

Gathering Good Practices, Success Stories and Lessons Learned on Forests

A Contribution from the UN Forum on Forests to the 2019 Session of the HLPF

BACKGROUND

Forests cover 30 per cent of the Earth's land area, or nearly 4 billion hectares. When sustainably managed, forests are healthy, productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems which provide essential goods and services to people worldwide. An estimated 1.6 billion people – 25% of the global population – depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation. The 2030 Agenda recognized the importance of forests to global sustainable development and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, with the mission to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda. The Plan includes a set of six ambitious Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets, including groundbreaking targets to increase forest area globally by 3% or 120 million hectares, and to eradicate extreme poverty for all forest dependent people, by 2030. The Global Forest Goals and targets also cover combating climate change, increasing forest protected areas, mobilizing financing and inspiring innovation, promoting governance, and enhancing cooperation across sectors and stakeholders.

The theme of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019 is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. The set of SDGs under review are SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Furthermore, the HLPF will be meeting under the auspices of the General Assembly at the summit level in September 2019 to review progress in the implementation of the entire 2030 Agenda and all the SDGs.

The 14th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF14) in May 2019 will focus on technical discussion and exchange of experiences related to the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, with a particular focus on thematic priorities related to the SDGs under review at HLPF 2019.

KEY OBJECTIVES

We are currently one year into the implementation of the Strategic Plan, three years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. How can we work to accelerate progress? What are the inspiring success stories that are already showing results? What are the good practices that can be replicated and scaled up? What are the gaps and constraints that we need to address to stay on track?

It is hoped that collection and dissemination of good practices, success stories and lessons learned will help galvanize momentum and accelerate implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, forest-related SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

FORMAT

Members of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations, United Nations system partners and regional, subregional and major group partners are invited to submit good practices, success stories and lessons learned on implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and the Global Forest Goals, with a particular focus on the contributions of these initiatives to the set of the SDGs under review at HLPF 2019, as well as to other related SDGs.

Submissions are open as of 1 September 2018 will close by 31 January 2019. After review by the UNFF Secretariat, the submissions will be made available online on the UNFF website (<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>) expediently for easy access and broad dissemination.

