



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 10.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

Rome, 24–28 March 2025

RESULTS OF THE WRITTEN CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Nineteenth Regular Session in 2023, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) requested the Secretariat to consult Commission Members, National Focal Points (NFPs) for forest genetic resources (FGR) and regional networks on FGR to collect views on the need to revise the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* (Global Plan of Action) and analyse their inputs.¹ It recommended that the FAO Council request FAO to prepare, based on the outcome of the written consultation, a draft revised Global Plan of Action or other document, as appropriate, for consideration by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (Working Group) at its Eight Session and the Commission at its Twentieth Regular Session. The FAO Council endorsed the Commission's recommendations.²

2. *Appendix I* to this document presents the results of the written consultation for information to the Working Group. Written comments have not been edited but inputs received in French and Spanish have been translated into English. The results are grouped according to the four Priority Areas of the Global Plan of Action.

II. WRITTEN CONSULTATION

3. In response to the Commission's request, FAO developed an online form (*Appendix II*) to collect views on the need to revise the Global Plan of Action and circulated it on 2 July 2024 by electronic mail to the NFPs, the National Focal Points to the Commission, regional networks on FGR and international partners. Further to the possibility to provide written inputs, the form was designed to identify those Priority Areas and Strategic Priorities that would need to be revised. The online form was made available in English, French and Spanish, and the inputs were invited by 30 August 2024. In addition to the online form, the revised draft of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* was made available for information and comments on 1 July 2024. Views and written inputs were received from 11 NFPs for FGR³, two NFPs to the Commission⁴ and one international organization.⁵

¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 70.

² CL 174/REP, paragraph 112.

³ Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Czechia, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Kenya, Netherlands (the Kingdom of), Norway and Poland.

⁴ Central African Republic and Yemen.

⁵ World Agroforestry (ICRAF)

APPENDIX I

RESULTS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

Respondent	Comments
Brazil	After thorough evaluation, it was concluded that the 27 actions outlined in the First Report sufficiently meet the requirements for the Second Report on a global scale. While there may be suggestions for additional actions, we believe these do not introduce significant issues that would justify their inclusion or the removal of existing actions. Therefore, we conclude that the current actions are appropriate for continued consideration.
Burkina Faso	Nature has provided us with everything (water, food, medicine, clothing, etc.) through forests. In the context of climate change, it is important, even urgent, to preserve these resources. The initiative of this action plan is commendable, as it will serve as a basis for the development of small-scale national action plans.
Canada	The conclusions and recommendations in the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources indicate that the Global Plan of Action is still relevant. The global information system should help flesh out reporting requirements for countries and augment the number of country reports received. I do not see a huge requirement to update the action plan and its priorities as they remain relevant to guiding and supporting Canada's FGR activities/actions.
Central African Republic	For the title of the global action plan, the duration of the plan (2025 - 2034) should be explicitly stated. It is recommended to consider planning the strategic priorities at the national level in short, medium, and long terms. The implementation of some measures, depending on their relevance, requires financial support for developing countries. For certain measures with regional and international scope, it would be desirable for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to ensure the coordination of initiatives.
Czechia	In my opinion, Chapter 12, Articles 202 to 212 ""SECOND GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (FAO, Rome 2011)"" is important, too. It describes seed quality needs in more detail and could also be used to revise the text of the GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION. Each country or region should ensure that national seed quality control laboratories have sufficient capacity to ensure the availability of genetically suitable tree seed in the quantity and quality required for national planting programmes. Common seed quality standards should not differ from national standards. Quality of the seed should be guaranteed by quality testing in national laboratories, which there should be a sufficient number in the region to ensure the availability of genetically suitable tree seed in the quantity and quality required for national planting programmes.
Finland	In the big picture, the GPA and the priorities remain relevant. To me it seems that there are challenges in monitoring the progress. For a global process we need somehow to get more countries reporting and therefore I'm reluctant to suggest additions, but I wonder if it would be helpful to reformulate some of the questions for the written part and move them to the online part. It appears that we still struggle with definitions and concepts that are interpreted in multiple ways, which decreases the quality of reporting. In general, when reading the draft SoW it was disappointing to see how much of the text (especially in conservation chapters) was based on literature and how little on country reports. Reporting is costly and we should make the most of it.
Germany	Together with the next reporting of the SoW FGR, a more modern and efficient form of reporting should be considered and the country reports in their current form should be abandoned. This is also due to the fact that only 75 of over 170 CGRFA member states have answered the online questionnaire. An extended online reporting system for the SoW FGR and GPA FGR (similar to that used in the area of animal genetic resources) should be developed and would be preferable in future. Changes and additions should be kept to a minimum and focus on forest genetic resources, only. On the one hand, to keep the reporting obligations as low as possible and, on the other, to ensure comparability with previous reporting cycles.
Kenya	In general, the Global Plan of Action is still largely relevant as most of the strategic priorities are still very relevant whose achievement is still a long way to go. Probably, one of the key issues to consider is to add indicative timelines for the achievements and to add indicators by which parties can assess their progress towards the implementation of the priorities and achievement of the aims.
Netherlands	In our opinion, the strategic objectives of the GPA still serve their intended purposes. However, we express our primary concern regarding the relatively low number of reporting countries—only 74 have provided information for the second SOW-FGR report. Several sections of the report rely heavily on literature. Information from country reports (Q and W) is underrepresented in the document; for instance,

	<p>chapters 6 and 7 present this data poorly. This, combined with the conclusion that access to information on forest genetic resources (FGR) remains limited, poses a significant challenge to the global effort to monitor the status of FGR. Therefore, our general comment is simplifying the reporting process for future assessments. This simplification could be facilitated online that allows data already submitted to FAO to be reused by others. Such an approach would minimize overlap and make reporting more engaging rather than an additional burden.</p> <p>Furthermore, we emphasize the need for a common understanding of technical definitions. It appears that countries may have interpreted technical terms differently, which complicates the collection of reliable data on a global scale.</p>
Yemen	<p>The Global Plan of Action for FGR emerges as a comprehensive strategy for Forest Genetic Resource conservation. Collaboration across institutions, international organizations, and local communities is a cornerstone, fostering effective management. Investing in education, research, and training strengthens the workforce tackling FGR challenges. Information sharing and public awareness are prioritized to cultivate a broader understanding of FGR's value. Sustainable management practices are promoted, ensuring long-term conservation and utilization without compromising genetic diversity. Finally, the plan acknowledges the critical need for resource mobilization to support these efforts. While implementation challenges and a robust monitoring system remain considerations, the Global Plan of Action offers a valuable framework for a more sustainable future for Forest Genetic Resources.</p>
ICRAF	<p>It remains an important and relevant plan. Having gone through the revised draft of the Report on SOW-FGR 2024, the sense of urgency of what needs to be done and what is required could possibly be strengthened in that report. It is interesting but could perhaps also be considered worrying that the GPA from 2013 remains valid with respect to all of the SPs. What has actually happened? The reality is probably that quite a lot has happened but that it remains far too little. The major question remaining would be how do we scale-up and speed-up activities to contribute efficiently to solve the many global crises where FGR have significant contributions to make?</p>

II. PRIORITY AREA 1

Improving the availability of, and access to information on forest genetic resources

(1) Summary of views on the need to revise Priority Area 1

Priority Area / Strategic Priorities	No changes needed	Revise	Delete
PA1: Improving the availability of, and access to information on forest genetic resources	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP1: Establish and strengthen national FGR assessment, characterization and monitoring systems	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP2: Develop national and subnational systems for the assessment and management of traditional knowledge on FGR	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP3: Develop international technical standards and protocols for FGR inventories, characterization and monitoring of trends and risks	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP4: Promote the establishment and the reinforcement of FGR information systems (databases) to cover available scientific and traditional knowledge on uses, distribution, habitats, biology and genetic variation of species and species populations	79% (11)	21% (3)	0

(2) Written comments on Priority Area 1

Priority Area 1. Improving the availability of, and access to, information on FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	<p>These are important pieces of information for a better integration of sustainable management of forest genetic resources (FGR) into national policies and strategies. They are also useful for the development of projects and programs for development and/or research. Burkina does not have a strategy in this area. This document could serve as a basis for the development of national action plans.</p>

Central African Republic	The justification for Strategic Priority 1, as well as Measures 1 and 3 of Strategic Priority 2, have been modified.
Ecuador	It is crucial to develop a centralized and up-to-date database that compiles information on forest genetic resources, including their characteristics, distribution, and conservation status. This database should allow for continuous updates. Additionally, it is essential to train potential users in the use of the information platforms and the interpretation of the data to ensure its optimal utilization.
Finland	Regional information systems could be a cost-effective and rational solution to many countries. Would also increase accessibility which is also a point of development according to the draft 2nd SoW. At the moment there is no SP at regional level, although SP4 mentions regional "Promote the establishment and maintenance of FGR databases at local, subnational, national, regional and global levels."
Yemen	I strongly support the focus on improving FGR information availability. This will empower stakeholders to make informed decisions about forest conservation and utilization

Strategic Priority 1: Establish and strengthen national FGR assessment, characterization and monitoring systems

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	<p>For the inventory and characterization of species, as suggested actions, I propose: Develop standard tools to be used in each country to harmonize information collection; Develop tools to consolidate information to both secure it and facilitate its use. An effective strategy could include the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess available infrastructure, skills, and technologies for the evaluation and monitoring of FGR, • Identify gaps in data, human resources, technology, and funding, • Train involved stakeholders (researchers, technicians, managers) in modern techniques for characterizing and monitoring FGR, • Form teams that integrate experts in forestry, biodiversity, conservation, and geographic information technologies, • Develop and adopt national standards for the evaluation and characterization of FGR, • Integrate FGR management into national sustainable development and conservation strategies and action plans, • Create a centralized database for storing, sharing, and analyzing information on FGR, • Launch field data collection campaigns, focusing on digitizing information for efficient management, • Collaborate with international and regional institutions to exchange knowledge and secure technical and financial support, • Incorporate local and traditional knowledge into FGR management, engaging local communities in monitoring and conservation, • Define key indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implemented system, • Organize regular evaluations to adjust strategies based on obtained results and environmental changes, • Implement campaigns to inform the public, policymakers, and stakeholders about the importance of FGR and the need for their conservation, • Share evaluation results and successes to encourage better management and continued support.
Central African Republic	<p>At the level of justification, Instead of: "... the tree domestication and improvement program" Read: "... the tree domestication and improvement program and 'other non-timber forest resources'" Because other non-timber forest resources are an integral part of FGR.</p>
Ecuador	In Ecuador, it is essential to establish and strengthen a national system for the evaluation, characterization, and monitoring of forest genetic resources. This strategic priority should include the creation of an integrated national system that allows a comprehensive assessment of these resources, covering their detailed characterization and continuous monitoring of their status. Additionally, it is necessary to define and standardize protocols for evaluation and characterization, as well as for data collection and analysis.
Yemen	The current approach to establishing and strengthening national FGR assessment, characterization, and monitoring systems seems comprehensive and well-defined. I believe it effectively addresses the need for a strong national system
ICRAF	While tools and databases to support species inventory and prioritisation have become available (e.g. the Global Tree Knowledge Platform by ICRAF), standards and tools for actual monitoring are still

	far behind (connected also to SP3) and networks continue to be rather weak both at national and international levels in several regions.
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Strategic Priority 2: Develop national and subnational systems for the assessment and management of traditional knowledge on FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	<p>In general, local forest species have multiple uses. Local populations possess knowledge and understanding of each species. This knowledge varies across different socio-cultural groups and is most often transmitted orally from generation to generation. With climate change combined with intense human pressure, some of these species may disappear before being documented. Therefore, it is important to capitalize on this knowledge so that it is considered in both development policies and sustainable conservation strategies for FGR. Among the measures to be taken, I suggest: Develop standard protocols to harmonize information collection. These protocols can be adapted to the realities of each country.</p> <p>It is essential to create a centralized database that compiles this knowledge, while respecting the intellectual property rights of local communities. This involves conducting participatory surveys to document traditional practices and forming partnerships with local and regional institutions for their scientific validation. The integration of this knowledge into FGR management policies should be encouraged, while raising awareness among decision-makers about the importance of this knowledge for the conservation and sustainable use of resources. Digital platforms and local workshops could facilitate the exchange of this information, thus ensuring its transmission to future generations.</p>
Central African Republic	<p>Measures to be taken 1: Instead of: "... management of FGR by indigenous and local communities..." Read: "... management of FGR with the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous and local communities."</p> <p>Measures to be taken 3: Instead of: "... by effectively involving indigenous and local communities." Read: "... by effectively and willingly involving indigenous and local communities."</p>
Ecuador	It is important to strengthen national and subnational systems that enable the effective assessment and management of traditional knowledge regarding forest genetic resources. This would facilitate the incorporation and documentation of traditional knowledge from local communities on the management, use, and conservation of forest genetic resources, recognizing its value and contribution to sustainable management. Additionally, it is crucial to promote the active participation of local communities in the collection, management, and application of traditional knowledge, encouraging dialogue and collaboration between communities and authorities. This approach will ensure that the intellectual property rights of communities over their traditional knowledge are protected and recognized in policy development and resource management.
Yemen	This approach recognizes the importance of local communities and their knowledge in managing forest genetic resources. The current plan seems well-structured to achieve this goal.
ICRAF	Some progress associated with international level tools and databases, however, in general limited on ITK.

Strategic Priority 3: Develop international technical standards and protocols for FGR inventories, characterization and monitoring of trends and risks

Respondent	Comments
Ecuador	It is necessary to strengthen technical standards and international protocols that guide the implementation of inventories, characterization, and monitoring of trends and risks associated with forest genetic resources. Additionally, it is important to coordinate with international organizations and specialized networks to align these standards and protocols with global benchmarks, in order to facilitate integration into international conservation and resource management initiatives.
Poland	The supplementation of records regarding the need for the application of standardized definitions and classifications of forest reproductive material and forest basic material. This will form the basis for further activities in the areas of inventories, characterization, and monitoring of trends and risks, and will ensure the collection of reliable and comparable information from different countries/regions.
Yemen	The emphasis on monitoring trends and risks is commendable. Standardized protocols will enable a more unified approach to identifying and addressing threats to forest genetic resources

ICRAF	While work on developing criteria and indicators has seen some progress, application in practice is very limited with Europe possibly being an exception, although also insufficient there. The new Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) led by BGCI may contribute to future development.
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Strategic Priority 4: Promote the establishment and the reinforcement of FGR information systems (databases) to cover available scientific and traditional knowledge on uses, distribution, habitats, biology and genetic variation of species and species populations

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Encourage the creation and regular updating of databases dedicated to forest genetic resources at the local, subnational, national, regional, and global levels: A database model should be proposed that can be adapted by each country. Otherwise, data exploitation will be difficult if each country archives in its own way. It is crucial to develop robust databases that integrate both scientific and traditional knowledge. These systems must be designed to be accessible and interoperable, thereby allowing for the wide dissemination of information about the uses, distribution, habitats, biology, and genetic variation of tree species and populations. Collaboration between researchers, local communities, and governmental institutions is essential to collect, validate, and update this data. Training initiatives should be implemented to strengthen the technical capacity of local stakeholders in database management. Additionally, clear protocols for protecting intellectual property rights related to traditional knowledge should be established to encourage the participation of local communities. Finally, the use of modern technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and online platforms, can facilitate access to this data and its use in conservation policies and sustainable management of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR).
Ecuador	There is still a lack of complete and updated databases that integrate both traditional and scientific knowledge about forest genetic resources. It is necessary to include detailed information on uses, distribution, habitats, biology, and genetic variation. Additionally, there is an inadequate collection and systematization of traditional knowledge related to forest resources, which is essential for comprehensive and sustainable management. A more robust approach is also needed for the assessment, management, and conservation of populations of marginal forest species or those at the limits of their distribution. Currently, there is no standardized methodology for effectively integrating scientific knowledge with traditional knowledge.
Finland	See my comment under Priority Area 1. The WG should consider adding FAIR and CARE principles in the SP4
Yemen	Developing comprehensive FGR information systems is crucial for effective forest resource management. The current approach seems well-defined and addresses the need for a centralized repository of scientific and traditional knowledge.
ICRAF	A lot of work in this area has been done by ICRAF, please refer to their report on Contributions of ICRAF to the implementation of the GPA (May 2023), paragraph 2. Application is slowly progressing at national level in a few countries. There continue to be a need for massive investment in this area.

III. PRIORITY AREA 2

In situ and *ex situ* conservation of forest genetic resources

(1) Summary of views on the need to revise Priority Area 2

Priority Area / Strategic Priorities	No changes needed	Revise	Delete
PA2: <i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of forest genetic resource	71% (10)	29% (4)	0
SP5: Strengthen the contribution of primary forests and protected areas to <i>in situ</i> conservation of FGR	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP6: Promote the establishment and development of efficient and sustainable <i>ex situ</i> conservation systems, including <i>in vivo</i> collections and genebanks	79% (11)	21% (3)	0

SP7: Support assessment, management and conservation of marginal and/or range limits forest species populations	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP8: Support and develop sustainable management and conservation of FGR on farmland	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP9: Support and strengthen the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in the sustainable management and conservation of FGR.	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP10: Identify priority species for action	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP11: Develop and implement regional in situ conservation strategies and promote ecoregional networking and collaboration	64% (9)	36% (5)	0

(2) Written comments on Priority Area 2

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	In situ and ex situ conservation of forest genetic resources is essential to preserve biological diversity, ensure ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change, and maintain the genetic foundations necessary for species adaptation. These complementary approaches guarantee the survival of threatened species in their natural habitats while providing an additional safeguard in the event of disasters or habitat loss, thus ensuring the availability of these resources for future generations.
Central African Republic	A new measure is proposed for Strategic Priority 11: The expression "poverty reduction" in Strategic Priority 9 is replaced by "wealth creation."
Ecuador	It is essential to expand and consolidate protected areas and conservation sites to ensure the effective preservation of the genetic diversity of forest resources in their natural habitat, as well as to establish and maintain robust germplasm banks that house representative samples of forest species for long-term conservation. These banks must have adequate facilities, management protocols, and sufficient technical and human resources. Additionally, a systematic system for the continuous evaluation and monitoring of forest populations is needed, especially for threatened species or those of high ecological value. Sustainable management plans should also include in situ and ex situ conservation strategies, considering ecological dynamics and threats to forest resources.
Finland	One of the recommended actions in the draft 2nd SoW is "analyse gaps in the existing conservation efforts for the establishment of new in situ conservation units... This could be included in SP 10 or SP11
Yemen	The focus on both in situ and ex situ conservation strategies seems essential for a comprehensive approach to FGR conservation. Maintaining the current approach ensures a balanced strategy for protecting forest genetic resources.

Strategic Priority 5: Strengthen the contribution of primary forests and protected areas to in situ conservation of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	The measures to be taken, as formulated, do not clearly address the aspect of ex situ conservation. Moreover, to successfully achieve ex situ conservation, it is a priority to master multiplication/propagation techniques for the domestication of these species. It is also important to improve the management and monitoring of these areas by increasing the financial and human resources allocated. Legislation and protection policies should be strengthened, actively involving local communities in managing protected areas. The implementation of awareness and environmental education programs, along with regular monitoring of species and habitats, will help identify and protect threatened forest genetic resources (FGR). Finally, the restoration of degraded areas and the expansion of protected area networks will contribute to increasing the ecological resilience and genetic diversity of forests.
Ecuador	It is essential to include all representative forest ecosystems and ensure the comprehensive protection of genetic populations. To achieve this, the management and monitoring of protected areas must be improved through proper allocation of financial and human resources, as well as the implementation of updated management plans based on scientific data. Additionally, it is crucial to actively involve local communities in managing protected areas, encouraging their participation in surveillance,

	monitoring, and the adoption of sustainable practices. Continuous studies on biodiversity and forest population dynamics are necessary, along with the establishment of effective monitoring systems. Ecological restoration projects should also be developed and implemented to restore degraded habitats and strengthen connectivity between protected areas. Finally, integrated and coordinated policies must be developed to promote the conservation of forest genetic resources and align protection efforts with sustainable development.
Germany	With regard to in situ conservation in protected areas, it would be helpful to know whether it is possible to harvest the seeds of these valuable resources.
Yemen	The emphasis on in situ conservation within these critical ecosystems is commendable. The current plan effectively addresses the need to protect FGR within their natural habitats.
ICRAF	It seems that the strategy of relying primarily on in situ conservation (in its different forms from general conservation areas to specific gene conservation units) has not led to satisfactory coverage for the majority of species (again perhaps with the work of EUFORGEN as a successful exception). However, urgent in many areas to 'rescue' resources from the wild by providing access to general conservation areas to mobilize genetic resources in support of SP6-SP10.

Strategic Priority 6: Promote the establishment and development of efficient and sustainable ex situ conservation systems, including in vivo collections and genebanks

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	It would be interesting to consider creating national, as well as regional or sub-regional gene banks. The idea is to preserve the forest genetic heritage of each country for future needs, whether for the country itself, the region, or the sub-region. In case of a disaster in a third country, the conserved genetic material could be shared. Encouraging collaboration between research institutes, governments, local communities, and international organizations is crucial. Raising awareness among populations, especially indigenous and local communities, is important for gaining their support and integrating new technologies for the management and monitoring of collections.
Ecuador	To strengthen ex situ conservation of forest genetic resources, it is necessary to increase investment in modern infrastructure and advanced technology for the preservation of seeds and vegetative material. This includes developing standardized protocols for the management and conservation of germplasm. It is equally important to establish specialized nurseries and botanical gardens that provide optimal conditions for the cultivation and maintenance of forest species, implementing sustainable management practices. Additionally, long-term financing strategies should be developed, and collaborations with national and international organizations should be pursued to ensure continuous financial resources and guarantee the sustainability of conservation programs.
Yemen	While establishing a national FGR assessment system is important, the current approach might be too broad. Revising the scope to focus on specific priority FGR or incorporating risk assessments might be more efficient.
ICRAF	Important to expand and link this very strongly with Priority Area 3.

Strategic Priority 7: Support assessment, management and conservation of marginal and/or range limits forest species populations

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	In general, these marginal species are shared among different countries. Therefore, inter-country cooperation is needed for better conservation of the resource. The measure to be taken could be: Take into account inter-country cooperation in the conservation of these so-called marginal or edge species. It is essential to conduct specific studies in several countries to identify them, understand their ecology, and their particular needs. It is also necessary to develop appropriate management strategies that integrate these species into conservation plans and ensure their protection within protected areas and ecological corridors. Additionally, raising awareness among local communities and forest managers about the importance of these species can strengthen conservation efforts on the ground.
Ecuador	It is important to carry out comprehensive field studies and use remote sensing technologies to map the areas occupied by these species and understand their geographic distribution. Additionally, a long-term monitoring system should be implemented to track population trends and changes in their habitats, as well as to identify potential threats and risks. Strengthening ecological corridors that

	protect these habitats and enhancing their connectivity are essential to reduce the impact of human activities and habitat loss. It is also necessary to assess the effects of climate change, deforestation, and other threats on these species, and to develop effective strategies for adapting to and mitigating the negative impacts.
Yemen	The current approach could benefit from including a focus on monitoring these populations over time. Revising the priority to emphasize long-term monitoring programs would provide valuable data to inform conservation efforts
ICRAF	As far as the respondent is aware, this has only really been the subject of study in some areas of Europe. Would likely need to be given higher priority for both conservation and use, given the dramatic global changes happening.

Strategic Priority 8: Support and develop sustainable management and conservation of FGR on farmland

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Evaluate and improve traditional agroforestry systems. Promote integrated agricultural practices that respect and preserve forest biodiversity. This includes adopting agroforestry systems that combine cultivation with conservation, establishing buffer zones around forest plots, and encouraging agricultural techniques that minimize deforestation and erosion. Training farmers and raising awareness about the benefits of conserving forest genetic resources (FGR), as well as providing technical and financial support for sustainable practices, are also essential. Finally, incentive policies and partnerships between the agricultural and forestry sectors can foster a coherent and mutually beneficial approach for both areas.
Ecuador	Develop and implement guidelines and sustainable management programs that integrate agroforestry techniques and practices that protect and enhance forest genetic diversity. Provide training programs and educational workshops on sustainable cultivation techniques, genetic resource management, and the benefits of biodiversity for rural communities and farmers. Establish regulatory frameworks and public policies that incentivize agricultural practices that preserve genetic diversity, such as creating conservation areas on agricultural lands. Support the adoption of agroforestry systems that combine agricultural crops with forest species, contributing to both genetic resource conservation and improved agricultural productivity. Facilitate active community participation in implementing sustainable practices and decision-making regarding forest genetic resource management. Additionally, develop and implement ecological restoration projects in degraded areas to recover and preserve affected ecosystems.
Yemen	The current approach could benefit from including a focus on raising awareness among farmers about the importance of FGR conservation and the potential benefits for their own practices. Revising the priority to incorporate outreach and education programs could be valuable.
ICRAF	Suggested actions in this area would seem to be lacking far behind.

Strategic Priority 9: Support and strengthen the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in the sustainable management and conservation of FGR.

Respondent	Comments
Central African Republic	In the justification, the term 'poverty reduction' is replaced by 'wealth creation.
Ecuador	It is necessary to formalize the legal recognition of the rights of indigenous and local communities over their forest territories, ensuring that they have the authority to manage and make decisions regarding forest genetic resources on their lands. Technical training should be provided to enhance their skills in sustainable forest management, including training in conservation techniques, biodiversity management, and agroforestry practices. Additionally, specific funds should be established for community projects, and access to grants and other financial resources should be facilitated. It is essential to ensure that indigenous and local communities actively participate in the formulation of public policies and management plans related to forest genetic resources. Furthermore, the development and support of conservation and forest management projects led and managed by the communities themselves should be encouraged.

Yemen	The current approach could benefit from including a focus on capacity building for indigenous communities. Revising the priority to incorporate training programs or knowledge exchange initiatives could strengthen their ability to manage FGR effectively
ICRAF	Like conservation itself, documentation and use of ITK is a race with time while disappearing.

Strategic Priority 10: Identify priority species for action

Respondent	Comments
Ecuador	It is necessary to develop standardized criteria for the prioritization of species, considering their ecological, economic, and cultural importance. To achieve this, scientific and participatory methodologies should be implemented to evaluate and classify species according to their level of threat and need for intervention.
Finland	please check my comment under Priority Area 2
Kenya	Revise to take into account international programmes or conventions that identify species requiring attention so that there is need not to repeat a process. Examples of such is like the CITES lists which focus on species that are threatened by international trade. This could probably be extended into a national process for tree species threatened by utilisation/trade within the country. Others could be the IUCN Red lists.
Yemen	Identifying priority species for action seems crucial for effective resource allocation in FGR conservation efforts. Maintaining the current approach ensures a focused strategy targeting species in greatest need.
ICRAF	While it is highlighted that it is impossible to develop programmes for all species, it would need to be emphasised that we have to work on many species, in the thousands, rather than the hundreds which have been common. And it is possible if given adequate priority. Otherwise, we do not solve the problem of safeguarding the resource that is needed to get us out of the global mess we have created.

Strategic Priority 11: Develop and implement regional in situ conservation strategies and promote ecoregional networking and collaboration

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Start with a thorough evaluation of ecosystems and key species at the regional level. Then, develop integrated management plans tailored to local specificities, in collaboration with local authorities, conservation organizations, and local communities. The creation of regional conservation networks, including interconnected protected areas and ecological corridors, will promote consistent and coordinated resource management. The establishment of regular regional forums and working groups will strengthen collaboration, facilitate information exchange, and coordinate conservation efforts. Finally, supporting local initiatives and raising awareness among stakeholders will enhance the commitment and sustainability of the implemented strategies.
Central African Republic	Addition of a new measure: Conduct studies on the impact of climate change on the seed maturity of priority species to assess the renewal capacities of different forest formations
Ecuador	It is necessary to develop standardized criteria for the prioritization of species, considering their ecological, economic, and cultural importance. To achieve this, scientific and participatory methodologies should be implemented to evaluate and classify species according to their level of threat and need for intervention.
Finland	please check my comment under Priority Area 2
Yemen	The current approach could include a focus on identifying and addressing knowledge gaps within regions. Revising the priority to incorporate research programs that target specific regional needs could strengthen conservation strategies
ICRAF	While an ideal and necessary approach, it can only materialize if based on solid national programmes. Networks for the purpose, needs strong support for national programmes.

IV. PRIORITY AREA 3
Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources

(1) Summary of views on the need to revise Priority Area 3

Priority Area / Strategic priorities	No changes needed	Revise	Delete
PA3: Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP12: Develop and reinforce national seed programmes to ensure the availability of genetically appropriate tree seeds in the quantities and of the (certified) quality needed for national plantation programmes	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP13: Promote restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems using genetically appropriate material	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP14: Support climate change adaptation and mitigation through proper management and use of FGR	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP15: Promote appropriate use of emerging technology to support the conservation, development and sustainable use of FGR	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP16: Develop and reinforce research programmes on tree breeding, domestication and bioprospection in order to unlock the full potential of FGR	64% (9)	36% (5)	0
SP17: Develop and promote networking and collaboration among concerned countries to combat invasive species (animals, plants and micro-organisms) as well as diseases and pests affecting FGR	79% (11)	21% (3)	0

(2) Written comments on Priority Area 3

Respondent	Comments
Central African Republic	At the level of the long-term objective of the priority area, the term 'poverty reduction' is replaced by 'wealth creation.'
Ecuador	Develop and update policies at both national and regional levels that promote the sustainable use of forest genetic resources, including specific regulations for the management and exploitation of forest species. In addition, implement strict regulations to ensure sustainable forestry practices and prevent resource overexploitation, through the establishment of training programs in advanced technologies for efficient forest resource management and the development of derived products. It is necessary to promote research and development of forest species to identify potential uses, improve sustainable productivity, and create new products and services based on these resources. This should be accompanied by the implementation of integrated management models that combine conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources, balancing production with biodiversity protection.
Finland	please check my comment under Priority Area 2
Yemen	I fully support prioritizing robust policies and legislation. Clear regulations are essential for ensuring the long-term viability of FGR while enabling sustainable utilization.

Strategic Priority 12: Develop and reinforce national seed programmes to ensure the availability of genetically appropriate tree seeds in the quantities and of the (certified) quality needed for national plantation programmes

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	It should be kept in mind that not all countries have seed centers. It is essential to organize the forest seed system in countries to guarantee not only the quality (genetic, physiological, sanitary) but also the traceability of the reproductive material used and shared. Currently, in African countries

	<p>especially, there is 'disorder' in the production of forest reproductive material used in reforestation operations. If this disorder spreads into our forests, it will be a genetic catastrophe in a few years.</p> <p>Establish seed centers and programs in countries that do not have them. Set strict certification and traceability standards for seeds. It is necessary to establish seed production and storage centers in collaboration with local nurseries and research institutions to ensure quality and genetic diversity. Training seed producers and implementing financial support programs will encourage their active participation. Additionally, it is necessary to develop an efficient distribution network to deliver seeds to planting projects. Finally, awareness campaigns and incentive policies for the use of certified seeds should be put in place to encourage their adoption and ensure the success of reforestation programs.</p>
Czechia	Common seed quality standards should not differ from national standards. Quality of the seed should be guaranteed by quality testing in national laboratories, which there should be a sufficient number in the region to ensure the availability of genetically suitable tree seed in the quantity and quality required for national planting programmes.
Ecuador	It is important to establish genetic and quality requirements for tree seeds through a certification system that guarantees genetic purity, viability, and seed quality. It is necessary to equip plant multiplication processes with advanced technology and develop germplasm banks that ensure the conservation and availability of a representative diversity of forest species. Furthermore, research in genetic improvement should be promoted to create tree varieties adapted to different environmental conditions and resistant to pests and diseases, as well as to develop innovative techniques for propagation, conservation, and seed quality evaluation.
Yemen	This priority directly addresses a critical element for successful plantation programs. Strong national seed programs ensure access to genetically appropriate, high-quality seeds, maximizing the success and sustainability of reforestation efforts. Maintaining the current approach ensures a focus on this essential aspect.
ICRAF	While this has been supported by FAO and others since the 1960's, the urgency has probably never been higher than today with the huge forest landscape restoration agenda. The recent Provision of Adequate Tree Seed Portfolios in support of landscape restoration in Ethiopia (PATSP0) is an example of this, that could be widely extended if donors and investors can be mobilised.

Strategic Priority 13: Promote restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems using genetically appropriate material

Respondent	Comments
Central African Republic	Measure No. 1: "Support and equip research centers with adequate laboratories to conduct new studies aimed at identifying key variables that will allow the selection of populations adapted to current and future conditions in degraded sites."
Ecuador	Develop specific protocols for the restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems that ensure the use of appropriate genetic material compatible with local ecosystems. It will be necessary to carry out a comprehensive inventory of native forest species, including their genetic characteristics, to select the most suitable genetic material for each restoration project. Additionally, germplasm banks should be strengthened to ensure a wide range of genetic material from native forest species, guaranteeing its availability for these projects. Moreover, the use of appropriate genetic material should be promoted in all ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation initiatives.
Yemen	This priority directly addresses a critical principle for ecological restoration. Using genetically appropriate material increases the chances of restoration success, promotes ecosystem resilience, and safeguards against unintended consequences. Maintaining the current approach ensures a focus on this essential aspect.
ICRAF	Directly related to SP12. It is extremely important that the guidance provided is linked to actual seed sources identified/established and protected in the landscape. The ICRAF promoted approach of 'What to Plant Where' (currently in Ethiopia - based on an older Danish model (in Danish only)) provides this direct link to the physical supply of planting material and is currently being extended to other African countries.

Strategic Priority 14: Support climate change adaptation and mitigation through proper management and use of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Ecuador	It will be necessary to carry out detailed studies to assess the impact of climate change on forest genetic resources, identifying the most vulnerable species and potential risks, as well as predicting future impacts on forests. Efforts should focus on selecting forest species that are resistant to climate change and promoting management practices that increase the adaptability of forest ecosystems. It is essential to incorporate forest management practices that consider the effects of climate change and to develop and implement pilot projects that demonstrate adaptation and mitigation strategies in different agroecological areas. Continuous evaluation of these strategies will allow for necessary adjustments, ensuring effective and sustainable management of forest genetic resources.
Yemen	The current approach could benefit from including a focus on research on the genetic basis of climate resilience in tree populations. Revising the priority to emphasize studies that identify and conserve genotypes with adaptation potential could provide valuable information for future management practices
ICRAF	Linked to SP4. The ICRAF promoted approach of 'What to Plant Where' (see SP13), is linked to climate suitability assessment (see reference provided for SP4, and more recently the TreeGOER tool for global use (Kindt, R 2024, TreeGOER: A database with globally observed environmental ranges for 48,129 tree species. Glob Change Biol. 2023;29: 6303–6318. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.16914).

Strategic Priority 15: Promote appropriate use of emerging technology to support the conservation, development and sustainable use of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	In my opinion, it would be beneficial to establish a measure related to the genetic characterization of species (DNA extraction) and the creation of DNA banks if possible. It is important to diversify the forms of conservation for forest genetic resources (FGR) as much as possible.
Central African Republic	Strategic Priority 15 has been reformulated as follows: 'Promote the use of new technologies to enhance and develop the level of FGR conservation and to support their sustainable use.
Yemen	While promoting technology is important, the current approach might need to emphasize responsible development and ethical considerations. Revising the priority to focus on technologies that are accessible, affordable, and culturally appropriate for all stakeholders could ensure equitable benefits.
ICRAF	Emerging technologies should not be limited to 'high-tech' (e.g. genomics and micro-propagation). Given the imperative of covering many species (ref SP10), there is an urgent need for application of 'low-input' models that can be applied at large scale fairly quickly. The need for extensive productive seed orchard and multiplication garden ('mother blocks') programmes still needs extensive technology development for many species and is urgent.

Strategic Priority 16: Develop and reinforce research programmes on tree breeding, domestication and bioprospection in order to unlock the full potential of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Support collaborative research projects between academic institutions, research centers, and industrial partners. Investing in advanced research infrastructure and innovative technologies will facilitate in-depth study of the genetic characteristics and ecological needs of trees. Encourage ongoing training for researchers and the publication of results in specialized journals to ensure knowledge sharing. Finally, developing partnerships with funding agencies and international organizations will enhance the capacity and impact of research programs. Encourage private sector investment in research, particularly when it involves identifying and finding effective and sustainable solutions to specific problems.
Central African Republic	Strategic Priority 16 has been reformulated as follows: 'Establish and strengthen research programs on the reproduction, domestication, and bioprospecting of forest tree species to maximize the benefits of FGR.' The reformulated measures are: Support research on forest ecosystem dynamics, species and population autoecology, genetic resources, and their derivatives.

	Evaluate the contributions of forest species to environmental services (provisioning, regulating, and cultural services). Assess the current and future environmental, cultural, and economic value of ecosystem services: natural capital accounting. Develop research programs on pests and diseases affecting FGR and on the genetic diversity of priority forest species."
Ecuador	It is essential to strengthen the research infrastructure specializing in genetic improvement, domestication, and bioprospecting of forest species to facilitate the collection and analysis of samples from various forest ecosystems. Standardized protocols must be established for genetic evaluation, improvement, bioprospecting, and domestication of forest species, ensuring comparable and consistent methodologies. It is also crucial to provide training programs for researchers, technicians, and students in key areas such as forest biotechnology, genetics, and domestication and improvement techniques. Partnerships should be established with academic institutions, research centers, and universities, both national and international, to share knowledge and resources. Furthermore, it is necessary to ensure the protection and sustainable use of genetic resources by strengthening mechanisms for protecting intellectual property rights over discoveries and developments resulting from bioprospecting.
Yemen	the current approach could benefit from including a focus on research into the ecological consequences of tree domestication. Revising the priority to emphasize studies that assess potential impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity could ensure responsible development of new varieties
ICRAF	Possibly change to 'research and development programmes'. The large scale application of multipurpose and multi-species programmes is overdue (ref also SP15 and SP10).

Strategic Priority 17: Develop and promote networking and collaboration among concerned countries to combat invasive species (animals, plants and microorganisms) as well as diseases and pests affecting FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Encourage the development of technologies that add value to these invasive plants. The problem should be transformed into an opportunity. Create regional and international platforms dedicated to exchanging information, best practices, and management strategies. Establishing common protocols for the monitoring, control, and eradication of invasive species will facilitate a coordinated response. Organizing workshops, conferences, and joint research projects will help strengthen technical capacities and share practical experiences. Additionally, cooperative financing mechanisms can support regional and cross-border initiatives. Finally, involving local communities and key stakeholders in these efforts will promote an integrated and effective approach to protecting FGR (Forest Genetic Resources).
Poland	The replacement of voluntary protocols for the movement of forest plant material with national or international regulations concerning invasive organisms.
Ecuador	It is crucial to establish and strengthen regional collaboration networks that integrate neighboring countries and international experts to exchange information and coordinate actions against invasive species, diseases, and pests. Standardized protocols should be developed and adopted for the detection, monitoring, and management of these threats, ensuring they are uniformly shared and applied among member countries. It is also essential to develop and implement early warning systems for the rapid identification and effective response to the emergence of new invasive species or outbreaks of diseases and pests in forest genetic resources. Furthermore, partnerships should be formed between the public and private sectors to coordinate efforts in combating these threats and promote research and development of innovative solutions.
Yemen	Combating invasive species and diseases requires a united front. International collaboration allows for sharing best practices, coordinating research efforts, and pooling resources for more effective control measures. Maintaining this focus ensures a comprehensive approach to this global threat
ICRAF	The issue of invasive species are also dealt with by TGBS. While important, also necessary to acknowledge that what may be invasive in one context can be useful in another.

V. PRIORITY AREA 4
Policies, institutions and capacity building

(1) Summary of views on the need to revise Priority Area 4

Priority Area / Strategic priorities	No changes needed	Revise	Delete
PA4: Policies, institutions and capacity building	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP18: Develop national strategies for in situ and ex situ conservation of FGR and their sustainable use	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP19: Update FGR conservation and management needs and integrate them into wider policies, programmes and frameworks of action at national, regional and global levels	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP20: Develop collaboration and promote coordination of national institutions and programmes related to FGR	93% (13)	7% (1)	0
SP21: Establish and strengthen educational and research capacities on FGR to ensure adequate technical support to related development programmes	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP22: Promote the participation of indigenous and local communities in FGR management in the context of decentralization	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP23: Promote and apply mechanisms for germplasm exchange at regional level to support research and development activities, in agreement with international conventions	79% (11)	21% (3)	0
SP24: Reinforce regional and international cooperation to support education, knowledge dissemination, research, and conservation and sustainable management of FGR	86% (12)	14% (2)	0
SP25: Encourage the establishment of network activities and support the development and reinforcement of international networking and information sharing on FGR research, management and conservation	93% (13)	7% (1)	0
SP26: Promote public and international awareness of the roles and values of FGR	71% (10)	29% (5)	0
SP27: Strengthen efforts to mobilize the necessary resources, including financing, for the conservation, sustainable use and development of FGR	79% (11)	21% (3)	0

(2) Written comments on Priority Area 4

Respondent	Comments
Brazil	The following action should also be emphasized in the following context: Promote the involvement of experts through subsidies in the development of public policies regarding the genetic conservation of forest species. This is crucial because, in many developing countries, policies are often developed by individuals lacking expertise in genetic resources.
Central African Republic	The measures to be taken for Strategic Priorities 18 and 27 have been reformulated.
Czechia	Each country or region should ensure that national seed quality control laboratories have sufficient capacity to ensure the availability of genetically suitable tree seed in the quantity and quality required for national planting programmes.
Ecuador	It is essential to develop and strengthen policies that integrate the management and conservation of forest genetic resources, aligning them with global and regional goals. This involves drafting specific regulations that ensure the sustainable use and conservation of these resources, guaranteeing that laws and practices are consistent and effective. It is also crucial to enhance the technical and

	administrative capacities of the institutions responsible for forest management, as well as to establish or consolidate research and training centers specialized in forest genetic resources, to promote research and the development of new techniques and strategies. Additionally, sustainable financing mechanisms need to be implemented to support the execution of policies and projects aimed at managing and conserving these resources.
Yemen	Current policies and institutions seem to be on the right track. For example, the national policy promoting FSC-certified forestry practices has been successful in ensuring genetic diversity within production forests. Additionally, institutions like the Center for Tropical Forestry Research play a crucial role in researching FGR diversity and developing sustainable use strategies. Furthermore, training programs for forest rangers on invasive species control are crucial for protecting native FGR. Maintaining a focus on these aspects ensures a comprehensive approach to FGR conservation and sustainable use

Strategic Priority 18: Develop national strategies for in situ and ex situ conservation of FGR and their sustainable use

Respondent	Comments
Central African Republic	Revised Measure 1: Regarding in situ and ex situ conservation of forest genetic resources (FGR), develop or strengthen institutional capacities to ensure the implementation of current or future national strategies related to the conservation of these resources, including gene banks and botanical gardens.
Ecuador	Strengthen national strategies that integrate in situ and ex situ conservation, focusing on the sustainable use of forest genetic resources. These strategies should be tailored to the specific characteristics of each country's ecoregion, considering the unique traits of each area. It is essential to ensure that these strategies are aligned with both national and regional policies and international commitments related to biodiversity and climate change. To achieve this, it is necessary to expand and consolidate protected areas, ensuring they adequately represent all forest ecosystems. Furthermore, the management and monitoring of these areas should be improved through appropriate allocation of financial and human resources.
Yemen	National plans for FGR need all three: protecting natural forests (in situ), keeping backups (ex situ), and sustainable use. This safeguards diversity and allows responsible use for the present and future.
ICRAF	It happens that 'policy tools' are ahead of practice without providing the means to change practice, resulting in impact-less policies. It also happens that cross-sectoral policies hamper implementation of good sectoral policies. Perhaps propose to include something on coherence and consistency across sectors to promote the use of quality material rather than cheapest low-quality bulk.

Strategic Priority 19: Update FGR conservation and management needs and integrate them into wider policies, programmes and frameworks of action at national, regional and global levels

Respondent	Comments
Ecuador	It is essential to ensure that national policies are consistent with relevant regional and international frameworks, such as biodiversity and climate change agreements. Additionally, action plans should be developed that integrate conservation and management needs within a broader context, ensuring effective coordination of efforts at the national, regional, and global levels.
Kenya	Revise to align with the Global Biodiversity Framework as well as to urge parties to pature these in the country National Biodiversity Action Plans.
Yemen	Integrating FGR needs into broader policies ensures a holistic approach to environmental management, recognizing the importance of genetic diversity for healthy ecosystems and sustainable development. Existing examples like national biodiversity strategies and the CBD demonstrate the value of this approach
ICRAF	Ref comment to SP18

Strategic Priority 20: Develop collaboration and promote coordination of national institutions and programmes related to FGR

Respondent	Comments
Ecuador	To improve collaboration and coordination in the management and conservation of forest genetic resources, it is essential to strengthen or establish a coordinating entity or an inter-institutional committee that brings together all stakeholders, including government agencies, universities, NGOs, and the private sector. This body should facilitate communication and collaboration among the involved institutions, as well as organize joint workshops, seminars, and training courses on the conservation and management of forest genetic resources. Ongoing training will help align knowledge and approaches across parties. Additionally, the creation of collaborative research projects and programs involving multiple institutions should be promoted, aiming to address common challenges and maximize resource use efficiency.
Yemen	Existing mechanisms for collaboration (e.g., committees, national platforms) facilitate information sharing and joint initiatives on FGR conservation and management, promoting a unified national approach.
ICRAF	At this level, perhaps an opportunity to call for more engagement with bodies like IPCC, IPBES, GCF and GEF to emphasize the importance of FGR for climate and biodiversity, and make it a priority for higher level of international funding.

Strategic Priority 21: Establish and strengthen educational and research capacities on FGR to ensure adequate technical support to related development programmes

Respondent	Comments
Ecuador	Develop specialized academic programs for the creation and updating of curricula in universities and technical training centers that include studies in forest genetic resources, conservation biology, and biodiversity management. Additionally, it is essential to implement postgraduate programs and continuous training courses that cover specific areas such as forest biotechnology, ecology, and sustainable management of genetic resources. At the same time, research centers dedicated to forest biology, genetic improvement, and conservation should be developed and equipped, providing advanced technology and adequate laboratories to support these educational and research efforts.
Poland	The supplementation of training modules with topics related to timber products within sustainable forest management.
Yemen	Current efforts in FGR education and research are a good start, but improvements are needed. Targeted training programs, increased access to education (especially for remote/underrepresented groups), and investments in research infrastructure would create a more skilled workforce for FGR conservation and development programs.
ICRAF	This kind of work is often part of support for National Tree Seed Programmes (ref. SP12). Cross-sectoral work that benefits forests and trees may sometimes go under the radar of opportunities. An example of this is the African Orphan Crops Consortium (AOCC), the African Plant Breeding Academy (AfPBA) and the Food Tree Portfolio Approach, see the ICRAF report on Contributions of ICRAF to the implementation of the GPA (May 2023), paragraph 5.

Strategic Priority 22: Promote the participation of indigenous and local communities in FGR management in the context of decentralization

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Develop conservation policies and strategies for forest genetic resources (FGR) focused on indigenous and local communities. Indigenous and local communities must be included from the outset in the decision-making process for the management and conservation of FGR. This involves recognizing and respecting their land rights and traditional knowledge, while integrating them into local resource management committees. The implementation of appropriate training and awareness programs will help strengthen their capacities in sustainable FGR management. Participatory funding mechanisms and economic incentives for community-led initiatives will encourage their active involvement. Furthermore, it is important to facilitate communication and information sharing between local authorities and communities to ensure harmonious and effective collaboration in forest resource management.

Ecuador	It is crucial to formalize the legal recognition of the territorial rights of indigenous and local communities, ensuring their authority to manage forest genetic resources within their territories. Additionally, specialized training in sustainable management of forest genetic resources should be offered, including conservation techniques, biodiversity management, and agroforestry practices. Support networks and collaboration between indigenous communities, civil society organizations, and the government must be established and strengthened, facilitating the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and resources in resource management. Active participation of local and indigenous communities in the planning and implementation of projects related to forest genetic resources is essential, as it can provide valuable insights and increase the acceptance and success of these initiatives.
Yemen	Training programs on FGR practices and decision-making, clear benefit-sharing mechanisms, and recognizing traditional ecological knowledge would empower ILCs. This collaborative approach, guided by FPIC principles, ensures more inclusive and sustainable FGR management.
ICRAF	ICRAF is currently working on this in the context of a larger programme of locally led restoration in Africa supported by the Bezos Earth Fund.

Strategic Priority 23: Promote and apply mechanisms for germplasm exchange at regional level to support research and development activities, in agreement with international conventions

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Establish clear regional agreements that comply with international conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol (APA), among others. It is necessary to create regional collaboration platforms to facilitate the exchange of genetic material, establishing transparent and fair sharing protocols. Rigorous standards for documentation, monitoring, and tracking of genetic material will ensure responsible management and protect the rights of the countries of origin. Financial and technical support mechanisms should be incorporated to help countries develop their capabilities in genetic material management and conservation. Finally, raising awareness among researchers and institutions about the importance of adhering to international regulations and ethical principles will promote harmonious and effective regional cooperation.
Ecuador	Create and adopt local or national regulations such as seed exchange fairs between farmers.
Poland	Updating the provisions regarding germplasm exchange to address the needs related to climate change mitigation.
Yemen	Regional germplasm exchange for FGR is key. It allows for broader R&D by sharing genetic material across countries, but must comply with international agreements. This fosters regional collaboration and advancements in FGR research while respecting global regulations.
ICRAF	Could be added that climate change makes exchange more needed than ever.

Strategic Priority 24: Reinforce regional and international cooperation to support education, knowledge dissemination, research, and conservation and sustainable management of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Promote strategic partnerships between countries, non-governmental organizations, and research institutions. This includes establishing collaborative networks to share knowledge, best practices, and technical resources. International and regional forums can be organized to exchange experiences and coordinate joint conservation efforts. Engaging in collaborative research projects and educational initiatives will strengthen awareness and local capacities. Finally, the establishment of financial and technical mechanisms to support conservation and sustainable management projects is essential to ensure effective cooperation.
Yemen	While existing cooperation is valuable, we can strengthen it by focusing on specific areas. Regional collaboration on developing best practices for sustainable FGR use and establishing early warning systems for transboundary threats would be crucial. Additionally, strengthening communication and resource sharing within existing frameworks like the CBD can improve overall effectiveness. Engaging new partners, like private sector research institutions, can bring valuable expertise to the table.

ICRAF	See comments to SP20 and SP21. ICRAF has proposed that funders should commit to the use of quality planting material before supporting tree planting (Kindt et al. 2023, Env. Cons. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0376892923000188)
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Strategic Priority 25: Encourage the establishment of network activities and support the development and reinforcement of international networking and information sharing on FGR research, management and conservation

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Create collaborative platforms that facilitate the sharing of information and best practices. Promoting joint projects and collaborative research initiatives between institutions and countries will help strengthen these networks. International conferences and workshops can serve as meeting points for exchanging data, research, and management strategies. Establishing a common database to centralize information and research results will enable better coordination. Finally, financial and technical support mechanisms must be established to sustain these collective efforts and encourage active participation from all involved stakeholders.
Yemen	Existing international networks like FORGEN effectively share knowledge on FGR research and conservation. Supporting these networks keeps researchers and experts connected, promoting better global FGR management.
ICRAF	ICRAF is actively working on this as part of the newly approved IKI-RTRP project for Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda (The right tree in the right place for the right purpose: supplying high-quality tree planting material of native tree species (NTS) for landscape restoration in Sub Saharan Africa (RTRP-Seed), https://www.cifor-icraf.org/rtrp-seed/).

Strategic Priority 26: Promote public and international awareness of the roles and values of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Conduct awareness campaigns using various media, including social networks, documentaries, and scientific publications. Create digital platforms to both inform the public about the importance of forest genetic resources (FGR) and collect feedback. Organizing national and international events, conferences, and exhibitions focused on FGR would help highlight their ecological and economic significance. Engaging opinion leaders, influencers, and conservation ambassadors in these initiatives can also increase their visibility and impact. Finally, integrating FGR into educational programs and public policies will strengthen their recognition and value among decision-makers and the general public.
Central African Republic	Replace 'poverty reduction' with 'wealth creation.'
Ecuador	Develop communication campaigns through traditional media, social networks, and digital platforms that emphasize the relevance of forest genetic resources for biodiversity, climate change, and human well-being. Create and distribute educational materials, such as brochures, infographics, and videos, explaining how these resources contribute to sustainability and ecological resilience. Organize public events, like fairs, exhibitions, and conferences, to promote the importance of forest genetic resources and share success stories and best practices. Facilitate community activities, such as field days and participatory workshops, allowing people to experience and learn about the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.
Yemen	Current public awareness of Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) is lacking. Strategic Priority 26 aims to address this by promoting their importance through targeted educational campaigns, engaging media, and public participation initiatives. This will cultivate a broader understanding and appreciation for FGR, leading to increased public support for their conservation.
ICRAF	See SP25

Strategic Priority 27: Strengthen efforts to mobilize the necessary resources, including financing, for the conservation, sustainable use and development of FGR

Respondent	Comments
Burkina Faso	Diversify funding sources by establishing public-private partnerships and seeking funds from international organizations and foundations. The creation of innovative financing mechanisms, such as dedicated conservation funds or carbon credits, can also play a key role. It is important to promote conservation projects to investors and donors by demonstrating the economic and ecological benefits of forest genetic resources (FGR). At the same time, strengthening local capacities to develop solid and transparent funding proposals will help attract additional resources. Finally, raising awareness and engaging stakeholders and local communities in FGR management can enhance the legitimacy of initiatives and attract increased financial support.
Central African Republic	Reformulated measures: Strive to support countries and relevant parties in designing suitable programs and policies aimed at the conservation, sustainable use, and enhancement of FGR, and mobilize sufficient funds in a sustainable manner, especially in developing and transitioning countries.
Ecuador	Develop a strategic plan that identifies specific financial needs for FGR conservation and management projects, setting investment priorities and seeking diversified funding sources. This plan should include national and international funds, private donations, and public-private partnerships. Additionally, it is essential to train institutions and organizations responsible for preparing effective funding proposals and fund management. Training on the creation and management of fundable projects should also be promoted, ensuring alignment with national and global priorities in conservation and sustainability.
Yemen	Securing adequate resources for FGR conservation requires diversification beyond traditional government budgets. Exploring public-private partnerships, innovative financing like payments for ecosystem services, or even crowdfunding initiatives can unlock new sources of support. Additionally, cost-benefit analyses highlighting the long-term benefits of FGR investment can further incentivize resource allocation.
ICRAF	See SP25 and SP24.

APPENDIX II**Online form used for the written consultation on the review of the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources***

Contact details:

Name:

Email address:

Country/Organization:

Please also indicate in which capacity you are providing comments by selecting one of the following options:

- National Focal Point or Alternate on forest genetic resources
- Other national expert on forest genetic resources
- National Focal Point to the Commission
- Other country delegate to the Commission
- Representative of a regional network on forest genetic resources
- Representative of an international organization or other institute working on forest genetic resources

Priority Areas and Strategic Priorities of the Global Plan of Action are listed below. Please first indicate your view on the need to revise a given Priority Area/Strategic Priority by selecting one of the options (no changes needed, revise, delete). You can then provide written inputs to the comment box under each Priority Area/Strategic Priority.

Your written comments would be valuable especially if you think that certain Priority Areas/Strategic Priorities should be revised or deleted. In the comment boxes, you can also provide your views on the rationale and action points listed under each Strategic Priority in the Global Plan of Action. In case you do not wish to provide any comments, you can leave a box empty.

At the end of the form, you can provide your overall comments on the Global Plan of Action.

You are kindly invited to submit your views by 30 August 2024.

Thank you in advance for your contributions to this consultation.

	No changes needed	Revise	Delete
Priority Area 1: Improving the availability of, and access to, information on forest genetic resources (FGR).			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 1: Establish and strengthen national FGR assessment, characterization and monitoring systems.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 2: Develop national and subnational systems for the assessment and management of traditional knowledge on FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 3: Develop international technical standards and protocols for FGR inventories, characterization and monitoring of trends and risks.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 4: Promote the establishment and the reinforcement of FGR information systems (databases) to cover available scientific and traditional knowledge on uses, distribution, habitats, biology and genetic variation of species and species populations.			
Comments:			
Priority Area 2: <i>In situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 5: Strengthen the contribution of primary forests and protected areas to <i>in situ</i> conservation of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 6: Promote the establishment and development of efficient and sustainable <i>ex situ</i> conservation systems, including <i>in vivo</i> collections and genebanks.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 7: Support assessment, management and conservation of marginal and/or range limits forest species populations.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 8: Support and develop sustainable management and conservation of FGR on farmland.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 9: Support and strengthen the role of forests managed by indigenous and local communities in the sustainable management and conservation of FGR.			
Comments:			

Strategic Priority 10: Identify priority species for action.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 11: Develop and implement regional <i>in situ</i> conservation strategies and promote ecoregional networking and collaboration.			
Comments:			
Priority Area 3: Sustainable use, development and management of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 12: Develop and reinforce national seed programmes to ensure the availability of genetically appropriate tree seeds in the quantities and of the (certified) quality needed for national plantation programmes.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 13: Promote restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems using genetically appropriate material.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 14: Support climate change adaptation and mitigation through proper management and use of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 15: Promote appropriate use of emerging technology to support the conservation, development and sustainable use of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 16: Develop and reinforce research programmes on tree breeding, domestication and bioprospection in order to unlock the full potential of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 17: Develop and promote networking and collaboration among concerned countries to combat invasive species (animals, plants and micro-organisms) as well as diseases and pests affecting FGR.			
Comments:			
Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity-building.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 18: Develop national strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation of FGR and their sustainable use.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 19: Update FGR conservation and management needs and integrate them into wider policies, programmes and frameworks of action at national, regional and global levels.			
Comments:			

Strategic Priority 20: Develop collaboration and promote coordination of national institutions and programmes related to FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 21: Establish and strengthen educational and research capacities on FGR to ensure adequate technical support to related development programmes.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 22: Promote the participation of indigenous and local communities in FGR management in the context of decentralization.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 23: Promote and apply mechanisms for germplasm exchange at regional level to support research and development activities, in agreement with international conventions.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 24: Reinforce regional and international cooperation to support education, knowledge dissemination, research, and conservation and sustainable management of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 25: Encourage the establishment of network activities and support the development and reinforcement of international networking and information sharing on FGR research, management and conservation.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 26: Promote public and international awareness of the roles and values of FGR.			
Comments:			
Strategic Priority 27: Strengthen efforts to mobilize the necessary resources, including financing, for the conservation, sustainable use and development of FGR.			
Comments:			

Overall comments on the Global Plan of Action: