

United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

Table of Contents

Message from the UN Secretary-General *(to be added)*

Foreword by the UNFFS Director *(to be added)*

List of Acronyms *(to be added)*

I. Introduction

- A. Shared UN Vision and Mission
- B. Importance of forests to people and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- C. Opportunities for enhanced and value-added action on SFM

II. Global Forest Goals, Targets and Thematic Areas for Action

III. Implementation Framework

- A. Roles and responsibilities
 - A.1 Member States
 - A.2 UN Forum on Forests and its secretariat
 - A.3 Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations
 - A.4 UN system
 - A.5 Other intergovernmental partners and stakeholders
 - A.6 Regional and subregional organizations and processes
 - A.7 Major Groups and other non-governmental stakeholders
- B. Means and resources for implementation
 - B.1 GFFFN
 - B.2 GEF, GCF and other forest funding institutions
 - B.3 Global Forest Fund

IV. Review Framework

- A. Progress on implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests
- B. Progress on implementing the UN Forest Instrument
- C. Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

V. Communication and outreach strategy

Annexes

- 1. Contribution of the Global Forest Goals, targets, thematic areas and UNFI actions to the SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other international commitments
- 2. Global Forest Goals, targets and examples of indicators

Appendices *(to be added)*

- 1. UN System organizations, IAF components, CPF member organizations, forest-related MEAs
- 2. Objectives of the IAF

3. Functions of the UNFF, UNFF Secretariat and CPF
4. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals
5. One -page visualization of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and 4POW

Co-Chairs' Proposal

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) focuses on maintaining and enhancing some of the world's richest and most productive land-based ecosystems¹. The Strategic Plan provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and contribute to implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,² and other international commitments.
2. The Plan will serve as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the UN system and its partners and to foster enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among UN bodies and partners towards a shared vision and mission for forests. ([Appendix 1](#))

A. Shared UN Vision and Mission

Shared UN Vision

A world where all types of forests are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and provide economic, social and environmental benefits for present and future generations.

Shared UN Mission

To promote SFM and the contribution of forest goods and services to sustainable development, including by strengthening cooperation, coordination, coherence and political commitment at all levels.

3. The Plan will also guide and focus the work of the unique International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) which includes, *inter alia*, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its 197 member states. The Forum is a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN body mandated to address forest-related issues in an integrated and holistic manner. It oversees implementation of the UNSPF and the UNFI, as well as operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN). ([Appendix 2](#))
4. The work of the Forum is supported by the UNFF Secretariat, the UNFF Trust Fund, and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The CPF is a voluntary partnership chaired by FAO, supported by the UNFF Secretariat in its role as CPF Secretariat, and is comprised of the Executive Heads of 14 UN and other international organizations with significant forest-related programmes. ([Appendices 1 and 3](#))
5. The IAF actively engages as partners a variety of international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations and processes with forest-related programs, and recognize the crucial role

¹ Based on recommendations by UNFF at its 11th session in 2015, ECOSOC adopted resolution 2015/33 to strengthen the functioning of the IAF, including calling for the preparation of a strategic plan for the period 2017-2030.

² The UNFI was adopted by the UNFF and UN General Assembly in 2007. It sets out four shared Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and 44 national and international policies, measures and actions to implement SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

of stakeholders at all levels in achieving SFM.

B. Importance of forests to people and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

6. Forests cover over 30% of the Earth's land area³, or nearly 4 billion hectares, and are essential to human well-being and sustainable development. An estimated 1.6 billion people – 25% of the global population – depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation.

7. Forests also provide food, fuel, fodder and shelter, sequester carbon, protect soil and water resources, combat land degradation and desertification, reduce the risk of floods, landslides and avalanches, droughts and dust and sand storms, and are home to an estimated 80% of terrestrial plants and animals.

8. When sustainably managed, all types of forests – from natural to planted forests⁴ -- are productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems providing essential goods and services to people worldwide. In many regions, forests also have important cultural and spiritual values.

Sustainable forest management,
as an evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values
of all types of forests for the benefit of present and future generations.
- *UN Forest Instrument para 4*

9. Sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 15, *Life on Land*, highlights the importance of “sustainably managing forests”. ([Appendix 4](#))

10. In recognition of the extraordinary importance of forests to people, the UN General Assembly has designated 21 March as the International Day of Forests, which is celebrated around the world each year to raise awareness and action on forest issues.

11. Despite the crucial contribution of forests to human well-being, deforestation and forest degradation continue in many regions, often as an unplanned response to demands for food, fuel and fibre. Drivers of deforestation often lie outside the forest sector and are rooted in wider social and economic issues and policies that favor land uses that are easier to finance and produce higher and more rapid financial returns, such as agriculture, energy, mining and transportation.

12. Forests are also at risk from illegal or unsustainable logging, fire, pollution, dust, sand and wind storms, disease, pests, invasive alien species, fragmentation and climate change -- all of which threaten forest health and the ability of forests to function as productive and resilient ecosystems.

³According to FRA 2015, four countries account for nearly 50% of the world's forests: Russia, Brazil, Canada & USA.

⁴Natural and planted forests as defined for the global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

13. At the same time, demand for forest goods and services is growing 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, meeting future demand for forest products and services depends on urgent action to secure, sustainably manage and expand forests.

C. Opportunities for enhanced and value-added action on SFM

14. The launch of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors at all levels, within and beyond the UN System, to safeguard the world's forests and their multiple values and benefits, now and in the future.

15. The Plan aims to build on the momentum provided by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change, launch of the Green Climate Fund and other international commitments.

16. The UN System will add significant value to these initiatives by advancing a set of global goals and targets in support of SFM and the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to sustainable development and poverty eradication.

II. Global Forest Goals, targets and thematic areas for action

17. At the heart of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests are **[6]** Global Forest Goals and **[28]** associated global forest targets. The vision, principles and commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide the framework for the Global Forest Goals and targets, which incorporate the GOFs, support of the objectives of the IAF, and build on and contribute to the SDGs, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

18. The Global Forest Goals and targets are interconnected and integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of SFM and sustainable development. The targets are global in nature. Quantitative targets are based on existing information and baseline data.

19. The Global Forest Goals and targets are intended to stimulate and provide a framework for voluntary actions and contributions by countries and international, regional, subregional and non-governmental partners in key thematic areas, as well as for enhanced coherence and collaboration on forests within the UN system and across CPF member organizations.

20. Initial priority actions are the 44 national and international actions set out in the UN Forest Instrument. The Forum will identify additional actions as needed through its quadrennial programs of work (4POWs) and resolutions and decisions.

21. As shown in the [Annex 1](#), the Global Goals, targets, and thematic areas for action together constitute a strategy to advance the shared UN vision and mission on forests, support the objectives of the IAF, and enhance the contribution of forests to achieving other international commitments.

Global Forest Goals, Targets and Thematic Areas for Action

Global Forest Goal 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and enhance the resilience of all types of forests to climate change. (GOF 1+)

Targets – By 2030:

- a. The Earth's forest cover is increased by [5]%. *Ref ABT 5*
- b. The area of forest under SFM is increased by [X]%. *Also relevant to Goal 3*
- c. The world's forest carbon stocks are increased by [X]%.
- d. [X] million ha of degraded forests are restored worldwide. *Ref SDG 6.6*
- e. The resilience and adaptive capacity of forests and forest-dependent Indigenous Peoples and local communities to climate-related events and natural disasters is significantly strengthened worldwide. *Ref SDG13.1*

Thematic Areas for Action (not exhaustive)

- a. Sustainable forest management
- b. Reduction in deforestation
- c. Reduction in forest degradation
- d. Maintenance of forest health
- e. Reforestation and afforestation
- f. Forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation
- g. Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- h. Combatting land degradation
- i. Halting biodiversity loss
- j. Minimize the impact of invasive alien species
- k. Combatting forest fires

Global Forest Goal 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people. (GOF 2)

Targets – By 2030:

- a. Extreme poverty for all forest dependent people is eradicated (currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day)
- b. Access by small forest enterprises, including women's enterprises, to financial services and markets is significantly increased, in particular in developing countries. *Ref SDG 8.3, 9.3*

- c. The contribution of forests and trees to the food security of local populations is significantly increased.
- d. The contribution of forest ecosystem services to local and national economies is significantly increased.
- e. The benefits arising from the use of forest genetic resources are fair and equitably shared, as internationally agreed. *Ref SDG 15.6, ABT 14*

Thematic Areas for Action (not exhaustive)

- a. Contribution of forests to poverty eradication and livelihoods
- b. Community forest management
- c. Integration of small and medium forest-based enterprises into value chains and markets
- d. Value-added forest product production and processing
- e. Working conditions and wages of forest workers
- f. Competitiveness of forest products and diversification of production
- g. Valuation of forest goods and services
- h. Payments for ecosystem services
- i. Benefit sharing and traditional forest-related knowledge (TFRK)
- j. Forest-related education, training and extension
- k. Forests and trees in the urban context
- l. Building markets and infrastructure to promote production and consumption of sustainably managed forest products.

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. (GOF 3)

Targets – By 2030:

- a. [X]% of the world's forests are designated as fully protected areas, including [X]% of coastal forests. *Ref SDG 14.2, ABT 11*
- b. [X]% of the world's production forests are sustainably managed, including forests used for energy and fuelwood production.
- c. Market access is significantly enhanced for sustainably produced forest products with a fair and remunerative price.
- d. Increase by [x%] of forests under sustainable managed and internationally recognized certification schemes.

Thematic Areas for Action (not exhaustive)

- a. Management of protected forest areas and networks
- b. Conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, including in production forests

- c. Sustainable management of all types of forests, including timber producing forests
- d. Wood for energy and fuelwood, including sustainable use of woody biomass
- e. Market access and enhanced competitiveness of sustainably managed forest products
- f. Market-based tools (e.g. voluntary certification)
- g. Public policy tools (e.g. public procurement)
- h. Verification of forest products

Global Forest Goal 4

Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM and strengthen scientific, technical and technological cooperation and partnerships. (GOF 4+)

Targets – By 2030:

- a. Forest-related public funding (multilateral, bilateral, national) is increased by [X]% globally, including increase in forest-related ODA by [X]%.
- b. Private foreign and domestic investment in the forest sector is increased by [X]% globally.
- c. 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. *Text of SDG 15.b*
- d. [X] number of countries are assisted to access funding for SFM, and to develop and implement forest financing strategies.
- e. N-S, S-S and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector is significantly enhanced. *Ref SDG 17.6*

Thematic areas for action (not exhaustive)

- a. Means of implementation to achieve SFM
- b. Funding support for implementation of the UN Forest Instrument
- c. International public funding and national budgets
- d. Foreign and domestic private sector investment in SFM and forest-based enterprises
- e. Building capacity to access and mobilize funds for SFM
- f. Public-private partnerships
- g. Environmentally sound and innovative forest-based technology and technology transfer
- h. N-S, S-S and triangular technical and scientific cooperation
- i. Efficiency of forest-based industries
- j. Forest science-policy interface
- k. Forest inventories and availability of reliable forest data and statistics

Global Forest Goal 5/Cross-Cutting Strategy 1

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

Targets – By 2030:

- a. [X]% of countries have integrated forests into national development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies. *Ref SDG 15.9, ABT 2*
- b. The role of national forest authorities in land use planning and development is significantly strengthened.
- c. All countries have phased out subsidies harmful to forests and put in place incentives for SFM. *Ref ABT 3*
- d. Illegal deforestation and illegal logging is eradicated worldwide. *Ref SDG 16.3 & 16.5*
- e. Forest land tenure security is significantly improved in all countries. *Ref SDG 1.4 & 5.a*
- f. By 2024, the number of countries that provide reports on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument is increased by [X]%.

Thematic Areas for Action (not exhaustive)

- a. Cross-sectoral coordination at all levels
- b. Integration of forest values into national planning and accounting
- c. Enabling environments for investment in SFM
- d. Forest law enforcement
- e. Forest land tenure security
- f. Gender equality in the forest sector, including empowerment of women and girls
- g. Stakeholder engagement at all levels
- h. Public involvement in forest decision-making
- i. Civil society partnerships

Global Forest Goal 6/Cross-Cutting Strategy 2

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations.

Targets – By 2024:

- a. National forest-related policies and programs are coherent and complementary across ministries, departments, and national focal points of forest-related organizations and processes.
- b. Forest-related programmes within the UN system are coherent and complementary, and integrate UNSPF in their work plans and programmes.
- c. Forest-related programs across CPF member organizations are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda.

Thematic Areas for Action (not exhaustive)

- a. Reduction in fragmentation in global forest governance
- b. Coherence, collaboration and cooperation among forest-related programmes and initiatives
- c. CPF joint initiatives and joint programming
- d. Collaboration between Member States, CPF, regional and subregional organizations and processes, as well as Major Groups and other non-governmental stakeholders
- e. Harmonized programmes of work
- f. Harmonized data collection and reporting cycles and formats

III. Implementation framework

22. The UN Strategic Plan for Forests provides a coherent reference framework for ambitious and transformational actions by all actors at all levels to achieve the Global Forest Goals and targets. An overview of roles and responsibilities and means and resources is outlined below.

A. Roles and responsibilities

A.1 Member States

23. The individual and collective actions and commitments of Member States will be decisive for successful implementation of the UNSPF.

24. Member States will, on a voluntary basis, determine the contributions they intend to make towards achieving the Global Forest Goals and targets, taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. *Refer to Agenda 2030, para 55*

25. Member States may include in their “voluntary planned contributions” (VPCs), as appropriate, the forest-related contributions they intend to make toward other international forest-related commitments, such as the SDGs, the ABTs, and the global response to climate change under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Member States may also develop actions plans based on their VPCs.

26. Member States may, on a voluntary basis, communicate their VPCs to the UNFF at regular intervals, determined by the Forum. Such voluntary communications, including information on the progress made towards the achievement of the VPCs, could be synchronized with voluntary reporting on the UN Forest Instrument in order to avoid additional reporting burdens.

27. Member States, as members of the governing bodies of forest-related international, regional and subregional organizations, will promote the integration of the Global Forest Goals and targets into the strategies and programs of those organizations, consistent with their mandates and priorities. *Refer to UNF11 Ministerial Declaration para 14.d*

A.2 UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its secretariat

28. As part of the UN System and the IAF, the Forum will carry out its core functions on the basis of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests. The UNFF Quadrennial Programmes of Work (4POWs) will reflect the Forum’s contribution to the Global Goals and targets for each quadrennium.

29. The Forum is the responsible intergovernmental body to review and follow up on the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

30. The UNFF Secretariat will service and support the Forum in all matters related to the Forum's 4POWs and will serve as the secretariat for the UN Strategic Plan for Forests.

A.3 Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and its member organizations

31. The CPF will support the Forum and its Member States in advancing the Global Forest Goals and targets in the context of the Partnership's core functions, including through joint work plans aligned with the Forum's 4POWs and identifying collective actions by all or subsets of CPF members as well as associated resource needs.

32. Member States will support the CPF work plan as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence among CPF member organizations, including the UNFF and other UN system organizations represented on the CPF. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 24 and UNF11 Ministerial Declaration para 14.d*

33. Member organizations of the CPF have a crucial role to play in advancing the Global Forest Goals and targets and are encouraged to integrate relevant Global Forest Goals and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes.

A.4 UN System

34. The UN bodies and organizations not participating at the CPF have also important role to play, as they address issues that are relevant to forests, such as gender equality and the empowerment of women (UN-Women), labour standards (ILO), small and medium-sized enterprises (UNIDO), scientific and technical cooperation (UNESCO) and eco-tourism (UNWTO). These organizations and bodies are encouraged to use the UNSPF as a reference framework, with a view to building synergies between the Global Forest Goals and targets and their policies and programmes, particularly in the context of their contributions to the SDGs.

35. The UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) is encouraged to promote the use of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests as a reference framework for forest-related work within the UN system, including through the work of its High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), to enhance the organizational and collective capacity of the UN system to effectively support achievement of the Global Forest Goals and targets.

A.5 Other intergovernmental partners and stakeholders

36. A number of international organizations, including multilateral environment agreements (MEAs) such as the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in addition to those represented in the CPF, undertake forest-related activities and can make important contributions to the Global Forest Goals and targets. ([Appendix 1](#)) These MEAs are encouraged to seek opportunities to align their activities with the Global Forest Goals and targets, consistent with their mandates.

37. As members of the governing bodies of forest-related intergovernmental partners and stakeholders, Member States will promote the integration of the Global Forest Goals, associated targets and thematic priorities for action into the strategies and programmes of those organizations, consistent with their mandates.

A.6 Regional and subregional organizations and processes

38. UN regional bodies, notably the UN Regional Economic Commissions and the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions, and other regional and subregional organizations and processes provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions, and are important partners in efforts to achieve the Global Forest Goals and targets.

39. The Forum will work with regional and subregional organizations and processes to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the Goals and targets, including by encouraging them to develop an inter-regional network and other mechanisms to foster information exchange and cooperation. This would enable coordination across regions and with CPF member organizations, including the UNFF, on the implementation of the UNSPF as well as to promote synergies and joint activities at regional/subregional levels, enhance awareness raising and the engagement of non-governmental stakeholders, and build capacity to scale up best practices.

40. Regional and subregional organizations and processes, including those within the UN System, are encouraged to build and strengthen synergies between the Goals and targets and their policies and programmes, particularly in the context of their contributions to the SDGs.

41. Member States are encouraged to consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to advance the Goals and targets. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 28*

A.7 Major Groups and other non-governmental stakeholders

42. Achieving the Global Forests Goals and targets depends on the contributions of a wide range of non-governmental stakeholders, including forest owners, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector (small, medium and large forest-based enterprises), women, children and youth, and the scientific, academic, and philanthropic communities.

43. The Forum will work with Major Groups and other non-governmental stakeholders to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the Goals and targets and their interactions with the Forum and CPF, including through networks, advisory groups and other mechanisms to raise awareness, foster information exchange and dissemination, and facilitate coordinated inputs at the international level.

44. Major Groups and other stakeholders active in the forest arena, such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, volunteer groups and others, are encouraged to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation in the UNFF and other forest-related UN bodies. *Refer to UNGA Res 67/290, para 16*

B. Means and resources for implementation

45. Building on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the framework for international cooperation on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Strategic Plan for Forests provides a reference framework for international cooperation and capacity building on forests, recognizing there is no single solution to address all of the needs in terms of financing for actions to achieve the Global Forest Goals and targets. A combination of actions is required at all levels, by all stakeholders and from all sources, public and private, domestic and international, bilateral and multilateral. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 11*

46. Achieving the Global Forest Goals and targets, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on adequate, predictable and significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as on capacity building and education, technical, technological and scientific cooperation, and public-private partnerships. It also depends on effective cross-sectoral coordination and good governance at all levels.

47. Member States should make full use of the grant and concessional resources available to them through UN system programmes, funds and specialized agencies; international financial institutions, such as the GEF and GCF; multilateral, regional and subregional development banks; bilateral development assistance agencies; and national funds; as well as funding opportunities through foundations and other philanthropic organizations which are emerging as major donors for international development, including natural resource management.

48. Member States will foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, through financial support, technology transfer, capacity building and education, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels. *Refer to UNFI para 2.f*

B.1 GFFFN

49. The UNFF's Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) should contribute to scaling up implementation of sustainable forest management, through enhancing access of countries to resources, to implement the UNSPF and, in particular, to achieve its Global Forest Goals and targets. To this end, the priorities for the GFFFN will be to:

- a. Promote and assist Member States in the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for SFM, including existing national initiatives, within the framework of national forest programs or other appropriate national frameworks. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 13.c*
- b. Facilitate and assist Member States in the design of programme and project concepts, including through capacity building, for submission to the GEF, GCF and, as appropriate, other financing mechanisms. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 13.c*
- c. Advise Member States on the enabling environments needed to attract sustainable public and private sector investment in SFM at all levels. *Facilitative process function*
- d. Assist and advise regional and subregional organizations and processes to: enhance their capacity building programmes on forests; organize regional workshops; and develop project

concepts to access financing from multilateral funding institutions, such as the GCF, GEF and Adaption Fund, for promoting SFM.

- e. Serve as a clearing house and database on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects, building on the CPF Online Sourcebook for Forest Financing. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 13.d*

50. Special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, the least developed countries, low forest cover countries, high forest cover countries, medium forest cover-low deforestation countries, and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds. *Refer to E/2015/33 para 13.e*

51. The UNFF Trust Fund will be a main source of support for activities under the GFFFN. Member states are encouraged to provide voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund on a regular basis.

52. The Forum, during its even-year sessions, will monitor and assess the work and performance of the GFFFN, including the availability and sufficiency of Trust Fund resources for its operation, and will make decisions as appropriate. The UNFF Secretariat, as the manager of the GFFFN, will report to the Forum.

B.2 GEF, GCF and other forest funding institutions

53. Member States should make full use of the existing international resources, including through:

- a. The GEF Strategy for SFM and the GEF focal areas on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation which serve as funding mechanisms for the Rio Conventions;
- b. Inviting the GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on forests during its next replenishment ;
- c. REDD+ and related investment activities under the FCPF and FIP.
- d. Exploring new opportunities with the Green Climate Fund.

54. Private sector, philanthropic organizations and foundations also have an important role in scaling up resources for sustainable forest management.

55. Member States should also seek to make full use of the potential of innovative funding mechanisms, including PES schemes and carbon pricing arrangements that might be developed in the context of the UNFCCC.

B.3 Global Forest Fund

56. In the context of the mid-term review of the effectiveness of the IAF in 2024, or earlier if there is a consensus to do so, the Forum could consider the establishment of a voluntary global forest fund to help mobilize resources from all sources in support of Member States' VPCs to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and targets. *Ref E/2015/33 para 42 and 43*

IV. Review Framework

A. Progress on implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests

57. The Forum will assess progress in implementing the UN Strategic Plan for Forests in the context of its mid-term and final reviews of the effectiveness of the IAF in 2024 and 2030.
58. As shown in Annex 2, the assessment will be based on a set of indicators, including relevant SDG indicators, linked to the Global Forest Goals and targets.
59. The assessment will take into account voluntary national reporting on the UNFI and VPCs and the results of the most recent global forest resources assessment (FRA), as well as inputs from CPF member organizations and other partners within and beyond the UN system, including regional, subregional and non-governmental partners. The assessment will also include a review of the sufficiency of resources, identification of future resource needs and proposals on the future funding sources.

B. Progress on implementing the UN Forest Instrument

60. The Forum will establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting by Member States under the 4POW 2017-2020, taking into account the cycle of FAO's global FRAs and the SDG review cycle at the global level. The reporting cycle and format may be adjusted over time to reflect developments. *Ref E/2015/33 para 16.c*
61. Member States will monitor and assess progress towards implementing the UN Forest Instrument and, beginning in 2018, will submit on a voluntary basis national progress reports to even-year sessions of the Forum. *Ref E/2015/33 para 16.a*
62. In reporting on the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument, Member States could also provide information on the progress towards implementing their VPCs in support of the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and associated targets of the UNSPF.

C. Follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

63. Forest-related UN organizations, including the UNFF as a functional commission of ECOSOC, will contribute to the annual follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs at the global level by the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). In this context, the Forum and UNFF Secretariat will highlight the linkages between the Global Forest Goals and targets and the SDGs under in-depth review.

V. Communication and outreach strategy

64. Communication and outreach is an essential component of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, which is itself an important communication tool. Actors at all levels are encouraged to raise awareness, within and beyond the forest sector, of the vital contribution of all types of forests and trees to human well-being.
65. Key messages may include promoting and raising awareness of, *inter alia*:
- a. The importance of forests to people.

- b. The contribution of the Global Forest Goals, targets and priority actions to achieving the SDGs and international commitments.
- c. Forest trends, challenges and emerging issues.
- d. Forest financing needs, opportunities and strategies.
- e. Enabling environments and incentives for investment in SFM and forest-based enterprises.
- f. The role and contributions of regional and subregional organizations and processes.
- g. The role and contributions of Major Groups and other non-governmental stakeholders.
- h. The work and value-added of the UN System, CPF and its member organizations, including the UNFF, in the above areas.

66. The UN system, CPF member organizations and other partners are encouraged to enhance cooperation and synergies on forest-related communications and outreach to increase the impact of their messaging, and to consider joint events and products with national, regional, subregional and nongovernmental organisations.

67. Observance of the International Day of Forests on 21 March provides a powerful annual event and platform for individual and collective public outreach activities by all actors at all levels.