches and forest-related adaptation measures, including through relevant regional networks, as well as accessibility to supporting information.</p>	<p>FAO initiated the implementation of the Assuring the Future of Forests with Integrated Risk Management (AFFIRM) mechanism project – with a new funding agreement signed between the Korea Forest Service and FAO in December 2023 (USD 3.7 million). AFFIRM is being piloted in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam and feeds into the Global Fire Management Hub (see Item 7.2 point 22 b) below).</p> <p>FAO published a technical report on transformational adaptation through forests and trees<sup>73</sup> at UNFCCC COP 27 to raise awareness of the importance of forests and trees for adaptation and guide our work with countries. In 2023, FAO held a series of global and</p>

<sup>69</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/global-stocktake>

<sup>70</sup> UN Climate Change. 2023. Understanding and Closing Adaptation Knowledge Gaps in Mountains and High-Latitude Areas. In: *United Nations Climate Change*, 11 December 2023 [Cited 30 April 2024]. <https://unfccc.int/news/understanding-and-closing-adaptation-knowledge-gaps-in-mountains-and-high-latitude-areas>

<sup>71</sup> [CL 174/REP](#)

<sup>72</sup> <https://undocs.org/A/RES/77/172>

<sup>73</sup> Libert-Amico, A., Duchelle, A.E., Cobb, A., Peccoud, V. & Djoudi, H. 2022. *Forest-based adaptation: transformational adaptation through forests and trees*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2886en>

regional workshops to further engage key stakeholders on this important topic (see point 19 c) below).

As requested by Indonesia, FAO has supported the development, implementation and capacity development of tools and approaches for peatland restoration monitoring to allow Indonesia to manage the risks and hazards related to drained peatlands.

FAO works with CIFOR on the climate adaptation and mitigation benefits of mangroves.

As requested by Uganda in October 2023, FAO started the implementation of a pilot for country adaptation monitoring for forestry. A proof of concept will be developed for a few pilot countries with the support of UN-REDD funds.

FAO has supported the development of innovative approaches to assess the forest–water–climate nexus, for example in Zambia with support from UN-REDD. In addition, FAO has supported capacity development on the same topic with workshops in Colombia and Zambia and with a webinar series, in 2023, co-hosted with IUFRO. Advocacy to support the inclusion of forest-based adaptation measures that take into account water considerations was done through events at UNFCCC COPs.

As requested by its Members during the 33rd Session of the LACFC,<sup>74</sup> FAO has launched the Forest Health and Invasive Species Network for Latin America and the Caribbean to combat the threats posed by forest pests and outbreaks in the region.

FAO implemented capacity-building activities on early warning, prevention, control and eradication, and monitoring and surveillance of forest invasive species for forest health practitioners in over 80 countries around the world through a series of webinars and in-person workshops using FAO's regional forest health and invasive species networks in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Near East as platforms, to ensure the vitality of forests and the rich biodiversity that they host.

FAO will publish guidelines for enhancing national forest biosecurity in 2025 which will support the preparedness, prevention and control of invasive species as one of the key causes of forest degradation.

FAO will publish an updated *Guide to implementation of phytosanitary standards in forestry* in 2024.

<sup>74</sup> [FO:LACFC/2023/8](#)

**Item 7.1 ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2022–2031**

**19. The Committee:**

a) commended the development of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 through an inclusive and consultative process, and further commended its endorsement by the 170th Session of the Council.

Please refer to document COFO/2024/6.2.

b) acknowledged that the Action Plan will be a living document to implement the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 and will be complemented by a results framework and monitoring and reporting, aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The FAO Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change was published in July 2023. It provides modalities to measure progress towards reaching the vision, impact and expected outcomes of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031. It integrates modalities for monitoring and reporting every 2 years in line with FAO reporting procedures, the Strategic Framework and its PPAs as well as the SDGs. The first progress update was submitted to the respective Governing Bodies sessions as an annex to the Programme Implementation Report (PIR) 2022–23. The progress report provides a comprehensive analysis of the contribution of FAO’s workplan for 2022–2023 to the different areas of the Action Plan, as well as regional and sectoral highlights of the implementation progress. This report, together with the report for the biennium 2024–2025, will inform the mid-term review of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 and the update of the action plan for the remaining period of implementation (2026–2031).

c) highlighted that apart from their carbon sequestration role, forests provide multiple other benefits to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and for these benefits to be considered in the implementation of the Action Plan.

FAO supported the launch of the TreesAdapt partnership platform, led by CIFOR-ICRAF, at the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Climate 2022 event on the sidelines of the COP 27. Through collaboration between the Forestry Division (NFO), Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) and Regional Climate Officers, FAO held workshops with forestry stakeholders and adaptation focal points during the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB58) in Bonn in June 2023, the Near East Forestry and Range Commission in Jordan in September 2023, the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week in October 2023, and the Asia-Pacific Climate Week in Malaysia in November 2023.



	<p>FAO will continue to draw attention to the non-carbon climate benefits of forests, including agricultural productivity, through the report under development mentioned in point 17 c) above.</p> <p>Given the FAO biennial theme 2024–2025 focus on water resources management, FAO and IUFRO held a webinar series in 2023 to provide a forum for discussion on forest and water linkages, including one session focused on forest management under climate change. Additional actions are highlighted in point 18 d) above.</p> <p>FAO published an assessment of Climate change mitigation and harvested wood products: Lessons learned from three case studies in Asia and the Pacific.<sup>75</sup></p>
<p>d) recommended that the Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 clearly sets out FAO’s priorities for climate action in agrifood systems at a sectoral level, including for the crop, forest, fisheries and aquaculture, and livestock sectors, at local, national, regional and global levels, and takes into account synergies with work by other relevant UN agencies and international organizations.</p>	<p>The FAO Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 has been developed in an inclusive manner with FAO Divisions, FAO Decentralized Offices, as well as Members. The written comments have contributed and helped to set out FAO priorities for climate action to be taken in the various sectoral areas of agrifood systems and at the appropriate geographical level. The Action Plan also considers the collaboration and synergies between FAO, Rome-based Agencies and other United Nations entities in addressing climate-related issues linked to agrifood systems, natural resources, food security and nutrition.</p>
<p>e) recognized the importance of mobilizing additional resources to support the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 through its Action Plan, including for forest-related climate action, as well as promoting inclusive collaboration to adopt low-emission, good practices and innovative solutions, leaving no one behind.</p>	<p>The FAO Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 includes an action area focused on enhancing access to climate financing and partnerships. Keeping in mind that the global share of climate-related development finance for agrifood systems has been decreasing since 2000,<sup>76</sup> FAO remains committed to increasing the quantity and quality of climate finance, in particular through the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership.<sup>77</sup> The progress report on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031, presented to the relevant Governing Bodies in May and June 2024, as part of the PIR 2022-23 provides more detailed information about climate-related financial resources from vertical funds and bilateral donors at FAO level.</p>

<sup>75</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/10648ca9-bac4-4b7b-8ba5-231e739d8b36/content>

<sup>76</sup> Galbiati, G.M., Yoshida, M., Benni, N. & Bernoux, M. 2023. *Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9010en>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/action-areas/access-to-climate-finance/fast/en>

<p>f) called on FAO to continue to organize open, inclusive, transparent, and timely consultation processes, and to take into account the guidance provided by Members in refining and further developing the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Regular updates on the development of the FAO Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change have been provided to Members through the Governing Bodies, in particular the Technical Committees, as well as through written contributions on the final draft Action Plan. FAO thanks Members for their precious and valuable comments which have helped shape the final version.</p>
<p>g) called on FAO to provide regular updates to the Governing Bodies on the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 through its Action Plan.</p>	<p>FAO remains committed to regularly updating Members regarding the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and its Action Plan. Progress in the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan is presented to the Governing Bodies every two years in line with established corporate reporting procedures, as well as through the mid-term review of the Strategy.</p>
<p><b>Item 7.2 FORESTS FIRES AND THE GLOBAL FIRE PLATFORM</b></p>	
<p><b>20. The Committee:</b></p>	
<p>a) noted with concern the risks associated with the increase in frequency and intensity of damaging wildfires around the globe, which are driven, inter alia, by climate change and unsustainable land-use change.</p>	<p>Please refer to documents COFO/2024/6.4 and COFO/INF/8. Please refer to the points below.</p>
<p>b) welcomed the joint FAO and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) initiative to develop and implement the Global Fire Management Platform to reduce the negative impacts of wildfires on livelihoods, landscapes and the global climate, in consultation with, and building on, Members' expertise, existing processes and expert networks to avoid duplication and overlaps.</p>	<p>FAO and UNEP launched the Global Fire Management Hub during the eighth International Wildland Fire Conference held in Porto, Portugal in May 2023.<sup>78</sup> The Global Fire Management Hub aims to strengthen countries' capacities to implement integrated fire management<sup>79</sup>. Operationalization began with a series of technical workshops held at FAO with key partners in the lead-up to COFO 27. Please refer to COFO/INF/8.</p>
<p>c) appreciated the FAO's Fire Management Strategy and tools developed by FAO to strengthen forest fire management and recommended that FAO continue to support Members in their efforts to implement integrated fire management, as appropriate.</p>	<p>FAO continued to support Members in efforts to implement integrated fire management. Inputs related to this mode of management were included in the development of the Investment Framework for Haze-Free Sustainable Land Management in Southeast Asia, as well as in technical support to Angola, Argentina, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan,</p>

<sup>78</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/fao-and-unep-launch-new-hub-to-help-countries-prevent-wildfires/en>

<sup>79</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry-fao/firemanagement/101248/en/>

	Kosovo, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Montenegro, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Paraguay, Timor-Leste, and Trinidad and Tobago.
d) invited FAO to support coordinated efforts among Members in areas such as knowledge sharing, fire review and analysis, risk reduction, readiness, response and recovery, e.g. through fire management networks.	<p>FAO continued to support regional fire networks in Latin America and North America, among others, and played a leading role in the coordination of the International Wildland Fire Conference<sup>80</sup> held in Portugal in May 2023.</p> <p>In the context of FAO’s Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – <i>Silva Mediterranea</i>, the Working Group on Forest Fires has launched a publication with key recommendations on wildfire prevention in the Mediterranean as an update of the position paper on wildfire prevention published in 2011.<sup>81</sup></p> <p>The Government of India, through the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, hosted a Country-Led Initiative (CLI) in preparation for the 19th Session of the UNFF. FAO and IUFRO, in consultation with the UNFF Secretariat and the host country, prepared a concept note and presentation for a fire management session, which was held in Dehradun, India in October 2023 and agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. continue interactions and exchanges with the participants of the UNFF CLI, in particular on the Global Fire Management Hub to provide contact and additional information and updates on progress; and</li> <li>b. review the Landscape Fire Governance Framework in relation to the Fire Hub, FAO Fire Management Policy, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Fire Management and the 5Rs approach.</li> </ol>
<b>Item 8.1 DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAO BODIES OF INTEREST TO THE COMMITTEE</b>	
<b>21. The Committee:</b>	
a) acknowledged the decisions and recommendations of the FAO Bodies of Interest to the Committee on Forestry (COFO).	Please refer to document COFO/2024/6.6.

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.wildfire2023.pt/conference/welcome-message>

<sup>81</sup> Mauri, E., Hernández Paredes, E., Núñez Blanco, I. & García Feced, C. 2023. *Key Recommendations on Wildfire Prevention in the Mediterranean*. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/rs6>

<p>b) welcomed the strengthened coordination between the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and encouraged FAO to continue its intersectoral work.</p>	<p>The collaboration between the COFO and the COAG is in progress. A roadmap for intersessional collaboration was developed, adopted by the COFO Steering Committee and the COAG Bureau, and is being implemented. Please refer to document COFO/2024/7.1 and COFO/2024/3.</p>
<p><b>Item 8.2 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAO STRATEGY ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS AGRICULTURAL SECTORS AND ITS 2021–2023 ACTION PLAN</b></p>	
<p><b>22. The Committee:</b></p>	
<p>a) welcomed progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and its 2021-23 Action Plan, and encouraged FAO to continue to provide support to its Members in their efforts to mainstream biodiversity, in particular on forestry related actions.</p>	<p>Please refer to documents COFO/2024/6.3 and COFO/2024INF/7. See updates under point: 17 h)</p>
<p>b) reviewed and welcomed the development of the draft 2024-27 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, and invited FAO to ensure that the 2024-27 Action Plan takes a balanced approach to mainstreaming biodiversity that takes into account the needs and priorities of Members and requested to continue open, inclusive and transparent consultations with Members for the finalization of the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/INF/7.</p>
<p>c) recommended FAO to reflect on the importance of addressing deforestation, forest biodiversity loss and of scaling up the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in the implementation of the 2024-27 Action Plan.</p>	<p>The evolving umbrella programme on forest biodiversity mainstreaming is a direct contribution to the implementation of the 2024–27 Action Plan for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.</p> <p>FAO was awarded the co-leadership of the USD 48 million GEF-funded regional GEF 8 Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Programme, together with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and initially three partner countries (Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea and Thailand), which in June 2023 was endorsed by the GEF Council for full programme development. The programme builds on FAO’s work on primary forests and contributes to the implementation of several targets of the KMGBF, notably Target 3 (“Conserve 30 percent of land, waters and seas”), as well as Target 2 (“Restore 30 percent of all degraded ecosystems”), Target 10 (“Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in</p>

	<p>agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry”) and Target 14 (“Integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level”).</p> <p>In 2022, FAO and CIFOR published the Asia-Pacific roadmap for primary forest conservation.<sup>82</sup></p>
<p>d) recommended FAO to support sustainable land management approaches within the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and the draft 2024-27 Action Plan, acknowledging that sustainable forest management and sustainable intensification approaches can play a role at the landscape level to simultaneously support biodiversity outcomes and help meet global wood demand, alongside agroforestry and other multiple-use forest management approaches.</p>	<p>In addition to the evolving programme on forest biodiversity mainstreaming, FAO implemented a number of initiatives related to sustainable land management approaches and the role of forests and trees, such as guidelines for multiple-use forest management planning for small and medium forest enterprises;<sup>83</sup> an initiative for strengthening sustainable use and management of forest resources in agricultural–forest frontiers to halt deforestation and an analysis of the business cases for agroforestry. All these initiatives consider the balance between conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, including biodiversity. Technical support is provided to several countries.</p>
<p>e) recommended FAO to finalize the 2024-27 Action Plan taking into account other FAO Strategies, guidance provided by the Committee and further developments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources.</p>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/INF/7.</p>
<p><b>Item 8.3 GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT AND REMOTE SENSING SURVEY 2021–2022</b></p>	
<p><b>23. The Committee:</b></p>	
<p>a) welcomed the ongoing improvements of the FRA process, the recent FAO FRA Remote Sensing Survey, and the improved and intuitive online platform for reporting and disseminating forest resources data.</p>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/INF/6.</p> <p>Please refer to points 23 c) – j).</p>

<sup>82</sup> Laumonier, Y., Azzu, N., Azdan, G., Narulita, S., Khikmah, F., Meybeck, A., Pingault, N. & Gitz, V. 2022. *Asia-Pacific roadmap for primary forest conservation*. Rome, FAO and Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR, CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc0789en>

<sup>83</sup> van Hensbergen, H., Shono, K. & Cedergren, J. 2023. *A guide to multiple-use forest management planning for small and medium forest enterprises*. Forestry Working Paper, No. 39. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc6780en>

<p>b) welcomed progress made in the preparations for the FRA 2025, and a flexible approach to voluntary reporting on key indicators.</p>	<p>Please refer to points 23 c) – j).</p>
<p>c) recommended FAO to continue the development and harmonization of methods and definitions for forest data collection, including for primary forests, and recommended further efforts towards a definition of “forest degradation” during the FRA 2025 cycle. This includes using remote sensing and conducting related capacity development to help reduce the reporting burden, enhance information sharing and increase transparency of forest-related data and reporting.</p>	<p>Please refer to point 17 f)</p> <p>The recommendations collected in the FRA special study on primary forests have been implemented in FRA 2025 Guidelines and Specifications as well as in Terms and Definitions documents. The work on biome-specific guidance on reporting on primary forests has been completed for boreal primary forests and initiated for the other biomes. The new guidelines on reporting on primary forests will be published in 2024.</p> <p>Updates on existing national forest degradation definitions, degradation monitoring systems and their results were collected as part of the FRA 2025 data collection. These data will serve as a basis for further work on an operational forest degradation definition, which will be initiated in 2024.</p> <p>The FRA 2025 data collection, supported by regional capacity-development workshops, was initiated in March 2023. To support this reporting, FAO organized 12 in-person and two virtual regional workshops in 2023. These were attended by 299 National Correspondents and other collaborators from 157 countries from around the world.</p> <p>FAO has continued to work with the partners of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire to reduce the countries’ reporting burden. This included the integration of the pan-European questionnaire to the FRA data entry, review and dissemination platform and joint work with the Observatory of Central African Forests of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC).</p>
<p>d) stressed the need for Members to nominate or confirm FRA National Correspondents and their alternates for the compilation of the FRA 2025 country reports.</p>	<p>The FRA 2025 National Correspondent nomination process was completed, and FAO has received nominations for 194 countries and territories. This is the highest number of National Correspondent nominations since 2000 when they were introduced to the process.</p>
<p>e) invited FAO to further strengthen the network of remote sensing experts for sharing experiences and lessons learned during the FAO FRA Remote Sensing Survey for the monitoring of forest resources.</p>	<p>Pending for availability of additional financial resources.</p>

<p>f) invited FAO to develop, in collaboration with FAO Members, approaches towards reconciling regional results of FRA country reporting and the FAO FRA Remote Sensing Survey.</p>	<p>Pending for availability of additional financial resources.</p>
<p>g) invited FAO and its Members to continue the development and sharing of, upon Members' request, new analysis tools and inform the Members of the availability of new data sources.</p>	<p>New tools for accessing geospatial data and products, such as satellite images and land cover maps derived using remote sensing, have been developed and are being integrated into the online FRA reporting and dissemination platform.</p> <p>FAO Forestry continues to be a global leader on development of Digital Public Goods for forest monitoring and reporting under its Open Foris initiative (more than 200 000 users from 180 countries).</p> <p>FAO Forestry has launched the e-learning series: "Forest monitoring for climate action",<sup>84</sup> which aims to support forest monitoring technical and institutional capacities and enhance national forest monitoring systems. So far around 6 000 learners have embarked on the courses, and more than 1 000 digital badge certificates have been earned.</p> <p>FAO Forestry launched various publications on aspects of forest monitoring to halt deforestation and forest degradation: "Estimating emissions and removals from forest degradation. An overview of country experience,"<sup>85</sup> "Good practices in sample-based area estimation,"<sup>86</sup> "Technological innovation driving transparent forest monitoring and reporting for climate action,"<sup>87</sup> and a SOFO 2024 case study on "Forest monitoring by and for Indigenous Peoples and local communities" (to be published in July 2024).</p>
<p>h) highlighted the importance of field inventory data in quality control and validation of remote sensing derived results.</p>	<p>FAO continues to support its Members in mobilizing additional financial resources for the development of national forest monitoring systems, and provides technical guidance and backstopping for their implementation.</p> <p>FAO has published the e-learning series: "National forest inventory".<sup>88</sup></p>

<sup>84</sup> <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=1000>

<sup>85</sup> Neeff, T., Vollrath, A., Lindquist, E., García, J., Fox, J., Sandker, M. & Nakalema, T. 2023. *Estimating emissions and removals from forest degradation*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5803en>

<sup>86</sup> Jonckheere, I., Hamilton, R., Michel, J.M. & Donegan, E. 2024. *Good practices in sample-based area estimation*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9276en>

<sup>87</sup> Sandker, M., Lindquist, E., Poultouchidou, A., Gill, G., Santos-Acuña, L., Neeff, T. & Fox, J. 2024. *Technological innovation driving transparent forest monitoring and reporting for climate action*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0143en>

<sup>88</sup> <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=1019>



	<p>FAO continues to evolve in this work area and has recently established agreements with several institutions to calibrate and improve space-based lidar biomass models in the West African region. FAO helps countries to harness these new technologies by raising awareness of the ways in which national forest inventory data can contribute to improving global remote sensing products, and in turn benefit from those global products when data gaps arise.</p> <p>FAO has worked with the scientific community to explore the characteristics of national forest inventories for integration with global space-based forest biomass data.<sup>89</sup></p>
<p>i) recommended FAO to continue and strengthen collaboration with the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) partners, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and other partners, including United Nations entities, to reduce the reporting burden, enhance synergies and increase transparency of reporting processes and resulting data.</p>	<p>FAO, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (FOREST EUROPE) are collaborating on the joint pan-European data collection on forests and their sustainable management. This has included full integration of the pan-European questionnaire to the FRA data entry, review, and dissemination platform. In addition, FAO has been working jointly with the Observatory of Central African Forests of the COMIFAC to reduce overlaps in data collection and harmonize disseminated data. To enhance synergies and increase transparency, the FRA platform is used to share contact information of national UNFCCC and SDG focal points.</p> <p>FAO is working on a special FRA study with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other partners to improve global and regional estimates of employment in the forest sector.</p>
<p>j) Recommended FAO to continue, in coordination with CPF members, the promotion and dissemination of the Global Core Set of Forest-related indicators, and to improve their tier levels.</p>	<p>In March 2023, FAO hosted a joint global workshop with the UNFF on “Reporting on progress towards Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and Targets of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2030.”<sup>90</sup></p> <p>At the retreat of the CPF in June 2023, revitalization of the taskforce on the Global Core Set (GCS) of forest-related indicators to assess the possibility of reclassification of tier-3 indicators was discussed.</p>
<p><b>Item 8.4 FINANCE AND INVESTMENT IN FOREST PATHWAYS</b></p>	
<p><b>24. The Committee:</b></p>	

<sup>89</sup> Nesha, K., Herold, M., De Sy, V., de Bruin, S., Araza, A., Málaga, N., Gamarra, J.G.P. *et al.* 2022. Exploring characteristics of national forest inventories for integration with global space-based forest biomass data. *Science of The Total Environment*, 850: 157788. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2022.157788>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/mar-workshop-march-2023/index.html>

<p>a) acknowledged that increased finance and investment are urgently needed for forest-related actions to address climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and inequality, and that all sources of finance will need to be mobilized.</p>	<p>Please refer to points 24 c) – e).</p>
<p>b) recalling paragraphs 6 and 7 of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and relevant international obligations, encouraged Members to provide resources to support the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of forests and the development of sustainable forest value chains, particularly in developing countries, to enhance capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation.</p>	<p>Please refer to points 24 c) – e).</p>
<p>c) recommended FAO to support Members in their efforts to access finance opportunities for forest-related actions, including by building capacities to mobilize finance for forests and by integrating sustainable forest-related value chains into their climate and land restoration strategies, in complementarity and synergy with other initiatives and organizations, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its initiatives and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and its Clearing House.</p>	<p>Please refer to point 14 e).</p> <p>FAO, with CIFOR-ICRAF, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) organized a regional event “Unlocking finance for smallholder forest and farm producers: Lessons and practices for landscape restoration and sustainable production in Africa” in April 2023.<sup>91</sup> It was attended by over 200 in-person participants.</p> <p>FAO, with Gatsby Africa, the Swedish Embassy of Kenya, CIFOR-ICRAF, the KEFRI and the KFS, organized the event “Unlocking finance for sustainable and inclusive wood value chains” in November 2023 and promoted finance along the value chain, from markets for wood in construction through to processing and to production.<sup>92</sup></p> <p>FAO mobilized EUR 15 million from the EU Delegation in Uganda to improve the functioning of wood value chains and increase the availability and access to affordable finance.</p> <p>FAO mobilized EUR 40 million to advance restoration in Africa. The project includes the development and delivery of blended finance solutions.</p> <p>FAO mobilized a USD 3.7 million multicountry readiness project in West Africa to strengthen governance, institutional and technical capacity to implement policy approaches for REDD+ activities and access results-based finance in Benin, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone.</p>

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.fao.org/kenya/news/detail-events/en/c/1637280/>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/news-and-events/news-detail/en/c/1661552/>

	<p>FAO supported the CPF joint initiative on the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network with building capacities to mobilize finance for forests.</p> <p>FAO supported Members in their efforts to ensure predictable finance for REDD+ policy approaches and positive incentives under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement through global publications<sup>93</sup> and facilitation of knowledge exchange on evolving climate finance during the COP 27.</p> <p>FAO continued to provide technical assistance to support access to results-based finance for 14 countries across Asia and the Pacific (Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam), Africa (Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda), and Latin America and Caribbean (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia) from various sources such as the GCF RBP Programme and LEAF Coalition.</p>
<p>d) invited FAO to continue compiling empiric and scientific evidence and good practices and facilitate exchanges on innovative finance and investment models to halt and reverse forest loss and degradation, enhance restoration and increase the sustainable use of forests, taking into account the needs of local stakeholders, with a focus on long-term and risk-reducing financial tools to support all three forest pathways.</p>	<p>FAO continued to facilitate exchanges on strategic finance pathways for forest solutions among representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific, building on flagship initiatives, such as UN-REDD.</p> <p>On 28–29 November 2022, approximately 25 country representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific gathered in Rome and virtually with UN-REDD experts and guests for a REDD+ dialogue on strategic finance pathways for forest solutions.<sup>94</sup></p> <p>In 2023 more than 250 government officers from 30 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa regions participated in South–South exchanges to share experiences in the implementation of REDD+ strategies, identifying climate finance opportunities from public and private sources, as well as from different instruments (investment grants, results-based finance or carbon markets); and for advocating to raise ambition and accelerate implementation of the NDCs.<sup>95</sup></p>

<sup>93</sup> Sandker, M., Neeff, T., Todd, K., Poultouchidou, A., Córdor-Gólec, R., Felicani-Robles, F., Santos-Acuña, L. & Duchelle, A. 2022. *From reference levels to results: REDD+ reporting by countries*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2899en>; UN-REDD Programme. 2022. Adequate and predictable results-based climate finance for forests: where are we now? In: *UN-REDD Programme*. [Cited 1 May 2024]. <https://www.un-redd.org/post/adequate-and-predictable-results-based-climate-finance-forests-where-are-we-now>

<sup>94</sup> UN-REDD Programme. 2022. All roads lead to Rome: finding pathways through the complexity of REDD+ finance. In: *UNREDD Programme*. [Cited 1 May 2024]. <https://www.un-redd.org/post/all-roads-lead-rome-finding-pathways-through-complexity-redd-finance>

<sup>95</sup> UN-REDD Programme. 2023. UN-REDD learning lab on forest carbon markets held successfully. In: *UN-REDD Programme*. [Cited 1 May 2024]. <https://www.un-redd.org/post/un-redd-learning-lab-forest-carbon-markets-held-successfully>

<p>e) encouraged Members to promote coherence across public finance policies and mechanisms, to consider increasing financial support to enhance the contribution of forests and trees to sustainable agrifood systems, and to promote innovative financial mechanisms to assign value to the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests, such as payments for ecosystem services.</p>	<p>FAO developed a draft methodology to analyse and understand public investments in forests as a means of increasing the coherence of spending. A methodology working paper on an analysis of public expenditure on forest conservation, restoration and sustainable use was produced, with plans to refine and update it in 2024 after a pilot in Ghana and Uganda.</p> <p>FAO continued fostering collaboration between Forestry and Agricultural Divisions to propose a methodological approach to classifying the level of government expenditures that are directed at the three SOFO pathways, that is, (1) halting deforestation and maintaining forests; (2) restoring degraded lands and expanding agroforestry; and (3) sustainably using forests.</p>
<p><b>Item 8.5 RESTORATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030</b></p>	
<p><b>25. The Committee:</b></p>	
<p>a) welcomed FAO and UNEP co-leadership to promote the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 (UN Decade).</p>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/6.3.</p> <p>In January 2022, the UN Decade launched the first call for countries to nominate their World Restoration Flagships. The first ten approved flagships were announced on 13 December 2022 during the COP 15<sup>96</sup> to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Montreal, Canada.</p> <p>The Task Force on Monitoring is led by FAO and supports the development of the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM)<sup>97</sup> for transparent monitoring and reporting on progress in restoration throughout the duration of the UN Decade, by providing monitoring tools and geospatial information related to ecosystems (as of November 2023, the FERM included 150 restoration initiatives from 60 countries). Building on this, FAO is the custodian of the indicator for the restoration target (Target 2) of the KMGBF. FAO and the CBD jointly organized a workshop in November 2023</p>

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/meet-first-10-un-world-restoration-flagships>.

<sup>97</sup> [www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/ferm](http://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/ferm)

	<p>on “Developing a Roadmap for Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”. A roadmap for action to CBD COP 16 in 2024 was agreed.</p> <p>The Task Force on Best Practices, also led by FAO, is focused on shaping the knowledge component of the UN Decade,<sup>98</sup> including capacity-development efforts, development of standards of practices as well as capitalization, sharing and dissemination of good practices for restoration in all ecosystems. The framework for the collection of good restoration practices is operational since June 2023, and a search engine tool is now available to facilitate access to more than 1 400 good restoration practices on the FERM registry. The <i>Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration</i><sup>99</sup> were officially launched during the Society for Ecological Restoration conference held in Darwin in September 2023. A decision-making tool is currently in preparation to facilitate the use of the recommended standards of practice.</p>
<p>b) encouraged Members to support the activities of the UN Decade and enhance their ecosystem restoration efforts, in particular forest landscapes, and to share information and knowledge on successful restoration.</p>	<p>The Task Force on Best Practices is actively encouraging Members to enhance their ecosystem restoration efforts, and to register and share their initiatives and good practices through the FERM registry,<sup>100</sup> by promoting the framework for the collection of good practices at global and regional events such as annual meetings of the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), Initiative 20x20, Mediterranean Forest Weeks and at an upcoming RFC session to be held by the end of 2023.</p> <p>The flagships: Great Green Wall for Sahara and the Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), Central America Dry Corridor (CADC) and SIDS were officially launched during CBD COP 15, and they are now receiving financial support from the Multi-Partners Trust Fund (MPTF) to upscale and share knowledge on their respective successful restoration efforts on the ground. Seven new flagship initiatives, selected for receiving targeted support from the MPTF, were officially announced during the Sixth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in Nairobi in February 2024. A call for nomination of new World Restoration Flagships will be launched in 2024.</p>

<sup>98</sup> <https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/our-work/gl/tfbp/en/>

<sup>99</sup> Nelson, C.R., Hallett, J.G., Romero Montoya, A.E., Andrade, A., Besacier, C., Boerger, V., Bouazza, K. *et al.* 2024. *Standards of practice to guide ecosystem restoration*. Rome, FAO, Washington, DC, SER & Gland, Switzerland, IUCN CEM. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9106en>

<sup>99</sup> <https://ferm.fao.org/>

<sup>100</sup> <https://ferm.fao.org/>

c) recommended FAO to support Members with tools, methodologies and capacity development initiatives to strengthen their capacity to scale up forest ecosystem restoration efforts, to share good practices and monitor progress, and to facilitate access to finance in order to scale up forest ecosystem restoration efforts and ensure the sustainability of restored areas, taking into account national contexts and capacities while fostering synergies with the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019–2028.

FAO is also supporting existing efforts on forest and landscape restoration through its Trust Fund programme, the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism<sup>101</sup> (FLRM), which aims to provide technical assistance for country-level implementation. Through the FLRM programme, FAO is also:

- a. supporting national partners to mobilize additional financial resources from the GEF, the GCF and the Adaptation Fund for scaling up national and regional restoration initiatives; and
- b. developing and disseminating knowledge products and publications on ecosystem restoration and facilitating knowledge-sharing events through its community of practices, webinars and online courses developed in partnership with the FAO eLearning Academy.<sup>102</sup>

FAO and IUCN identified promising case studies on forest and landscape restoration in Asia and the Pacific.

FAO and the Spatial Informatics Group (SIG) conducted a regional restoration suitability assessment for Asia and the Pacific.

FAO and partners convened investment at national and regional level in support of upscaling finance for forest and landscape restoration (FLR) in Asia and the Pacific.

FAO and partners organized several side events at the 30th Session of the APFC related to restoration, including a Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Wood Supply and FLR.

FAO finalized the preparation of a new project (EUR 40 million), funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), to support the initiative AFR100.

## Item 8.6 DIALOGUE WITH STATUTORY BODIES IN FORESTRY

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-landscape-restoration-mechanism/en/>

<sup>102</sup> <https://elearning.fao.org/>

<b>26. The Committee:</b>	
<p>a) acknowledged the importance of the Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. stressed the need for them to have a more policy-relevant role in the FAO Regional Conferences, and invited FAO to support further integration of important regional forest-related matters;</li> <li>ii. invited FAO to continue to review and consult with Members on ways to further improve the RFCs as well-established mechanisms for technical and policy dialogue, including through consideration of the ongoing governance reviews, as appropriate;</li> <li>iii. invited FAO to support further strengthening of the cross-sectoral work of the RFCs, especially on forestry and agrifood systems.</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/6.5.</p> <p>The following RFCs<sup>103</sup> held their sessions in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 26–30 June 2023: Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC)</li> <li>b. 11–15 September 2023: Near East Forestry and Range Commission and COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems</li> <li>c. 25–29 September 2023: North American Forest Commission (NAFC)</li> <li>d. 2–6 October 2023: Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC)</li> <li>e. 30 October–3 November 2023: African Forestry and Wildlife Commission (AFWC)</li> <li>f. 22–25 November 2023: European Forestry Commission (EFC).</li> </ul>
<p>b) reviewed the work of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and invited <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> to further align the workplans of its working groups with global and regional agendas.</p>	<p>The working groups are currently reviewing their workplans and the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – <i>Silva Mediterranea</i><sup>104</sup> is actively preparing the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the eighth edition of the Mediterranean Forest Week to be held in Barcelona, Spain, on 4–8 November 2024;</li> <li>b. the third edition of the State of Mediterranean Forests, with a strong alignment with the global and regional agendas;</li> <li>c. a special issue of <i>Unasylva</i> on Mediterranean Forests to be published in July 2024, showcasing the main achievements of the Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions – <i>Silva Mediterranea</i> and its partners during the last 10 years; and</li> <li>d. the development of the activities related to the Mediterranean flagship initiative “Restoring Mediterranean Forests”.<sup>105</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>103</sup> [FAO RFCs](#)

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.fao.org/silva-mediterranea/en/>

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/restoring-mediterranean-forests>



<p>c) reviewed the activities of the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACFSI) and invited ACSFI to continue facilitating partnerships between FAO and the private sector to promote a forest-based bioeconomy and restoration of productive ecosystems.</p>	<p>The ACSFI continues to provide a forum for dialogue between FAO and the private sector to enhance the understanding of emerging opportunities, and to identify and stimulate strategic actions by FAO, the private sector and other stakeholders that promote sustainable forest management and sustainable consumption and production patterns related to forest products.</p> <p>The 64th Session of the ACSFI took place in May 2023 and participants discussed, among other things, the ACSFI strategic priorities on the bioeconomy and ecosystem restoration and the contribution of the private forest sector to climate change mitigation, including through substitution of fossil fuel-based products by wood.<sup>106</sup></p> <p>It co-hosted the round table on enhancing the forest sector’s engagement in ecosystem restoration<sup>107</sup> during COFO 26 and launched <i>Enhancing the engagement of forest-based industries in ecosystem restoration: A statement from the ACSFI</i>.<sup>108</sup></p> <p>It also supported an ACSFI member-led UNFCCC event at the COP 27 on “Keeping 1.5 °C alive through the growing contribution of climate-smart forest products to the bioeconomy.”<sup>109</sup></p> <p>In particular, the ACSFI has guided many of the outputs focused on the development of the forest-based bioeconomy as outlined in point 13 f).</p> <p>In 2023, ACSFI members participated in various FAO RFC meetings, provided expert guidance and inputs into several assessments related to the forest-based bioeconomy and promoted this concept at the UNFCCC COP 28.</p> <p>In April 2024, the ACSFI, in collaboration with the Forests Dialogue and Mulawarman University delivered a field dialogue entitled: “Engaging the private sector to support ecosystem conservation and restoration to increase biodiversity in Indonesian Borneo.”</p>
<p>d) reviewed the work of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC) and</p> <p>i. took note of the IPC Strategy 2022–2032, and encouraged its implementation; and</p>	<p>Pursuing its reform process, in early 2023, the IPC<sup>110</sup> endorsed a new structure of working parties. To reflect the expanded mandate of the IPC and take key steps in its implementation, FAO, through the IPC Secretariat, is supporting the IPC in the production of authoritative knowledge materials, including: (i) a publication on fast-</p>

<sup>106</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/5b58f3d8-00d5-44d7-9003-2576b77dc4dc/content>

<sup>107</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/statutory-bodies/advisory-committee-on-sustainable-forest-based-industries/news-detail-acfsi/enhancing-forest-sector-engagement-in-ecosystem-restoration/en>

<sup>108</sup> FAO. 2023. *Enhancing the engagement of forest-based industries in ecosystem restoration: A statement from the ACSFI*. Rome.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/42031b67-5cf4-4872-8410-ee56ad945088/content>

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/keeping-1.5-c-alive-through-the-growing-contribution-of-climate-smart-forest-products-to-the-bioeconomy/en>

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.fao.org/ipc/en/>

<p>ii. encouraged FAO Members to consider membership in the IPC in view of its new mandate.</p>	<p>growing trees and innovation in their sustainable management; (ii) a policy brief on fast-growing trees in agroforestry systems;<sup>111</sup> and (iii) the most recent issue of <i>Unasylva</i> focused on planted forests.<sup>112</sup></p> <p>In Latin America and the Caribbean, FAO, through the IPC Secretariat, (i) participated in the VIII Latin American Forestry Congress (CONFLAT)<sup>113</sup> and (ii) provided inputs to the LACF documents to encourage FAO Members in the region to consider membership in the IPC.</p>
<p>e) reviewed the work of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and:</p> <p>i. welcomed the progress made in the work of the Working Group;</p> <p>ii. encouraged the Working Group to support the preparations for the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists in 2026 by facilitating cross-regional expertise exchange on innovative, sustainable agrosilvopastoral systems.</p>	<p>A collaboration between the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock was initiated to support the implementation of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP 2026), with special attention to the role of livestock in restoring dryland forests and trees outside forests. This ongoing collaboration, already crystalized in <i>Grazing with trees – A silvopastoral approach to managing and restoring drylands</i><sup>114</sup> report on 2022, has now upscaled to a global initiative that is promoting new silvopastoral projects at different levels with technical support from the COFO working group.</p> <p>The COFO working group will be holding a series of Drylands Summer Schools<sup>115</sup> as a joint initiative designed to increase awareness of the importance of restoring trees and agrosilvopastoral systems in dryland and rangeland areas, advocate for the IYRP 2026, and create a group of sustainable dryland management champions ahead of 2026.</p> <p>The first Summer School was held in Amman, Jordan, on 12–15 September 2023 in parallel with the 3rd Session of the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, which was held in conjunction with the 26th Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC).</p> <p>The second Summer School, focusing on “monitoring for sustainability,” will be held in Kenya in 2024 in partnership with CIFOR, IUCN, WOCAT and the UNCCD’s G20 Global Land Initiative. The COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems is collaborating with Bioversity-CIAT Alliance to develop an assessment on mobilizing the potential of silvopastoral systems for decarbonization.</p>

<sup>111</sup> FAO. 2023. *How can fast-growing trees optimize agroforestry benefits? The role of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc8646en>

<sup>112</sup> FAO. 2023. *Towards more resilient and diverse planted forests*. Unasylva No. 254 – Vol. 74 2023/1. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8584en>

<sup>113</sup> <https://congresoforestal2023.org.ar/>

<sup>114</sup> Haddad, F.F., Herrera, P.M. & Besbes, B. 2022. *Grazing with trees – A silvopastoral approach to managing and restoring drylands*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2280en>

<sup>115</sup> <https://www.fao.org/dryland-forestry/working-group/cofo-wg-summer-school/en/>

	In collaboration with the Forest Rangelands and Watershed Organization (FRWO) of the Ministry of Jihad Agriculture, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the working group launched an e-learning course in March 2023 with the FAO e-learning Academy and various research institutes, universities, and international organizations.
<b>Item 9.1 FAO'S WORK IN FORESTRY UNDER THE FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2022-31</b>	
<b>27. The Committee:</b>	
a) noted with appreciation the accomplishments of FAO's work in forestry in the 2020–2021 biennium.	Please refer to document COFO/2024/5.2. The results and the achievements of FAO's work in forestry continue to be disseminated.
b) 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 United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) Global Forest Goals (GFGs).	FAO has been implementing its work programme according to the agreed priorities.
c) 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.	NFO commenced a process to develop a new framework document titled the FAO Forestry Roadmap – From Vision to Action 2024–2031.. Please refer to document COFO/2024/5.1.
d) requested FAO to continue supporting sustainable forest management actions at country level within key thematic strategies approved by Governing Bodies and FAO corporate initiatives, such as the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and the One Country One Priority Product Initiative, as appropriate and aligned with FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.	In progress at country level, upon requests and through the major NFO-led initiatives such as the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme, the FFF and UN-REDD.

<p>e) invited FAO to continue to provide support to the high-level segments convened during regular UNFF sessions, as per the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution E/RES/2015/33.</p>	<p>FAO provided substantive input to the 18th Session of UNFF<sup>116</sup> held on 8–12 May 2023 and the 19th Session held on 6–10 May 2024 in New York<sup>117</sup>. On 9 May 2024, Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO participated in the opening of the High-Level segment of UNFF19.<sup>118</sup></p> <p>FAO as Chair of the CPF contributed to the High-Level Segment Dialogue with the Heads of the CPF<sup>119</sup>.</p>
<p>f) recommended FAO to provide regular updates on the implementation of FAO's activities in forestry within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, as appropriate, including in the Programme Implementation Reports.</p>	<p>Regular updates were provided at the COFO Steering Committee meetings (see dates included in Item 9.1 point 27 c). Updates were also provided at all the RFC sessions in 2023.</p>
<p>g) recalled the decision and recommendations of the 169th Session of the Council, and stressed the technical role of FAO in addressing the impact of all ongoing armed conflicts on the regional and global forest sector, including on the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.</p>	<p>Reporting was provided through the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU).<sup>120</sup></p>

## Item 9.2 OUTCOMES OF THE XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

### 28. The Committee:

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.fao.org/new-york/news/news-detail/fao-at-unff18--towards-a-nexus-approach-for-sustainable-forest-management/en>

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.fao.org/new-york/news/news-detail/future-of-global-forestry-to-be-discussed-in-new-york/en>

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/UNFF19-HLS-CN-Roundtable-Forest-based-solutions.pdf>

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/UNFF19-HLS-CN-Dialogue-CPF-Heads-partners-.pdf>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.fao.org/europe/en/>

<p>a) took note of the outcomes of the XV World Forestry Congress and expressed its deep appreciation to the Republic of Korea for the excellent hosting of the Congress.</p>	<p>Please refer to document COFO/2024/7.3 for information on the hosting of the XVI World Forestry Congress (WFC).</p> <p>Dissemination of the WFC results is ongoing.</p>
<p>b) invited FAO and Members to implement the Congress recommendations, as appropriate, taking into account national contexts and existing international obligations.</p>	<p>Following up on the Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood,<sup>121</sup> FAO is collaborating with IUFRO in the implementation of the Wood for Globe project, funded by Austria, to contribute to the creation of policy networks and platforms; build on knowledge exchanges and good practices; and disseminate and promote uptake of scientific evidence.</p>
<p>c) appreciated the Youth Call for Action made at the XV World Forestry Congress and invited Members to consider appropriate actions for supporting youth engagement in forestry at all levels.</p>	<p>The Youth Call for Action<sup>122</sup> has been taken forward in various fora, with calls to Members and other stakeholders to work with youth and take forward the recommendations. A high-level side event was organized at COFO; the Director-General published an open letter<sup>123</sup> for World Environment Day highlighting the call; the call to action was presented at the sessions of the six FAO RFCs; the 2023 International Day of Forests high-level event featured a panel dialogue with youth and the FAO Director-General discussing what is being done to take forward the call; and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat's IPROMO 2023 Summer School<sup>124</sup> built upon the call for action, inviting WFC Youth Coalition Members, including the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), and launching the Mountain Youth Hub,<sup>125</sup> an advocacy platform dedicated to empowering and mobilizing youth across mountainous regions worldwide within the framework of the Five Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions 2023–2027.<sup>126</sup></p>

### Item 9.3 MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY 2020-2023

<sup>121</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0247en/cc0247en.pdf>

<sup>122</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0249en/cc0249en.pdf>

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.fao.org/director-general/speeches/detail/en/c/1538165/>

<sup>124</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/capacitydevelopment/ipromo/course-2023/en/>

<sup>125</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/five-years-action/mountain-youth-hub/en/>

<sup>126</sup> <https://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/five-years-action/en/>

<b>29. The Committee:</b>	
a) welcomed the adjustment of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2020–2023 based on the request by the 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 25).	Please refer to document COFO/2024/7.1.
b) welcomed the progress in the implementation of the MYPOW 2020-2023 and the efforts of the Committee and FAO towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	Please refer to document COFO/2024/7.1.
c) recommended to align the planning cycle of the COFO MYPOW with that of the other Technical Committees starting in 2024 in order to facilitate cross-sectoral work among the Committees.	Please refer to document COFO/2024/7.1.
<b>Item 9.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATION STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS AND STRENGTHENING FAO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON FORESTS, INCLUDING THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS AND THE MID-TERM REVIEW IN 2024</b>	
<b>30. The Committee:</b>	
a) welcomed the progress and accomplishments of FAO's work in support of the Global Forest Goals, the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) and the CPF.	Please refer to document COFO/2024/7.2. Please refer to points 30 b)–d).
b) recommended FAO to strengthen its leadership role in the CPF, and facilitate active participation of CPF members in the mid-term review of the International Arrangement on Forests, in particular of the CPF.	FAO, as the permanent Chair of the CPF, continued to facilitate the mid-term review of the CPF within the international arrangements on forests, through the commissioning of an independent review study in collaboration with the UNFF, <sup>127</sup> which provided the basis for the discussions of the Organization-Led Initiative (OLI) on the mid-term review of the CPF <sup>128</sup> held on 22–23 February 2023, at FAO headquarters, Rome. OLI provided an opportunity for experts from members of the UNFF, CPF, regional and subregional partners, and major groups to provide input on the mid-term review of the CPF within the mandate of ECOSOC resolution 2022/17.

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MTR-Assessment-C-CPF-06022023.pdf>

<sup>128</sup> <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/meetings/roadmap/en>

	<p>The outcome of the OLI was a Co-chair’s Summary Report<sup>129</sup> of the discussions, which was presented to the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG) on the preparations for the mid-term review of the international arrangements on forests.</p> <p>FAO together with the UNFF Secretariat, organized a briefing of Member Nations at the margins of the UNFF 18 Session,<sup>130</sup> covering the CPF workplan and collecting feedback from UNFF members; and a CPF internal retreat (22–23 June 2023, Nairobi, Kenya) to provide consolidated views of the CPF on its future to the AHEG on the preparations for the mid-term review of the international arrangements on forests.</p> <p>FAO, as Chair of the CPF, convened the high-level “Forests for our Future” event on 18 September 2023 at the 2023 SDG Summit in New York, to address global forest challenges and plan accelerated actions to achieve the CPF joint vision for forests towards 2030. At the event, the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030 was launched,<sup>131</sup> setting out four focal areas to overcome the challenges still preventing the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of the world’s forests. Please also refer to point 27 e).</p>
<p>c) encouraged FAO to contribute expertise, statistical data and knowledge to the policy discussions of the UNFF.</p>	<p>In March 2023, UNFF and FAO organized a joint workshop on “Reporting on progress towards the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and Targets of the UNSPF 2030.”<sup>132</sup> The workshop focused on: i) identifying possible sources for data collection and methodologies for monitoring and reporting on GFGs and their targets, which were difficult to monitor and report on; ii) sharing the results of the pilot phase for the use of an amended reporting format; and iii) sharing knowledge and national experiences with regard to the access to and availability of forest data and proposals on the next steps.</p> <p>FAO, the UNFF Secretariat, UNDP and IUFRO convened a UNFF 18 event<sup>133</sup> on “Building on the nexus of forests, energy and livelihoods to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs”<sup>134</sup> and contributed to the preparation of an issue brief on the topic.<sup>135</sup></p> <p>FAO contributed to the UNFF country-led initiative hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India on 26–28 October</p>

<sup>129</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CPF-OLI-Co-Chairs-Summary.pdf>

<sup>130</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html>

<sup>131</sup> <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/news/joint-call-to-action-for-forests-towards-2030/en>

<sup>132</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/mar-workshop-march-2023/index.html>

<sup>133</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forestry/news/100606/en/>

<sup>134</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/unff18-bureau-event-forests-energy-livelihoods/index.html>

<sup>135</sup> FAO, IUFRO, UNDP & UNFF Secretariat. 2023. *Issue brief: Forests, energy, and livelihoods*. UNDP. <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/ISSUE-BRIEF-Forests-Energy-Livelihoods-March2023-FINAL.pdf>



	<p>2023, through support for the Thematic Area I on forest fires and wildfires, and as part of the Steering Committee.</p> <p>FAO is also represented in the Advisory Group on reporting to UNFF.</p>
d) invited FAO to continue supporting the participation of RFCs in regional dialogues related to UNFF, as appropriate and within FAO's mandate.	<p>FAO provided input to the UNFF Expert Group Meeting<sup>136</sup> on the UNFF's contribution to the 2030 Agenda, the involvement of regional and subregional partners, and the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders held on 11–13 January 2023, in Bangkok, Thailand. FAO provided input on the unique role of the RFCs, which they play as platforms for regional dialogues on forestry matters.</p>
<b>Item 9.5 DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR THE FAO SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STRATEGY (2022-25)</b>	
<b>31. The Committee:</b>	
a) commended the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–2025) through an inclusive and consultative process, and further commended its endorsement by the 170th Session of the FAO Council.	Please refer to point 31 c).
b) reviewed and welcomed the high-level framework that will be used for the development of regional action plans for the effective implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–2025), taking into account the outcomes and recommendations of the regional consultations and the FAO Regional Conferences in 2022.	Please refer to point 31 c).
c) encouraged FAO to continue to organize open, inclusive, transparent and timely consultation processes, to take into account the guidance provided by Members in refining and further developing the regional action plans, and to ensure the plans capture actions in the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–2025) at all levels – global, regional and country.	<p>The high-level framework for the development of regional action plans was used to develop a single action plan that serves as a common framework for action at the global, regional and country level. The final draft Action Plan was shared with Members in January 2023 for their written feedback, based on the request of the FAO Council at its 171st Session in December 2022. An update on the implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy was discussed at the 135th Session of the Programme Committee in March 2023. After considering Members' written feedback and guidance from the Programme Committee, <i>The Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of</i></p>

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Co-Chairs-Summary-Bangkok-EGM.pdf>

	<p><i>the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy</i><sup>137</sup> was finalized and released in September 2023. The first monitoring report of the Strategy is contained in an annex of the PIR 2022-23, considered by the relevant Governing Bodies in May and June 2024.</p> <p>Open Foris was developed in collaboration with over 70 countries and partners, as FAO's first open-source initiative launched in 2011. Open-sourced Digital Public Goods<sup>138</sup> are now mainstreamed across FAO. This system is currently being applied in FAO to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. explain code, find bugs, propose solutions;</li> <li>b. direct implementation inside the code; and</li> <li>c. forage and meta-analyse documents.</li> </ol> <p>FAO is also further exploring how to use artificial intelligence (AI) and large language models (LLMs) to actively forage document databases and provide intelligible and robust meta-analysis of policy documents. An example is using ChatGPT API to allow for a large database of image labelling and to provide better data for image interpretation. This allows FAO to find and provide links to policy and strategy documents.</p> <p>FAO Forestry together with the FAO Office of Innovation (OIN) and the Wageningen University &amp; Research (WUR) has finalized five info briefs on the innovative use of blockchain in forestry for different applications such as governance.</p>
d) encouraged FAO to ensure that the regional action plans align with and contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31.	Please refer to point 31 c).
e) invited FAO to continue to report progress on implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–2025) to the relevant Governing Bodies, in particular in relation to forests and the involvement of RFCs.	<p>Updates on The Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy were presented to the 134th and 135th Sessions of the Programme Committee.<sup>139</sup> As mentioned above, the final draft Action Plan was shared with Members for their written feedback based on the request of the FAO Council at its 171st Session in December 2022, and was finalized and released in September 2023.</p> <p>The first monitoring report for the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (2022–2023) will be presented and considered by the relevant Governing Bodies in May and June 2024, as an integral part of the PIR 2022–23.</p>

<sup>137</sup> FAO. 2023. *The Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7559en>

<sup>138</sup> <https://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals-helpdesk/champion/article-detail/digital-public-good-alliance/en>

<sup>139</sup> [PC 134/INF/4](#); [PC 134/INF/5](#)

f) called on FAO to include relevant forms of science and innovation in forestry in the preparation of the regional action plans.

Relevant forms of science and innovations in forestry were discussed at the sessions of the RFCs. Please refer also to document COFO/2024/2.