

## 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".

As is well known an estimated 1.2 billion people rely on forests for some part of their livelihoods. Conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems go hand-in-hand with poverty eradication which is the goal of SDG 1. The maintenance of healthy forest ecosystems contributes to food security, health, income generation, reduced vulnerability to climate change and provides ecosystem services that improve livelihoods and bring prosperity to communities as well as to people who benefit directly or indirectly from forests products and services. On the other hand scarce environmental resources, ill-defined property rights and erosion of local commons put a tremendous pressure on poor rural households, who then face bigger difficulties to fetch water, collect fuelwood, and cultivate crops, among other activities in order to survive. Accordingly, poverty eradication and

ecosystem conservation including forests need to be addressed concurrently in order to achieve either.

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 1 (see above)

SDG 2 Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition are at the heart of the topic of sustainably managed and restored forest landscapes. The presence of trees and forest contributes to a more diversified and nutritious diet for communities in the area. Furthermore the presence of trees and forest in or near agricultural lands creates a natural balance that ensures water availability, presence of pollinators, and other key ecosystem services that enable a sustainable production of agriculture.

SDG 3 Forests provide many of the materials and ingredients used to produce several medicine products utilized in modern and traditional medicine, therefore maintaining the supply of these elements is important for the health of millions of people. In addition the very existence of forests provides cultural values and well-being to people who visit and live in or near them.

SDG 5 Gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental human rights as well as a pre-condition for sustainable development. Forest protection, restoration and sustainable management cannot be achieved at the scale needed without the full involvement of women. Gender equality and women's empowerment in their role with respect to forest management contribute to achieving poverty eradication, food security and resilience, education, amongst other goals.

SDG 17 Forests are ecosystems that bring together all sort of alliances, partnerships and actors around the world from the global to the local level, who are pursuing similar goals of conserving nature and the services forests provide to support human and other life. International funding for forests in recent years shows a stronger commitment from the international community to support government action leading to enhancement of policies, plans and actions to protect, restore, and sustainably manage forests. International funding and partnership for forests also enables initiatives by civil society aimed at capacity building at the local level, knowledge production, awareness campaigns, among others. This includes funding through the GEF, the GCF, the FCPF, FIP, ISFL, among others.

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.

General comment for all SDGs: Although it is clear that healthy and productive forest ecosystems and landscapes is the foundation for the well-being of forest dependent communities and for people who benefit from its products and services around the world, there has been a continuous challenge to make the case for forest conservation, sustainable management and restoration. The connections between forest conservation and poverty reduction are not completely internalized by decision makers and influential industrial sectors, including because the diverse values of forests are not fully and adequately estimated in order to influence decision-making along a more sustainable path.

Forest ecosystems and landscapes should be given a more central role and recognition across the achievement of the SDGs given the positive contributions they make to so many of these global goals.