



CPF Collaborative Partnership on Forests

Concept Note

Organization-led Initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Development of global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the IAF Strategic Plan

28-30 November 2016

FAO Headquarters, Rome

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contained therein will strongly influence global development actions in the next 15 years. Forests and their sustainable management are core aspects of SDG15 on life on earth and its targets. Forests are also explicitly addressed in one target of SDG6 on water and can significantly contribute to achieving many of the other SDGs and associated targets.

A robust follow-up and review mechanism for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a solid framework of indicators and statistical data to monitor and assess progress, inform policy and ensure accountability. In March 2016, the UN Statistical Commission agreed on a global SDG indicator framework as a practical starting point. However, much work still needs to be done on some of the indicators, including the one for Target 15.2 on sustainable forest management.

Over the past year, an informal inter-agency group involving relevant CPF members and C&I processes has been working on further elaborating the indicator for the SDG target 15.2 on sustainable forest management and other possible forest-related SDG indicators. In May 2016, an international workshop on strengthening collaboration on Criteria and Indicators (C&I), organized jointly by the Government of



Canada and FAO in Ottawa further confirmed the need for strengthening forest-related indicators globally.

ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33 “International arrangement on forests beyond 2015” called for the development of a strategic plan for the international arrangement on forests (IAF) for the period 2017–2030 which should, among others, incorporate the global objectives on forests (GOFs) and the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The strategic plan will be considered by the Special Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) scheduled in January 2017.

Furthermore, the resolution requested the secretariat of the Forum, in consultation with relevant bodies and partners including the CPF and its members, to propose for consideration by the Forum at its next session a cycle and a format for national reporting and the enhancement of voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting on the progress made on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and its GOFs, as well as the forest related SDGs and targets under the IAF, taking into account and utilizing existing data collection mechanisms. In this regard, the UNFFS is planning to conduct a series of consultation with Member States and international organizations. These include organizing an expert group meeting in February 2017 to propose a cycle and a format for national reporting to UNFF12 in May 2017.

FAO’s Committee on Forestry (COFO), in its 23rd Session in July 2016, invited countries to strengthen forest data collection, *inter alia*, to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets; and design national level forest related SDG indicators, using or further developing existing C&I before defining new ones. It further requested FAO to align its strategy for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) as necessary towards the needs of SDG monitoring as well as to the reporting needs of other global forest processes. COFO also requested FAO continue working with the secretariats of CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, UNFF, ITTO, other members of the CPF, as well as other relevant international processes to improve and streamline global reporting on forests, with the aim of identifying synergies and reducing the reporting burden on countries.

In view of the above, it is proposed that the CPF organizes an Organization-led Initiative (OLI) on global forest indicators to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the IAF Strategic Plan.

Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Organization-Led Initiative (OLI) is to enable an open, informal, transparent and informed discussion on a common and concise set of global forest indicators supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the emerging IAF Strategic Plan.



The outcome of the OLI will also contribute to further streamlining global reporting on forests, including the ongoing work under UNFF on streamlined monitoring, assessment and reporting on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and its GOFs, as well as the forest related SDGs and targets.

The main objectives are:

- to propose a common and concise set of global indicators for monitoring progress in achieving the forest-related targets of the SDGs and relevant goals and targets of other forest-related global processes;
- to provide inputs to the development of a proposal on cycle and format for reporting;
- to provide inputs and guidance to the process of developing FRA 2020 in order to ensure its continued relevance as a global source of forest information.

Output

A report that will be presented at the Twelfth Session of the UNFF.

Relevance to the work of the Forum

The outcomes of the OLI are directly relevant for the implementation of ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33, in particular supporting the implementation of the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and monitoring of progress made on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, its GOFs and the SDGs.

Proposed Venue

FAO Headquarters, Rome

Proposed Date

28-30 November 2016

Participation

The OLI is open to all Member States, CPF members, representatives of international and regional organizations/processes, UN system organizations/agencies/programmes/commissions, other relevant entities and processes, including criteria and indicators processes, major groups and other interested stakeholders. It is anticipated that the meeting will bring together 100-120 participants. Travel support to limited number of experts will be provided, subject to the availability of resources, to ensure balanced representation from countries and other stakeholders.



Structure of the event

The meeting will be designed to ensure a high level of participation and engagement among delegates and other participants. The structure will combine the following elements:

- A background paper based on the work of the informal inter-agency working group
- Presentations by invited speakers;
- Discussions in Working Groups;
- Plenary sessions;

Discussions will revolve around key topics, e.g.:

- Key indicators to measure progress on sustainable forest management
- Data collection and availability (e.g. role of FRA)
- Roadmap towards a common set of global indicators to monitor progress in the achievement of the goals and targets of forest-related processes
- Streamlining monitoring, assessment and reporting in the context of the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and the 2030 Agenda

The detailed agenda and schedule will be elaborated by the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee will be established to

- Determine main issues to frame meetings (themes and sub-themes)
- Develop agendas and detail schedules
- Oversee the selection of panelists, speakers, etc.
- Provide financial oversight

