

Survey

CPF members' views on contributions of forests to 2017 HLPF theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17

The 2017 session of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is scheduled to be convened from 10 to 19 July 2017 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 70/299, the theme will be "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world" and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goal 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 will be reviewed in depth.

The twelfth session of UNFF (UNFF12) is scheduled to be convened from 1-5 May 2017. In accordance with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 2015/33, the Forum will deliberate on its contribution to the follow-up, review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through contributing to the work of the HLPF. In addition, the ECOSOC President invited the Chair of the UNFF12 Bureau to provide substantive inputs to the 2017 HLPF showcasing its contribution towards the 2030 Agenda in general and particularly for the SDG and respective targets that are most relevant to the mandate of the Forum.

Against this background, the UNFF Secretariat is preparing a Note by the Secretariat to facilitate informed discussion on the subject matter to be held at UNFF12. The Note will highlight key issues in the following areas suggested for the Forum's forest-related inputs: i) assessment of the situation regarding the principle "ensuring that no one is left behind" at the global level; ii) identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges; iii) valuable lessons learned on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity; iv) emerging issues likely to affect the realization of poverty eradication and achieving prosperity; v) areas where political guidance is required; and vi) policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress in poverty eradication.

The accompanying questions seek the views of CPF members on the contributions of forests to the achievement of the SDGs goal 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 in the context of the 2017 HLPF theme. A summary of responses will be included in the Note to help facilitate informed discussion on the subject matter at UNFF12.

Questions:

1. Please provide your organization's view on the key contributions of forests to "eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".

Forests provide multiple contributions to eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity. The State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014 reviewed carefully forests' socioeconomic contributions and SOFO 2018 will aim a complete mapping of forests existing and potential contributions to the SDGs, and to describe possible measures to unlock these potentials fully. The existing contributions cover an extremely broad range and are mostly underestimated because of insufficient attention to them in national data collection systems and because many of the activities often remaining informal or in the "grey zone".

In spite of the information gaps SOFO 2014 estimated that while the formal forest sector provides jobs for 13.2 million people worldwide, an additional 41 million is employed in the informal sector.

SOFO also estimated that about 840 million people, i.e. 13% of the total population is engaged in woodfuel and charcoal collection for own use.

Wood provides 6% of the world's total primary energy supply, but this share is way higher in certain regions, being 13% in Latin America and 27% in Africa, where in some countries wood energy may reach as high as 90% of the total primary energy supply.

Regarding the use of wood energy, SOFO estimated that about 2.4 billion people, or one-third of all households rely on woodfuel for cooking. Woodfuel also makes a major contribution to providing safe drinking water for at least about 800 million people worldwide.

Estimating forests' contribution to human health is extremely complicated due to the multiple ways of contribution to the lack of reliable data, however different studies suggest that up to 80% of the world's population may be dependent on traditional remedies for health care.

Forests provide shelter and material for housing for large portions of the populations, about 18% or 1.3 billion people noting that this number probably is a very conservative estimate.

Food from forests constitutes a relatively low contribution to food supply, however such a food is an important source of protein and micro-nutrients and works as a key dietary supplement.

A very important characteristic of forests' contribution is the high variability among regions and even within countries. Their true importance can hardly be measured through global numbers because often they represent a unique and only source of income, food or energy for those most in need, therefore having access to them is literally the question of life and death for large populations. While not even highly developed societies can prosper without forest products (see medicine, housing or even energy), their importance grows considerably for countries with lower level of economic development and for populations living in and around forests.

Forests also make an enormous and mostly unquantified contribution to human wellbeing, through a very broad range of services identified as ecosystem services. These include, *inter alia*, the protection of soil and water, purification of air, regulation of global water, climatic and Carbon cycles, safeguarding biological diversity, pollinations, protection against floods and avalanches, coastal protection and many others. Measuring and quantifying these would be the first step towards strengthening the financial basis for sustainable forest management and for properly positioning

Please note further that the President of ECOSOC has invited the Chairperson of COFO (together with other FAO governing bodies) to provide input to the 2017 HLPF showcasing to contribution to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17. The submission is due by 28 April 2017.

2. Please provide your organization's view on key contributions of forests to the achievement of Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17.

SDG	Key contributions to targets
1	<p>1.1, 1.2: Forests can provide jobs and income from wood, NWFPs and ecosystem services;</p> <p>1.4: decentralized and participatory SFM is one means to achieve this target;</p> <p>1.5: forests can provide buffers against economic, social and</p>

	environmental shocks including those related to climate change.
2	2.1, 2.2: forests can provide important sources of protein, nutrients and micronutrients, usefully complementing other sources; 2.3, 2.4 : forests can contribute to increasing productivity through combining forestry and agriculture (farm forestry, agroforestry, agro-sylvo-pastoral systems), and utilize the protective functions of forests (soil, water, wind, flood, etc); 2.5: forests act as ultimate reservoirs also for cultivated species and allow for further selection and developments of species and varieties for cultivation.
3	3.3: there is a proven connection between the spread of certain tropical diseases, in particular malaria and the decrease of forest cover; 3.4: forest contribute to maintain and restore mental health; 3.9: through their filtering effects forests can play a crucial role in fighting pollution and contamination driven deaths and illnesses.
5	5.4, 5.5, 5.a: participatory forest management and community forestry empowers women, recognizes and values engagement in meeting basic needs for food and energy, and often provide the only way of empowering women in forest dependent communities.
9	9.1-5: forests provide an environmentally friendly raw material to produce value- added products even in remote and poorly resourced areas, can be the starting points for small-scale industrial activity and a whole value chain built on forest products. They can also drive technological development (wood energy products, fabrics, construction materials, biofuels etc) and have positive environmental impact on other sectors, such as the textile industry, construction, energy or transport. Forest products also allow for developing industrial activity with low carbon footprint.
14	14.1: through protection of water and land resources and filtering effects forests can contribute to preventing marine pollution 14.2: forests, in particular mangroves are key components of coastal protection 14.5: coastal forests can provide key contribution to achieve the protection target.
17	17.1, 17.3: forests provide a considerable wealth in forms of products and services that are not valued and accounted for. Having proper valuation methods and making these to be part of value chains and formal economic activities would generate considerable new and additional resources. 17.7: forests offer excellent opportunities for transfer of technologies to resource rich but underdeveloped regions to make big steps towards achieving SDG 9 in less developed countries/regions.

3. Please briefly describe the priorities and challenges to enhance the contributions of forests to the achievement of Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17.

As described in document COFO/2016.5.1, enhancing forests contributions to the SDGs (in fact to all, not only the 7 mentioned above) would require several measures, many of them be coordinated also with other sectors. Within forestry, efforts are needed to enhance the multiple contributions of forests

to the different SDGs. This will require finding a balance between the need to address demands to contribute to eliminating poverty and eradicating hunger and the need to strengthen conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests in the context of a changing climate.

Achieving the closely inter-dependent SDGs will require looking at sustainability issues within and across agriculture, forestry and fisheries in an integrated way, taking trade-offs and synergies across sectors and sustainability dimensions into account. New governance arrangements will be required to promote and facilitate actions that are coherent and effective in inducing changes in practices. This includes finding new ways of dialogue and collaboration across sectors and with different stakeholders, and strengthening related institutional mechanisms and capacities.

To enhance consistency and effectiveness of actions by agriculture, forestry and fisheries in addressing different national priorities and international commitments, more dialogue on strategy development and better coordination of planning will be needed. For this, SDGs can act as an overarching umbrella, under which actions by different sectors and stakeholders from different levels can be aligned. Any action on addressing hunger or poverty is likely to have effects on the conservation and use of natural resources, and vice versa, reflecting the strong interlinkages of the SDGs. This implies that operational ways need to be found to identify and address sustainability tradeoffs and synergies. The implications of actions related to sustainable use and conservation need to be considered across the different sectors.

forests in the different sustainable development agendas, policies and strategies.

FAO's Committee on Forestry, together with other Technical Committees of the Organization, considered "Building a common vision for sustainable food and agriculture" as a broad strategy for contributing to the achievement of the SDGs, that outlined 5 principles:

1. Improving efficiency in the use of resources is crucial to sustainable agriculture
2. Sustainability requires direct action to conserve, protect and enhance natural resources
3. Agriculture that fails to protect and improve rural livelihoods, equity and social well-being is unsustainable
4. Enhanced resilience of people, communities and ecosystems is key to sustainable agriculture
5. Sustainable food and agriculture requires responsible and effective governance mechanisms

As the outcome of these deliberations COFO invited Members to consider:

- a) strengthening dialogue with agriculture, fisheries and other relevant sectors on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of the SDGs, in particular on actions to eradicate hunger and eliminate poverty, while conserving and sustainably managing natural resources in line with the recommendations of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
- b) using the five interconnected principles developed by FAO as an approach to promote sustainability for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, based on balancing the different dimensions of sustainability across sectors and along value chains;
- c) reviewing and adapting existing mechanisms and tools such as National Forest Programmes (NFPs) and Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to inform and support decision making for sustainability across sectors;
- d) promoting coherent and effective actions in sustainable forest management in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through the International Arrangement on Forests.

COFO also requested FAO to support countries, *inter alia*, in integrating sustainable forest management into national development programmes and action plans, as well as into regional forest-related coordination; identifying new opportunities for financing sustainable development, with integrated approaches between forestry, agriculture, livestock, in line with the relevant provisions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SDGs, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; promoting the multi-functional role of forests through valuation of ecosystem services and increased private sector involvement in sustainable forest management.