



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



FAO elearning  
ACADEMY



# Information note for the massive open online course on forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement

Third edition

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## Acknowledgements

This massive open online course (MOOC) is based on the e-learning self-paced course “Forests and transparency under the Paris Agreement” was designed and developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with the support of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The MOOC has been developed under the project “Building Global Capacity to Increase Transparency in the Forest sector (CBIT-Forest)”, funded by the Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) trust fund of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

## 1. Overview

The importance of forest conservation in the global efforts to fight climate change is recognized by Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, which explicitly endorses the key role forests play in limiting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and, ultimately, in achieving the long-term goal of reducing global temperature rise to well below two degrees Celsius.

Countries adhering to the Paris Agreement are required to report transparent and robust information on their emissions and on their implementation efforts, and in this context the quality of forest data is fundamental.

This online course is aimed at presenting how reliable and transparent forest information is interrelated with several aspects of the transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.

Participants start by reviewing the progressions achieved so far by international climate policy, what is coming up and what professionals and administrators interested in climate change and forestry policy and action will need to consider. At the end of the online course, participants learn that the principles and elements at the basis of a sustainable National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) are fundamental to meet the reporting requirements under the transparency framework established by the Paris Agreement.

## 2. Objectives of the course

This online course is useful for those – professionals and officers from public organizations working in the forest and land use and climate change sectors – wishing to understand the importance of forest-related data collection, analysis and dissemination in meeting the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) requirements under the Paris Agreement.

By the end of the online course, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the role and importance of forests in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- Identify the progressive changes in moving from the current measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.
- Better understand the foundation and concept of a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), its main principles and elements.
- Learn how open and transparent forest-related data can support countries' activities of reporting under the enhanced transparency framework.

### 3. Course structure

The online course will last officially three weeks from 20 September to 8 October 2021 (see [agenda](#) below). The average time commitment per week is around six hours. The final test and the possibility of retrieving the certificate, are available until 8 October. All content (apart from some supporting materials) is translated and available in English, French and Spanish.

The following modules compose the MOOC:

1. [Welcome Module](#): Introduction to the platform and users log in
2. [Module 1](#): The enhanced transparency framework and forests
3. [Module 2](#): The National Forest Monitoring System
4. [Module 3](#): Forest data for the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement
5. [Module 4](#): Interactive international webinars with simultaneous interpretation
6. [Closure Module](#): Video, certification, digital badge and survey.

Each module is activated on a [certain date](#) and will remain available until 8 October, which is the last day of the course (see [agenda](#) below). Therefore, the proposed materials and activities associated with each module are made available to allow participants to organize the daily schedule at their own convenience.

#### 3.1 Welcome Module: Introduction to the platform and users log in

The welcome module provides participants some general information about the course and its platform. This module includes:

- an introductory video;
- tutorials on how to navigate to the MOOC platform; and
- presentation of the team members that will follow and assist participants throughout the weeks of learning.

#### 3.2 Module 1: The enhanced transparency framework and forests

In this module, participants are requested to reflect on the following questions:

- Is your country prepared to move from reporting under the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) framework to reporting under the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement?
- Are you familiar with the new reporting guidance?
- Are you aware of the implication of the Paris Agreement for the forest sector?

Learning objectives of module 1 will allow participants to:

- indicate the milestones in the evolution of international treaties and agreements on climate change;
- recognize the role and importance of forests in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement;
- know the main reporting requirements under the MRV framework;
- understand the progressive changes in moving from the MRV framework to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement; and
- indicate the elements of the enhanced transparency framework that are most relevant to the forest sector.

The learning activities of module 1 include:

- an interactive online lesson (possibility also of downloading it to do it off-line and availability of the text-only version of the lesson in pdf);
- supporting materials for example video interviews of lessons learned and experiences at country level;
- a live forum to invite participants to interact on the proposed topics; and
- a short quiz (ungraded) to test participants' knowledge and understanding.

### 3.3 Module 2: The National Forest Monitoring System

In this module participants can review the principles of a sustainable national forest monitoring system (NFMS) and the operational, strategic, and foundation elements that comprise one.

Learning objectives of module 2 will allow participants to:

- understand the foundation and concept of a NFMS;
- know how the [voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring](#) provide countries with technical guidance to organize their NFMS;
- identify the main principles countries should follow to build a sustainable NFMS; and
- indicate the elements that guide the design and operation of a sustainable NFMS.

The learning activities of the module include:

- an interactive online lesson (possibility also of downloading it to do it off-line and availability of the text-only version of the lesson in pdf);
- supporting materials for example webinar recordings; a series of case studies at country level;
- a live forum to invite participants to interact on the proposed topics; and
- a short quiz (ungraded) to test participants' knowledge and understanding.

### 3.4 Module 3: Forest data for the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement

In module 3 participants examine interrelations between some of the key aspects of the [modalities, procedures and guidelines](#) (MPGs) of the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement and the principles indicated in the [voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring](#).

Learning objectives of module 3 will allow participants to:

- recognize the guiding principles and what is covered in the [modalities, procedures and guidelines](#) (MPGs) for the enhanced transparency framework;
- understand the main principles identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring to produce quality forest-related data; and
- indicate how open and transparent forest data can support countries' activities of reporting under the enhanced transparency framework.

The learning activities of the module include:

- an interactive online lesson (possibility also of downloading it to do it off-line and availability of the text-only version of the lesson in pdf);
- supporting materials for example webinar recordings;
- a series of publications which cover key aspects of the module;
- a live forum to invite participants to interact on the proposed topics; and
- a short quiz (ungraded) to test participants' knowledge and understanding.

### 3.5 Module 4: Interactive international webinars with simultaneous interpretation

Under this module, participants will have the chance to interact with international experts and participate in two [live](#) webinars (see [agenda](#) below) on the following themes:

1. Establishing and implementing a sustainable national forest monitoring system: effects on the forest sector of a country
2. How to prepare for the transition from measurement, reporting and verification framework to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement.

To reach as many people as possible, the live webinars are delivered with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish.

The links to the recordings of the webinars are uploaded after the live sessions together with the presentations and the questions and answers document, as soon as available.

This is also to ensure that all those who could not participate are able to benefit from these experiences.

### 3.6 Closure module: Video, certification, digital badge and survey

At the end of the course period, participants are given an online test, which will enable them to retrieve a Digital Badge. The final test covers 24 questions in relation to the lessons participants were provided with. They will need to pass the test with a success rate of 75% or higher to obtain the Digital Badge. Since the test is external to the platform, it is ESSENTIAL that all participants REGISTER to the [FAO elearning Academy](#). A tutorial is provided to guide participants to this final test.

The final test will always be available at the end of the e-learning self-paced course on which these modules were based on, on the [FAO elearning Academy platform](#).

A survey is requested to participants to learn about their experience. A Certificate of Participation to the course is provided electronically in PDF format. It is downloadable from the platform once participants have completed the requirements (Modules' Learning activities, Survey and final test). Participants will be able to download the Certificate during a short period after the MOOC closes. After this, it will no longer be possible to retrieve it.

## 4 Agenda

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
1 <sup>st</sup> week	20 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOOC's start</li> <li>• Welcome module</li> </ul>	21 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of Module 1</li> </ul>	22 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 1 (Continued)</li> </ul>	23 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 1 (Continued)</li> </ul>	24 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of Module 2</li> </ul>	25 Sep.	26 Sep.
2 <sup>nd</sup> week	27 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 2 (Continued)</li> </ul>	28 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 2 (Continued)</li> </ul>	29 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start date of Module 3</li> </ul>	30 Sep. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 3 (Continued)</li> </ul>	1 Oct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Module 3 (Continued)</li> </ul>	2 Oct.	3 Oct.
3 <sup>rd</sup> week	4 Oct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure module:</li> <li>• Online test</li> <li>• Digital Budge</li> <li>• Survey</li> <li>• Certification</li> </ul>	5 Oct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live Webinar 1</li> <li>• Closure module:</li> <li>• Online test</li> <li>• Digital Budge</li> <li>• Survey</li> <li>• Certification</li> </ul>	6 Oct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Live Webinar 2</li> <li>• Closure module:</li> <li>• Online test</li> <li>• Digital Budge</li> <li>• Survey</li> <li>• Certification</li> </ul>	7 Oct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure module:</li> <li>• Online test</li> <li>• Digital Budge</li> <li>• Survey</li> <li>• Certification</li> </ul>	8 Oct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure module:</li> <li>• Online test</li> <li>• Digital Budge</li> <li>• Survey</li> <li>• Certification</li> </ul>	9 Oct.	10 Oct.