



**CPF**  
Collaborative Partnership  
on Forests

## **International Conference**

# **Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action**

**20-22 February 2018  
FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy**

## **The Conference in a Nutshell**

**17 January 2018**

## Table of Contents

<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>A. SCENESETTER</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Introduction: Time to act!	1
2. Objective: Promoting dialogue across sectors and stakeholders to meet agreed global forest targets	2
3. Supporting other international commitments and initiatives	3
4. Recent events relevant to Conference discussions	4
5. Agriculture as a main driver of deforestation	6
6. Opportunities to increase forest area	7
<b>B. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT</b>	<b>8</b>
1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the HLPF	8
2. UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the UNFF	9
<b>C. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW: MODALITIES AND THEMATIC FOCUS</b>	<b>9</b>
1. Modalities	9
2. Themes and topics	10
• Theme 1: Approaches to managing landscapes in an integrated way under a changing climate	10
• Theme 2: Sustainable commodities and value chains	11
• Theme 3: Forest smart policies and governance	13
• Theme 4: Innovative instruments to upscale progress: financing, technologies, research	13
<b>BOXES</b>	
1. Why forests are vital to people’s lives	2
2. Other international commitments supported by the Conference	4
3. SDGs to be reviewed by HLPF 2018	8
4. Four Conference themes	10
<b>ANNEXES</b>	
1. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda	15
2. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 and Associated Targets	16
3. Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and Associated Targets of the UNSPF	17

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest law enforcement, governance and trade
FLR	Forest and landscape restoration
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFEP	Global Forest Expert Panel
GFG	Global Forest Goal
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GLF	Global Landscapes Forum
GPFLR	Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration
HLPF	UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAF	International Arrangement on Forests
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Center
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
PES	Payments for ecosystem services
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	Sustainable forest management
SOFO	State of the World's Forests
SW4SW	Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment)
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNSPF	United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
WBCSD	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
WRI	World Resources Institute

## A. SCENESETTER

### 1. Introduction: Time to act!

Forests are among the world's most productive land-based ecosystems and are essential to life on earth and sustainable development. According to the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 (FRA 2015), forests cover 30% of the Earth's land area or nearly 4 billion hectares (ha). Fifteen years ago, the World Bank estimated that 1.6 billion people – 25% of the global population -- depended on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation. Today, those numbers have surely increased. Forests provide essential goods and services, including timber, fibre, fuel, food, fodder and medicine. They conserve soil and water; prevent land degradation and desertification; reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts, dust and sand storms, and other disasters; and are crucial to climate change mitigation and adaptation and conserving the world's biological diversity (see [Box 1](#)).

Despite humanity's dependence on forests, the earth's forest area continues to shrink. While global rates of deforestation have decreased in the recent past from a net annual forest area loss of 7.3 million ha in 2000 to 3.3 million ha in 2015, the decrease has not been even across regions. Deforestation rates in some regions, especially Africa and Latin America, are still alarmingly high. Many drivers of deforestation lie outside the forest sector and are rooted in wider social and economic issues, including challenges related to reducing poverty, urbanization, and policies that favor land uses which produce higher and more rapid financial returns, including energy, mining, transportation, and especially agriculture.

At the same time forests are disappearing, we are seeing rapid population growth and rising per capita incomes in many countries. These trends are accelerating global demand for forest products and services. They are also increasing the demand for food and agricultural production, which is the single greatest driver of deforestation globally. With world population projected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, forests and their multiple benefits need to be safeguarded. The demand for wood alone is expected to triple to 10 billion cubic meters. This means finding ways to feed people while maintaining and expanding forests to meet other human needs.

Halting and reversing deforestation globally presents an enormous challenge and will require political will and concerted action across all sectors at all levels. **The International Conference on Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action will bring together experts from across many sectors and walks of life to identify how we can collectively address this global challenge.**

The Conference is a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), an

informal voluntary arrangement involving the secretariats of 14 international organizations with significant forest-related mandates.<sup>1</sup> The timing of the Conference provides an unprecedented opportunity to contribute to pivotal decisions to be taken by the United Nations in 2018 and influence follow up actions by Member States and business and civil society partners at all levels.

#### **BOX 1 – WHY FORESTS ARE VITAL TO PEOPLE’S LIVES<sup>2</sup>**

- Forested catchments supply 75% of all freshwater for farms, industry and homes.
- Forest products contribute significantly to the shelter of at least 1.3 billion people – 18% of the world’s population.
- Foods from forests – leaves, seeds, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, honey, insects and wild animals – provide nutrition and health to millions of rural people.
- Forests and tree-based systems support agricultural production by protecting soil and water, maintaining soil fertility, regulating micro-climates, and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.
- An estimated 1.2 billion people worldwide benefit from agroforestry systems across 1 billion ha of land.
- Energy from wood is the single most important source of renewable energy and represents 9% of the total primary energy supply worldwide and 27% of the primary energy supply in Africa. An estimated 2.4 billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and/or heating.
- Forests provide the raw material for a broad variety of everyday uses, including paper, packaging and construction materials -- all of which are widely recyclable and contribute to sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Forests sequester more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem. Forest products made from wood, such as construction materials and furniture, store carbon for their lifetime.
- Forests are rich in biodiversity and home to 80% of all terrestrial plants and animals.
- Forests have deep cultural and spiritual values for people in many regions of the world

## **2. Objective: Promoting dialogue across sectors and stakeholders to meet agreed global forest targets**

The International Conference on Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action is the first major technical conference on forests

<sup>1</sup> The CPF was established in 2001 at the invitation of ECOSOC to support the work of the UNFF and enhance cooperation and coordination on forest issues. Member organizations include (in alphabetical order): CBD, CIFOR, FAO (Chair), GEF, ICRAF, ITTO, IUCN, IUFRO, UNCCD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFCCC, UNFF (Secretariat), and the World Bank.

<sup>2</sup> Sources: GLF Bonn 2017, FRA 2015, GFEP 2015, SOFO 2014 and WBCSD 2014.

since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the first-ever United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF). These global compacts set out, *inter alia*, two internationally agreed targets to halt and reverse deforestation:

- **By 2020 promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally** - *Sustainable Development Goal 15, Target 2 (SDG15.2) of the 2030 Agenda*
- **By 2030 forest area is increased by 3% worldwide<sup>3</sup>** - *Global Forest Goal 1, Target 1.1 (GFG1.1) of the UNSPF*

The Conference aims to bring together a wide range of stakeholders from within and outside the forest sector to consider how we can collectively work to achieve these globally agreed targets. Specifically, the Conference will explore opportunities and challenges and make recommendations for action related to applying integrated landscape management approaches; improving the sustainability of agricultural commodity production and associated value chains; enhancing land and forest governance; and using innovative mechanisms to enhance forest financing, monitor land use changes and strengthen the science-policy interface. Conference outcomes, including recommendations on how to achieve SDG15.2 and GFG1.1, will be presented to the 13<sup>th</sup> session of UN Forum on Forests (UNFF13, May 2018) for its consideration and referral to the next session of the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018) which will review progress on SDG15, among other SDGs.

The hallmark of the Conference is its intersectoral nature and approach. Typically, international forest-related meetings engage stakeholders from within the forest sector. By contrast, the **Conference aims to promote dialogue across sectors and stakeholders and benefit from the knowledge, experiences and perspectives of experts from various sectors -- without which forest goals and targets cannot be realized.** Recognizing that the achievement of SDG15.2 and GFG1.1 depends on multi-sector coordination at all levels, the Conference will bring together a wide range of government and non-government stakeholders from within and outside the forest sector.

### 3. Supporting other international commitments and initiatives

In focusing on efforts to achieve SDG15.2 and GFG1.1, Conference outcomes will be highly relevant to progress on a number of other international commitments and initiatives within and beyond the forest sector (see [Box 2](#)).

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<sup>3</sup> Based on FRA 2015

**BOX 2 – OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY THE CONFERENCE**

- **Article V of the 2015 Paris Agreement** which provides that Parties should take action to conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests.
- **Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 7** which call for by 2020:
  - Reducing by at least half the rate of loss of natural habitats, including forests (Target 5)
  - Sustainably managing areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forests (Target 7)<sup>4</sup>
- **GEF objectives 1 and 3 for its cross-cutting SFM Strategy 2014-2018** which are to:
  - Reduce the pressures on high value conservation forests by addressing the drivers of deforestation (Objective 1)
  - Reverse the loss of ecosystem services within degraded forest landscapes (Objective 3)
- **The goals of the New York Declaration on Forests** to:
  - At least halve the rate of loss of natural forests globally by 2020 and end the loss by 2030
  - Support/help meet the private sector goal of eliminating deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities, such as palm oil, soy, paper and beef products, by 2020
  - Significantly reduce deforestation from other sectors by 2020
  - Restore 150 million ha of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020 and restore an additional 200 million ha by 2030<sup>5</sup>
- **The Bonn Challenge** to restore 150 million ha of the world's deforested lands by 2020.<sup>6</sup>

#### 4. Recent events relevant to Conference discussions

A number of recent meetings have addressed issues and generated outcomes relevant to the Conference and its discussions. These include:

- **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 23) to the UNFCCC, 6-17 November 2017, Bonn.**  
The COP launched a process to address issues related to agriculture through, *inter alia*:
  - Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience.
  - Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management.
  - Improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems.
  - Improved livestock management systems.

<sup>4</sup> Abbreviated text

<sup>5</sup> The New York Declaration on Forests was launched at the Climate Summit in 2014 by a coalition of 179 national and subnational governments, companies, and nongovernmental organizations.

<sup>6</sup> The Bonn Challenge was launched in 2011 by Germany and IUCN in collaboration with the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).

- Socio-economic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector.
- **The Global Meeting on “Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW)”, 31 October-1 November 2017, Rome.** SW4SW was organized by FAO and its Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSF) in collaboration with CIFOR, Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), ITTO, World Bank and World Wildlife Fund. Key messages include:
- Sustainable forestry is a significant component of sustainable landscape management. Promoting wood value chains that are environmentally friendly, socially responsible, and economically sound is an important step in transitioning to sustainable landscapes.
  - To enhance local livelihoods, there is a need to connect global/regional/local value chains and diversify forest products beyond wood to make effective use of ‘baskets of value chains’.
  - Sustainable wood value chains are critical to mitigating climate change through carbon storage in standing forests and harvested wood products and for the substitution of fossil-based raw materials and products. The substitution of higher carbon footprint materials provides important contributions to mitigation efforts especially in the construction sector.
  - Enhancing investments to promote sustainable wood value chains requires critical assessment of investment barriers and opportunities along the value chain and better securitization and monetization of the full range of forest products and services.
  - Creation of a virtual multi-stakeholder investment promotion facility would help tailor finance to support sustainable wood value chains.
- **The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), 19-20 December 2017, Bonn.** “GLF Bonn 2017” was led by CIFOR with core partners, including UN Environment, the World Bank, and the Government of Germany. The GLF focused on forest landscape restoration, agroforestry systems, and deforestation free supply chains as promising strategies for achieving food security without sacrificing forests and related climate and biodiversity goals, and discussed the challenges that need to be addressed to effectively move forward with each strategy, as well as the potential for positive action, including the role of banks and financial institutions, the private sector and project developers. GLF Bonn 2017 also launched the new phase of the GLF which will expand discussions to a larger audience, focusing on communities and local realities and actions that need to be upscaled across sectors to transition towards sustainable landscapes. Going forward, the GLF will:



- Work through four components: (1) “Landscape Learning” to enhance curricula and learning opportunities from primary school to post-graduate students; (2) “Landscape News” to provide relevant stories and insights using the latest media technologies; (3) “The Knowledge Hub” to ensure that research findings and real-world experiences from landscapes are shared effectively; and (4) GLF events to bring together stakeholders in global, regional, local and thematic gatherings.
  - Build a community that aims to connect one billion people, including by building on the broad engagement of and contributions by many organizations.
  - Address key themes: Rights and equitable development; financing sustainable landscapes; food and livelihoods; landscape restoration; and measuring progress towards climate and development goals.
  - Be supported by a small secretariat in Bonn operated by CIFOR.
- **The International Symposium on the “Promotion of Deforestation-Free Global Supply Chain to Contribute to Halting Deforestation”, 23-24 January 2018, Tokyo.** The symposium, organized by the Japanese Forestry Agency, FAO and ITTO, to promote a better understanding of the implementation status of global zero deforestation commitments and efforts to advance deforestation-free supply chains; facilitate wider publication of good practices toward achieving the SDGs and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including by the private sector in Japan; and explore opportunities to scale up zero deforestation activities by a wide range of sectors towards the shared goal of halting deforestation by 2020.<sup>7</sup>

## 5. Agriculture as a main driver of deforestation

In looking beyond the forest sector for solutions to halt and reverse deforestation, the Conference will give particular attention to the challenges posed by agricultural production. As already mentioned, deforestation in many countries continues to be driven by the need to produce food. To date, the greatest loss of forests has been in tropical and low-income countries which have also experienced the greatest expansion of agricultural land. Between 2000 and 2010, annual net forest loss in tropical countries was 7 million ha, and the annual net gain in agricultural land was 6 million ha. This illustrates that agriculture is still the main driver of deforestation. It is estimated that 80% of forest loss is due to conversion to agriculture.

A significant part of agriculture-based forest loss in the tropics and sub-tropics is driven by large-scale commercial production of remunerative agricultural and livestock commodities, including soy beans and cattle in Latin America and oil palm in Southeast Asia. Production of these commodities is often supported by government subsidies and other incentives.

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<sup>7</sup> The results of the symposium are not yet available but will be presented at the Conference.

Small-scale and subsistence agriculture are also drivers of forest loss, which dominate deforestation in Africa and are also prevalent in Asia. These drivers are frequently associated with fuelwood consumption which is often unsustainable and leads to forest degradation.

Other external drivers of deforestation include mining and other extractive industries, transportation infrastructure, and large-scale energy development. While these are serious challenges in a number of countries and are often interrelated, they have less impact globally on forest loss than does agricultural production.

Forest are also at risk from illegal or unsustainable commercial logging, unmanaged fires, pollution, disease, pests, invasive alien species, fragmentation and the impacts of climate change and severe weather events. While these factors threaten forest health and the ability of forests to function as productive and resilient ecosystems in many countries, they do not typically drive the conversion of forests to other land uses, which is the focus of the Conference.

## **6. Opportunities to increase forest area**

The Conference will also give attention to opportunities for increasing forest cover. Nearly half of the 193 Member States of the United Nations have less than 20% of their land area covered with forests, well below the average forest cover worldwide. This signals vast opportunities to expand forest area in many countries, including in non-tropical regions, in order to meet the growing need for forest products and services, including carbon sequestration.

Assuming appropriate incentives and enabling conditions are in place, forests can be effectively increased through afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration, all of which involve tree-planting programs of some kind. In recent years, the concept of “forest and landscape restoration” (FLR) has also received attention. This is the process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. By using a landscape approach to sustainable development, agricultural production, livelihoods and the use and management of natural resources, such as forests and water, within a given area (landscape) are considered in an integrated manner to better understand trade-offs, options and scenarios around proposed decisions and desired outcomes.

## B. INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

### 1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the HLPF

Adopted by world leaders in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a bold and ambitious global partnership for the future. At the heart of the 2030 Agenda are 17 SDGs (see [Annex 1](#)) with 169 associated targets.<sup>8</sup> The importance of forests to sustainable development is recognized in SDG15, which includes a number of targets, in addition to SDG15.2, that are relevant to forests (see [Annex 2](#)). Forests are also explicitly mentioned in SDG6.6. on water<sup>9</sup> and are widely recognized as vital to the integrated achievement of all other SDGs.

As the main UN platform on sustainable development, the HLPF has a central role in the annual follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, in particular progress on the SDGs.<sup>10</sup> The overall theme of HLPF 2018 is "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". Under this theme, the HLPF will conduct an in-depth review of six SDGs and their associated targets, including SDG15 (see [Box 3](#)). The output of HLPF 2018 will be a ministerial declaration that is expected to set out priority actions by all actors to accelerate progress on these SDGs.

#### BOX 3: SDGS TO BE REVIEWED BY HLPF 2018

**SDG 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all  
**SDG 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all  
**SDG 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable  
**SDG 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns  
**SDG 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss  
**SDG 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (reviewed by the HLPF each year)

<sup>8</sup> Paragraph 55 of the 2030 Agenda characterizes the SDGs as "integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable".

<sup>9</sup> "By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes".

<sup>10</sup> Established in 2013, the HLPF meets annually under the auspices of ECOSOC and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. HLPF meetings focus on an overall theme and an in-depth review of a specific suite of SDGs, with all SDGs being reviewed every four years. The HLPF replaced the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

## 2. UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and the UNFF

In 2015, building on the momentum provided by the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG15, the UNFF launched the development of the first-ever UNSPF, which was concluded by the UNFF and adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2017. The UNSPF provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. The UNSPF serves as a reference for enhanced coherence and collaboration on forests within the UN system and across CPF member organizations. At the heart of the UNSPF are 6 Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030 (see [Annex 3](#)). GFG1.1 to “increase forest area by 3% worldwide” is particularly significant since it is the first quantitative global forest target agreed by all UN Member States.

The UNFF is responsible for the annual review of progress on implementing the UNSPF<sup>11</sup>, including achieving GFG1.1. As a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UNFF is also expected to provide substantive inputs directly to annual SDG reviews by the HLPF.<sup>12</sup> In May 2018, UNFF13 will consider the Forum’s contributions to the six SDGs to be reviewed by HLPF 2018. In this context, the CPF will present the results and recommendations of the Conference to UNFF13 for the Forum’s consideration and referral to the attention of HLPF 2018.

## C. CONFERENCE OVERVIEW: MODALITIES AND THEMATIC FOCUS

### 1. Modalities

**Organizer and sponsors:** The Conference is organized by the CPF, hosted by FAO, and led by a Steering Committee comprised of all CPF members and interested donor sponsors. Sponsors include the Governments of Austria, Canada, Germany, and the Netherlands, and the European Union.

**Participants:** The Conference will bring together participants representing a wide variety of stakeholders both within and outside the forest sector. Invitees include representatives of:

- Government ministries responsible for various sectors, including agriculture and livestock, forestry, fisheries, environment and water;

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<sup>11</sup> Established in 2000 as a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, the UNFF provides a global platform for forest policy dialogue. It meets annually in advance of the HLPF, typically at UN Headquarters in New York.

<sup>12</sup> The mechanism for conveying these inputs is still evolving. In 2017, the UNFF requested the Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau to transmit the Forum’s summary inputs to the HLPF on the SDGs under review that year.

- Academia, including scholars, researchers and students;
- The private sector, including representatives of multinational companies, private sector associations and small producer organizations; and
- Civil society organizations, including representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations.

**Languages:** The conference will provide simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish.

**Format and outcome:** The Conference programme will include plenary sessions and 8 parallel break-out sessions (covering the 16 topics) under the guidance of two Co-Chairs:

- Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Yaakob, Chair of UNFF13 and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations; and
- Hiroto Mitsugi, Chair of the CPF and Assistant Director-General of the FAO Forestry Department.

The outcome of the Conference will be a Co-Chairs summary, which will include key points raised in the thematic sessions and a concise set of conclusions and recommendations by theme. The Co-Chairs summary will be presented to UNFF13 for the Forum's consideration and transmitted by the UNFF13 Chair through appropriate channels to HLPF 2018.

## 2. Themes and topics

The Conference will focus on four cross-cutting themes that are crucial to halting deforestation and increasing forest area (see [Box 4](#)). The discussion under each theme will center on four topics. The approach to each topic will be forward-looking and solutions-oriented focusing on examples of best practice, country experiences and upscaling success stories.

### BOX 4 – FOUR CONFERENCE THEMES

- Theme 1: Approaches to managing landscapes in an integrated way under a changing climate
- Theme 2: Sustainable commodities and value chains
- Theme 3: Forest smart policies and governance
- Theme 4: Innovative instruments to upscale progress: financing, technologies and research

**Theme 1: Approaches to managing landscapes in an integrated way under a changing climate.** Integrated landscape management is a tool for sustainably managing land uses at an appropriate scale to optimize long-term benefits to people. Looking at natural resources

in an integrated way across different land uses can clarify the role and value of forests to people's livelihoods, security, and resilience to climate variability and change. This in turn can foster management and policy decisions that avoid deforestation and, where appropriate, provide incentives for forest restoration, reforestation and afforestation.

Theme 1 will focus on the following four topics:

Topic 1: People-centered approaches to integrated landscape management.

Approaches that put people and their aspirations at the center of production activities are among the most effective ways to address development needs sustainably while protecting and restoring natural resources. This session will focus on the benefits of integrated landscape management from the perspective of local communities.

Topic 2: Agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems. Agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems integrate trees, crops and livestock in agricultural production systems using agro-ecological principles. This session will present evidence, at scale and across regions, of how these integrated systems contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, combat land degradation, restore productivity of landscapes and ecosystems, and improve the resilience of socio-economic systems.

Topic 3: Enhancing forest goods and services through sustainable forest management and forest landscape restoration. The sustainable management and restoration of forest landscapes have the potential to generate considerable benefits, contributing significantly to social, economic and environmental sustainability. This session will illustrate integrated national strategies and best practices on the ground showing that SFM and FLR, when appropriately planned and sustainably managed through enabling policy and governance arrangements, can deliver a wide range of forest ecosystem goods and services at landscape levels.

Topic 4: Sustainable agricultural production intensification through integration of trees with crops and pastures. The need to feed a growing and evolving world population is expected to require 50% more agricultural production by 2050, which could stimulate further conversion of forests to farmland in many countries. This session will discuss how to increase on-farm productivity in different agricultural production systems (livestock, crop, fisheries and aquaculture) and what integrated tree-crop-pasture systems can most effectively be upscaled to contribute to sustainable agricultural production in various geographic locations.

**Theme 2: Sustainable commodities and value chains.** The production of agricultural commodities, such as palm oil, soy, cocoa and beef products, continues to be a primary driver of deforestation in many countries due to a number of interrelated factors: Agricultural commodities produce higher and faster returns than timber; the value of forest

ecosystem services is not monetized; and the long-term impacts and costs of forest loss are not taken into account. Steps are now being taken to better level the playing field between forests and agricultural commodities, including through commitments by the private sector and full cost accounting systems that measure the true value and costs of forest goods and services. Theme 2 will focus on the following four topics:

Topic 5: Corporate commitments and zero deforestation initiatives for agricultural commodities. A number of companies have committed to the goal of eliminating deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities by 2020, which is highlighted in the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests. This session will focus on examples of initiatives that are supporting the private sector to meet their commitments and how the involvement of the private sector is critical to efforts to reduce deforestation.

Topic 6: Forest products value chains in the bio-economy. Legally and sustainably produced and processed wood products can contribute significantly to the bio-economy through advanced use of renewable forest resources to substitute fossil and non-fossil-based raw materials and products to create a more sustainable society. Enhanced use of sustainably produced wood for construction offers the opportunity to greatly generate increased value chains besides their substantial substitution effects. This session will discuss green supply chains for forest products in legality and sustainability frameworks and the potential of promoting wood construction by replacing non-renewable materials and sources of energy with sustainably produced forest products.

Topic 7: Valuing forest ecosystem services, natural capital and payments for forest ecosystem services (PES). While the value of timber and many other tangible forest products are captured in markets, the value of less tangible forest ecosystem services (e.g. soil and water conservation, biodiversity, carbon storage, tourism and recreation) often go unrecognized in monetary terms, which results in a significant undervaluing of the full benefit of forests to societies and economies, potentially leading to deforestation and forest degradation. This session will discuss successful examples of valuing forest ecosystem services through natural capital accounting and PES systems in capturing their economic values.

Topic 8: Strengthening small-scale producers, including indigenous peoples, communities and women. Improving economic returns for small-scale forest product producers can have a significant impact of halting deforestation and increasing forest area. This session will focus on innovative approaches to integrating small producers and their organizations into markets and equitable value chains through linkages to the private sector.

**Theme 3: Forest smart policies and governance.** Governance is both the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (e.g. by a government, organization or other entity). Good governance is participatory, consensus-oriented, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law.<sup>13</sup> Good governance across land-based sectors, including the forest sector, is an essential pre-condition to halting and reversing deforestation. Theme 3 will focus on the following four topics:

Topic 9: Cross-sectoral policy coordination. Cross-sectoral coordination at all levels is essential to developing policies that recognize the benefits provided by forests and their contribution to other sectors and minimize negative impacts on forests. This session will focus on actions taken at the national level to integrate forest-related targets into multi-sectoral sustainable development frameworks.

Topic 10: Role of different stakeholders. Stakeholder involvement is a key factor to successful policy development and implementation in all sectors, including the forest sector. This session will focus on practical ways to reconcile different objectives and expectations among stakeholders; balance environmental, economic and social outcomes; and increase coordination among actors along value chains to reduce pressure on forests.

Topic 11: Improving land governance. An estimated 80% of global forest loss is due to conversion to agriculture, which often occurs in the context of weak land governance systems. This session will highlight initiatives taken by countries to put in place effective legal and institutional frameworks and measures to improve land governance and in turn reduce deforestation.

Topic 12: Role of forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT) instruments. The implementation of instruments to strengthen forest sector legality, including in the harvesting, production, processing and trade in forest products, has provided valuable experience on how demand and supply side actions can lead to reduced deforestation and forest degradation. This session will focus on lessons learned from implementing the European Union's FLEGT initiative and related instruments.

**Theme 4: Innovative instruments to upscale progress: financing, technologies and research.** Halting deforestation and increasing forest area can be costly and technically demanding. Despite significant increases in the last decade in the international public funding available for forests in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation, many countries continue to lack the financial, technical and scientific capacity to stem and

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<sup>13</sup> Source: UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).



reverse forest loss. While challenges remain, innovative instruments to upscale progress in these areas are emerging in both the public and private sectors which can help address country needs. Theme 4 will focus on the following four topics:

Topic 13: Public and private international finance. The roles that public and private capital play in shaping land use must be better understood in order to move towards a system that stimulates and rewards sustainable land use and balances the need for forest protection and restoration and related climate change mitigation and adaptation with the need to intensify agricultural output and maintain stable economic growth. This session focuses on how to unlock and scale up climate finance for sustainable land use, including reducing deforestation, particularly from the private sector.

Topic 14: Financial instruments to mobilize domestic funding. Domestic public sector finance plays a critical role in forest financing, including by catalyzing private financing, and is often the only source of domestic funding for forestry activities focused on social and environmental benefits. At the same time, many countries are unable to raise adequate domestic public and private funds for the forest sector because forests are treated as a quick source of revenue with minimal reinvestment into forest management. This session will focus on success stories in mobilizing domestic financing for forests and the factors underlying those successes.

Topic 15: Innovative technologies for monitoring land use. Since changing land use is a major driver of deforestation, predicting and monitoring these changes is critical to understanding and halting negative changes, including deforestation and forest degradation. This session will focus on the latest technologies for monitoring changes in land use, including deforestation, and monitoring the success of reforestation, afforestation, and forest and landscape restoration activities.

Topic 16: Innovative instruments to upscale progress: The role of science and research. It is widely recognized that a strong science-policy-management interface can help ensure sound land use decisions and effective implementation of those decisions. This session will focus on opportunities and constraints for a strengthened role of science and research in five policy areas linked to land use and deforestation interventions.



**ANNEX 1****The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda**

<b>SDG</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>No. of targets</b>
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	7
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	8
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	13
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	10
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	9
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	8
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	5
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	12
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	8
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	10
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	10
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	11
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*	5
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	10
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	12
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	12
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development	19

\* Acknowledging that the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change

## ANNEX 2

### **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 and Associated Targets**

SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

15.1 By 2020 ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

**15.2 By 2020 promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.**

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

15.4 By 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

15.8 By 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

15.9 By 2020 integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance SFM and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### ANNEX 3

#### **Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and Associated Targets of the UNSPF**

Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide (based on FRA 2015)**
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 1.3 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among others, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

- 3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased.
- 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased.
- 3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased.

Global Forest Goal 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.

- 4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such

- management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing is significantly increased
  - 4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased
  - 4.4 The number of countries which have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased
  - 4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multi-disciplinary scientific assessments

Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement SFM, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.

- 5.1 Number of countries which have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased.
- 5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade is significantly reduced worldwide.
- 5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programs are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes of land use planning and development.

Global Forest Goal 6: Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.

- 6.1 Forest-related programmes within the UN system are coherent and complementary and integrate the Global Forest Goals and targets where appropriate.
- 6.2 Forest-related programmes across CPF member organizations are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote SFM and halt deforestation and forest degradation is significantly enhanced at all levels
- 6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of SFM is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified.
- 6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the UNSPF and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened.