

In 2015, based on recommendations by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) at its 11th session, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted Resolution 2015/33 to strengthen the functioning of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), including calling for the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030. The purpose of the Strategic Plan () is to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the IAF and its components in advancing the vision, mission and objectives of the IAF. The Strategic Plan will also guide UN System wide work on SFM.


1. To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
2. To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;
4. To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;
5. To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the UN Forest Instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

Today, the IAF is composed of the UNFF and its 197 Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund. The CPF is comprised of the executive heads or their designees of 14 international organizations with significant forest-related mandates which are working in association to promote the implementation of SFM.² The IAF involves as partners interested international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, Major Groups based on those as identified in Agenda 21³ and other stakeholders.

Objectives 1 and 5 of the IAF focus on implementation of the UN Forest Instrument which was first adopted by the UNFF and the UN General Assembly in 2001.

Summary of Comments on FAO_comments_IAF_SP.PDF

Page: 3

 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:19:13 AM

We suggest to use the language of the CPF Policy Document: "The Partnership is comprised of fourteen international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests."

It is true the E 2000/35 invited the Executive heads to for a partnership but the CPF itself is better be seen as the organizations. The language in UNFF Resolution 1/3 also refers to the organizations.

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:12:48 AM

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.

Forested catchments supply 75% of all the freshwater for farms, industry and homes.

Foods from forests – leaves, seeds, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, honey, insects and wild animals – provide nutrition and health to millions of people who depend on forests for subsistence.

Forests provide the raw material for a broad variety of everyday uses, including paper, packaging and construction materials -- all of which are widely recyclable

Forest products contribute significantly to the shelter of at least 1.3 billion people.

Wood is an important source of renewable energy providing over 9% of the total global primary energy supply and 27% of the primary energy supply in Africa. More than 2 billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and/or heating


Forests control floods, landslid

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 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:25:08 AM
Minor point but insect are also part of Animalia or the Animal Kingdom.

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:23:55 AM

 Number: 3 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:32:18 AM
We suggest to add an adjective to economic development, e.g. "unsustainable" as economic development is not necessarily a driver for deforestation. We suggest to drop the word "often" or re-phrase the sentence, because the identified drivers are all from outside the sector.

 Number: 4 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:29:08 AM

finance and which produce higher and more rapid financial returns, such as agriculture, energy and transportation. 1

In addition, many forests are being degraded due to illegal logging, fire, disease, 2 invasive insects and fragmentation -- all of which threaten forest health and vitality and the ability of forests to function as productive ecosystems.

The sustainable management of all renewable and non-renewable natural resources, including forests and trees outside forests, is crucial to social and economic development. The demand for forest goods and services continues to increase due to rapid population growth and increasing per capita income and consumption in many countries.

With world population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, future demand for forest products and services could outstrip supply unless action is taken urgently to sustainably manage, protect and restore forests everywhere. Annual demand for wood alone is expected to triple by 2050.

Achieving SFM, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on significantly new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as good governance at all levels.

The launch of the Strategic Plan comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors at all levels to safeguard the world's forests and their multiple benefits.

Actions to improve productivity of existing agricultural land and restoration of degraded landscapes hold significant potential to reduce the conversion of forests to other land uses.


SDG 15 of the 2030 Agenda calls for sustainably managing forests and includes targets 15.2 and 15.b which focus on SFM and related forest financing, and targets 15.1 and 6.6 which include forests among other important ecosystems. Forests and forest-based industries also contribute to the achievement of many other SDGs⁸.

The landmark Paris Agreement of 2015 " aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty" and opens the door to looking at forest benefits holistically in the climate context, building on existing REDD+ initiatives under the UNFCCC⁹. Forests are expected to feature in many of the Parties' intended " nationally determined contributions" (NDCs) to the aim of the Agreement. In this regard, broader recognition of the values of forests both in carbon pricing and as carbon sinks is important.

4 Also significant are the positive responses of countries to the 6th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategy for SFM for the period 2014-2018 and the 3


 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:34:25 AM

Insects don't have to be invasive to contribute to the degradation. Like diseases, under certain condition native insects can cause considerable damage and degradation (e.g. during gradation periods).

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:32:45 AM

 Number: 3 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:37:12 AM

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 Number: 4 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:36:41 AM

1 likelihood of future replenishments. The quadrennial GEF replenishment cycle represents an important opportunity to increase resources for forests, including supporting the IAF and in particular implementation of the Strategic Plan, the UNFI and the GFFFN.


The Green Climate Fund (GCF) became fully operational in 2015 and promises to be the single largest global financing source for climate mitigation and adaption measures, including 2 as related to forests. The potential to mobilise GCF resources to 3 support the GFFFN activities is an opportunity to be further explored.

The GFFFN offers a unique and innovative mechanism to catalyze and facilitate financing for SFM by assisting Member States to develop financing strategies, programmes and projects to enhance their access to resources available in forest funding mechanisms and to increase investment opportunities for forests.

The strengthened IAF has the potential to advance concerted global actions on SFM while promoting implementation of other international forest-


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 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:36:50 AM

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:42:53 AM

This seems to suggest that the GCF resources would be used for the GFFFN itself, contrary to what the bullet below says, i.e. that the GFFFN would help channel resources (probably also from the GCF) to countries to support their actions.

 Number: 3 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:38:26 AM

 Number: 4 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:50:57 AM

We would like to note that protection is included in the sustainable management concept but the current formulation creates concerns about this. Although this is not a drafting exercise, we would see lots of merit in having 1 and 2 combined: "

A world where forests everywhere are sustainably managed and provide economic, social and environmental benefits for all.

For the same reason we have several reservations over Option 3 and suggest to drop it.

 Number: 5 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 5:45:05 AM

are recognized and valued by all.

_____ : A world where forests are healthy, secure and productive.

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Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:59:42 AM

Again, we understand this is not a drafting exercise, however that the combination of 1 and 5 would represent the right mix of key ek51 0 T is 4 0 1 6 7 0 0


1. Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation. (GOF1) or


Promote the implementation of SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded areas and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. (SDG15.2)

2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including

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 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 6:02:33 AM

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 6:06:59 AM

We would like to note that this option puts a very strong focus on the UNFI and IAF and as such may work against the concept of the SP being of the UN system. This observation may even be considered in relation to Option 1 which could also be made a bit more inclusive.

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SDG 15.2 and 15.b:

SDG 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. (Supports GOF 1 & 3. Contributes/linked to SDG 6.6, 12.2, 15.3; ABT 5, 7, 14, 15; GEF SFM Objectives 2 & 3; provisions of Paris Agreement)


SDG 15.b: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance SFM and


Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 6:13:00 AM

Understanding that these are examples only we would like to note that some important elements are still missing including the targets related to water and energy. Adding those would inct33se

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 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 6:22:12 AM
It would be useful to specify that this is meant in the context of forest biomass.

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 6:21:28 AM

- The share of the world's population that rely on unsustainably produced forest biomass for cooking and heating is halved. (Supports GOF 3, SDG 7)
- Reduce the extreme poverty of forest-dependent people and local communities by X%. (Supports GOF 2, SDG 1)
- X% of the world's timber-producing forests are under sustainable management. (Supports GOF 1 & 3, SDG 15.2 and related commitments)
- X% of high value conservation forests are effectively protected, including Y% of coastal forests. (Supports GOF 3, SDG 14.5 and related commitments)
- Forest-related ODA is increased X% and investment in SFM and forest-based industries is increased by Y% globally. (Supports GOF 4, SDG 15.b and related commitments)
- Illegal logging is reduced by X% worldwide. (Supports IAF Objective 5, SDG 16.3, 16.5)
- X% of countries include forests/forest sector in their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. (Supports IAF Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100)

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- (i) Strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to combat effectively illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;
- (j) Strengthen the capacity of countries to address forest-related illegal practices, including wildlife poaching, in accordance with domestic legislation, through enhanced public awareness, education, institutional capacity-building, technological transfer and technical cooperation, law enforcement and information networks;
- (k) Enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-

Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 9:00:17 AM

In this section we feel some structural changes would help strengthening the feeling of ownership for the SP. In our understanding the key role is with member states while the UN system entities and CPF members (including those who are not part of the UN) have a supportive role. The discussion below could follow this sequence. One possible sequence could be: Member States, UNFF (or vice versa), CPF, UN system entities.

We also suggest to harmonize the text in that regard that no conflicting or apparently conflicting messages are sent in the sections (like in the chapeau for B and B2).

CPF members will advise and assist the Forum to build synergies between the 4POWs and the forest-related actions and priorities of CPF member organizations which are implementing agencies and institutions.

Member States, as members of the governing bodies of CPF member organizations, will promote the integration of the Strategic Plan into the strategies and programs of CPF member organizations, consistent with their mandates, and consider dedicated funding for CPF activities as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence in support of the Strategic Plan.

Regional and subregional bodies are the nexus between global forest policies and national actions and have an important role to play in advancing implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and forest related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.

The Forum and Secretariat will work with the UN regional economic commissions,²² AO forestry commissions, regional development banks and other relevant regional and subregional bodies to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates. 1

Specific actions and options to enhance engagement of regional and subregional bodies in the work of the IAF are as follows²³:

Regional/subregional partners are encouraged to develop or strengthen programmes on SFM, including facilitating the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and relevant aspects of the 2030 agenda, and provide coordinated inputs and recommendations to sessions of the Forum.

Member States may consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote SFM.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets” can be fully achieved with the help of a wide range of non-State actors.

The Forum will explore innovative mechanisms for greater engagement of private sector companies, major environmental NGOs, philanthropic organizations, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders in the work of the IAF, including in Forum sessions and intersessional work. Examples of specific actions and options include:²⁴

- o Creating joint initiatives or networks

In this context we would like to recall the the Report of the 23rd Session of

facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the GEF and Green Climate Fund (GCF), consistent with their mandates.²⁹

2. Assisting countries in designing programmes and project proposals for submission to the GEF, GCF and as appro

This section, contrary to its title, talks about Member States, so the title may need to be slightly modified to reflect this.

The framework encompasses review mechanisms and processes on the implementation carried out by the UN system-wide partners.

The results of these reviews and assessments will inform the Forum's deliberations and will be taken into account in the Forum's 4POWs and resolutions.

In 2024 and 2030, the Forum will conduct mid-term and final reviews of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives and may make recommendations to ECOSOC on the future course of the IAF.⁴²


As part of these reviews, the Forum will evaluate progress in implementing the Strategic Plan, in particular the "strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets", associated actions and resources.


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 Number: 1 Author: Csoka Subject: Highlight Date: 30/08/2016 9:48:26 AM

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 9:50:33 AM

While there is a provision, and rightly so, on how the different entities would contribute to the review this does not necessarily cover the UN system, so it would be useful to define a mechanism by which the SP implementation by the UN system could be monitored.

 Number: 3 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 11:42:16 AM

Related to this section we would like to recall the invitation of COFO23 where member States recommended a closer collaboration in the area of monitoring progress and suggested concrete measures in this regard:

"25. The Committee invited the UNFF to:

consider SOFO, FRA and other major knowledge and analytical products of FAO and those of the CPF as major inputs for its review sessions."

We believe that this invitation could be more strongly reflected in the SP.