

WORK PLAN

MAJOR GROUPS SUPPORT FOR THE UNSPF 2017-2030 UNDER THE FIRST QUADRENNIAL PLAN OF WORK 2017-2020 (4POW) OF THE UNFF

Prepared collectively by the Major Groups on Forests
[with support from the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests]

**Nairobi/New York
2017- 2018**

CONSULTATIONS

With support from the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), members of the Major Groups (MGs) met at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON) in Nairobi Kenya 20-21 November 2017 for a two-day *Expert Meeting on Major Groups and other Stakeholders' Contribution to the Implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests (UNSPF) 2017 – 2030 and the Forum's Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW) 2017 – 2020*. The expert meeting aimed to develop a set of priorities and suggestions to the thirteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF13) on the UNSPF and 4POW as well as on what the Forum might wish to convey to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Nairobi meeting had good participation: 25 MG experts from 13 countries were present, coming from 7 accredited MGs: women, youth & children, NGOs, indigenous people, smallholder farmers, the scientific & technological community, and trade unions.

Participants agreed on priority areas of intervention and, based on this, developed a preliminary draft Workplan. The driving ambition for preparing a Workplan was for MGs to become more effective in engaging with key players in implementing the UNFF agenda (governments and their organisations, private sector, the CPF and

Secretariat, and various communities that are the constituencies represented by individual MGs). On the margins of the 13th UNFF session in New York, MG members met again in brief events on 7-9 May to improve the Workplan, a summary of which they presented the UNFF Session. The fully elaborated workplan presented below was also made available to delegates.

MG members recognise that the collective Workplan they have adopted provides a reference point for each specialised MGs to then also prepare its own workplan that builds upon and is compatible with the collective one; an example of such a plan in fact already exists for the MG for Children and Youth. They are committed to preparing these other complementary workplans in order to bring greater coherence to their efforts and to facilitate coordination of their work.

MGs PRIORITIES AND TYPES OF INTERVENTION

The Major Groups commit themselves to collectively and individually press for all players to take integrated approaches that recognize and maximize synergies as they act to achieve Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as reflected in the Global Forest Goals (GFG) and elaborated under the UNSPF 2017 – 2030. To this end the MGs plan to focus on their areas of collective and individual strengths as reflected in the fully elaborated Workplan below.

A major motivating factor for MG engagement is their shared desire to enable marginalized MG constituencies [women, indigenous people and other forest dependent people, local communities] to play a more mainstreamed role in the implementation of the UNSPF and the Agenda 2030.

In preparing their Workplan, the MGs have considered the following to be the main types of interventions through which they can add value to the efforts of governments, the private sector and other major players:

1. Localisation of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests and translation of global UNFF decisions to the people on the ground
2. Publicity and advocacy
3. Mobilising their own constituencies for action
4. Cooperating with governments, the private sector and other major players to achieve mutual accountability for commitments made and statements of intent in the UNSPF and the Agenda 2030.

With some paraphrasing, these headings provide a structure for the MG interventions under the Workplan.

THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN MGs CAPACITIES AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Members of the MGs wish to underline the importance of having their capacities improved and developed; also the critical need to mobilize more adequate and sustainable funding to enable them to effectively implement the planned interventions in support of the Global Forest Goals and Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). All Major Groups will therefore need to undertake this capacity building and resource mobilization to facilitate activities but in a manner which respects this collaborative work plan.

MG members recognise the importance of funding but also believe that if fully mobilised, the voluntary energies, dedication and efforts of their constituencies can make the money they secure go much further in impact. For this reason, the MGs believe that among the functions of any funding they mobilise should be to trigger mass mobilisation and energisation of the broader society for action on SFM.

MG EFFORTS IN UNFF AGENDA AND PARTNERSHIP CONTEXTS

The MG Workplan targets contribution to success of the UNSPF 2017 – 2030 but in operational terms is anchored on the Forum’s 4POW 2017 – 2020. The Workplan will need updating and revising when the successor 4POWs (2021-2024; 2025-2030) are adopted by the UNFF.

In launching this their first work plan, the MGs stand ready to work with member states and their governments at all levels, the UNFF Secretariat and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), regional organizations and the business community to accelerate progress in the implementation of the UNSPF and Agenda 2030. The MGs are also aware that the CPF is preparing its own Workplan; they hope that other important stakeholders will do the same. In the end, all can only benefit from shared knowledge of each others’ plans and, thereafter, from determined efforts to promote complementarity and reduce duplication among plans.

MG members are convinced that they can add value to the efforts of partners and that support extended to them will yield high dividends for the UNFF process. Strengthened MGs can help raise effectiveness and boost the engagement of the broader society which has so far been inadequate or in some cases even elusive. They therefore appeal to all major players to support their efforts in building up their own capacities and in mobilizing resources for their ambitions and plans.

This workplan is for all MGs together; each MG is encouraged to develop more detailed proposals for its contributions but in a manner compatible with this collective plan.

1. Information in support of capacity for advocacy

Actions/Interventions (not necessarily presented in order of importance)	Focus Level	Time Frame			Resource Needs	Lead MG & potential partners (All major groups can contribute from their own perspective)	Key Indicators	Expected Outcome
		4POW and/or GFG link ¹	Start	End				
1.1 Develop an information and knowledge-sharing platform, including traditional knowledge, to support advocacy and effectiveness of interventions	All Levels	Table 1(2c); GFG4.5	2018	2020	Funding for webmasters	Indigenous people, Children and Youth, S&T with IUFRO, FAO, IFSA, CIFOR	Revitalized Regional research networks	Regional research network; Functioning regional research networks
1.2 Advocate for research and documentation of TFRK (Integrate into WP 1.1)	All Levels		At all times			With IUFRO, FORNESSA, APAFRI, FAO	Summary report, leaflets and key documentation listing on TFRK	Increased integration of TFRK in SFM practices
1.3 Support and consolidate data collection across MGs (Focus baseline data in 2018-2019) including data on SFM from scientific community	All Levels		2018	2019	Data Entry Officers	Coordinating office & Network Members MG on S&T in coop with CPF	Data from variety of sources	Databases
1.4 Create a foundation promoting gender mainstreaming in all MG interventions. Start with collection of gender disaggregated data: • Baseline data: between UNFF13- and UNFF14	All Levels	GFG5(g) GFG2(t)			Data Collectors & Entry Officers	Women MG with FAO & UNDP	Data from variety of sources	Database

¹ Gives the Table No and bullet points in the 4POW on pages 21 – 24 of the Document E/RES/2017/4 ECOSOC – Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 20 April 2017 “*United Nations Strategic Plan for forests 2017-2010 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020*”. In cases where no corresponding activity is planned by UNFF for the first 4POW, reference is made instead to the GFG addressing the issue or area of potential intervention.

• Database maintenance: permanent			2018 All times	2019 All times				
1.5 Undertake: • MGs communication and outreach activities, and • Participate actively in communication networks	All Levels		2018 2019	2020 2020	Specialist Communicators	MGs focal points with UNFFs, CPF, Regional Networks Children and Youth, S&T, with CPF	MOU with CPF and Regional Networks Revitalized Regional Information networks	MGs Communication and Outreach Plan Functioning Networks

2. Engaging in localisation of the UN Strategic Plan on Forests and translating global UNFF decisions to the people on the ground

2.1 Enterprise development for employment, income and livelihoods

Actions/Interventions (not necessarily presented in order of importance)	Focus Level	Time Frame			Resource Needs	Lead MG & potential partners (All major groups can contribute from their own perspective)	Key Indicators	Expected Outcome
		4POW and/or GFG Link	Start	End				
2.1.1 Raise awareness in MG constituencies to re-engage them in local sustainable forest management	Regional National Local	Table 1 - 4(c). GFG 3 (m)	2018	2019	Funding for NGOs & Communities meetings	MG Chair with Community leaders, regional and local authorities	Trends in awareness and attitudes in SFM	Increased in forest under sustainable practices
2.1.2 Undertake advocacy for community – led selection of enterprises for development	National Local	GFG 1.1/1.2	2018	2019	Questionnaire to guide the selection process	Small Holder farmers/ local Communities with FAO, UNDP	Community – engagement reports	Community-based enterprise database

2.1.3 Increase/enhance market access for forest/nature based industries and enterprises, including non-timber forest products	Global, regional, national and local	GFG 2.2/2.4	2018	2030	Consultant to prepare state of the art best practices paper	Chair MG with FAO, UNDP	Trends in the development of forest-based industries.	Livelihood improvements of forest depended people.
2.1.4 Work with certification schemes and other cooperative entities to market sustainably managed forest resources and create critical mass for smallholders sustainably managing their forest resources to profit from economies of scale.	Global	GFG 3.3	2018	2022		Small holder farmers, forest-based enterprises with certification schemes	Trends in certification of small holder forest farms	Increased number of certified small-holder farms
2.1.5 Engage in building capacity, particularly on entrepreneurial skills, at all levels of producer organizations and at all stages in the forest/agroforestry value chains to improve quality of products and livelihoods (including value-addition training where appropriate)	National Local	GFG3(e-h); GFG 4 (k)	2018	2020	Resource personnel and funds to organize workshops	Chair MG; farmer/producer and indigenous people's organisations; UNFFS, UNIDO, FAO, UNDP	Capacity building manual and workshops reports. Knowledge achieved at the training	Improved skills for delivery of quality products. Eventually improved livelihoods
2.1.6 Promote greater attention to forest enterprise development in deliberations and consultations between UNFF sessions.	All Levels	GFG2.2; 2.4	2019 2021	2020 2022		With UNFFS & UNDP	Forest enterprise development data	Adoption of best practices
2.2 Land, Forest and Tree tenure security as foundation for SFM								
Actions/Interventions (not necessarily presented in order of importance)	Focus Level	Time Frame			Resource Needs	Lead MG & potential partners (All major groups can contribute from their own perspective)	Key Indicators	Expected Outcome
		4POW and/or GFG Link	Start	End				
2.2.1 Initiate advocacy to accelerate establishment of secure land and forest/tree tenure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission baseline review on which to base key messages for advocacy -between UNFF13- and UNFF14 Advocacy campaign 	Household, Local, National, Global, Regional	GFG 5.4	2018 2019	2022 2022 and after	Consultant and consultancy fee	MG Women; MG Indigenous Peoples (with Tenure Facility, Forest Farm Facility, FAO, UNDP, NGOs)	Policy revisions in land tenure, access and control rights	Inclusive and sustainable governance of forest/tree landscapes

2.2.2 Undertake educational campaigns, provide information on tenure, access and control rights	Global, Regional, National, Local, household	GFG 5.4	Always		Logistics for educational campaign	Major Group Women, Children and Youth (with FAO, UNDP)	Knowledge acquired	Improved knowledge on tenure underpinnings of SFM
2.2.3 Encourage governing authorities to consult local communities (especially underrepresented groups like women, indigenous people, children and youth) in the process of drafting policy or legislation on forest protection and forest resources sustainable management.	Global Regional National Local	GFG 5.4	2018	2030	Funds for pilot projects	Chair of MGs (With UNFFS, CPF & member states	Trends in Multi-stakeholder platforms for policy deliberations and decision making on SFM	Increased security of forests and trees under SFM initiatives
2.2.4 In collaboration with governments, promote capacity building and awareness of importance to 2 parties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> governments themselves –improving tenure security and market access); and communities/small holders (need to fully participate in government programmes to improve tenure security and market access) 	All Levels	GFG 5.4	2018	2024	Resource persons and workshop logistics	NGOs, Small holder farmers with FAO and Member States	Progress in the degree of tenure security and market access to MGs Constituencies	Progress towards SFM

3. Promoting mutual accountability for commitments made and statements of intent in the UNSPF and the Agenda 2030

Actions/Interventions (not necessarily presented in order of importance)	Focus Level	Time Frame			Resource Needs	Lead MG & potential partners (All major groups can contribute from their own perspective)	Key Indicators	Expected Outcome
		4POW and/or GFG Link	Start	End				
3.1 Promote mutual and collective accountability for delivering on commitments and expressed intentions in forest related activities	All levels	Table 1 - 4(c).	2018	2020	Project Funds	NGOs, Local Communities/IP, Tropenbos Int.	Reduced rate of illegal forest activities	Progress towards SFM

3.2 Monitor forest and land restoration projects to measure success	Global, National, Local	GFG 1.3	2018	2024		With FAO, UNEP, UNDP, CIFOR, IUCN)	Data on restoration projects	Increased forest area cover
3.3 Push for a new approach in legislation with national governments to recognize and support the sustainable management practices of indigenous community conserved areas.	Regional National Local	GFG 5.3	All times			NGOs, Indigenous communities, Member states	Trends in the integration of traditional practices in SFM practices	Progress in SFM under indigenous groups attention
3.4 Facilitate the setting up of network(s) on cross cutting issues – poverty reduction, land and forest tenure, incentives and benefit sharing, rights of vulnerable groups e.g. women, indigenous people, occupants of fragmented small land plots	All Levels		2019	2021		All MGs		Specialised Networks on key cross-cutting issues

4. Strengthening MGs' own Capacities and Resource Base for Effective Action

Actions/Interventions (not necessarily presented in order of importance)	Focus Level	Time Frame			Resource Needs	Lead MG & potential partners (All major groups can contribute from their own perspective)	Key Indicators	Expected Outcome
		4POW and/or GFG Link	Start	End				
4.1 Re-vitalising the MG community for the forest agenda								
4.1.1 Energise the MGs and enhance coordination of their activities by revitalizing the Major Groups Partnership on Forests (MGPoF).	Global	Table 1 - 4(c); GFG 6.5	2018	2020	Funding of Coordination office	Chair MGs focal points	Established coordination office	A functioning coordinator

4.1.2 Refine and finalise MG Work plan (QPOW) developed at Nairobi. ²	All	Table 1 - 4(c).	Jan - Apr 2018	June 2018		MG focal points & UNFFS	Electronic discussions prior to UNFF13	Approved workplans
4.1.3 Individual MGs prepare detailed workplans for their contributions compatible with the collective all-MGs workplan.			2018	2020				
4.1.4 Prepare updates of MG workplans for the successive spans of the UNFF 4POW (2021-24; 2025-30)			2020	2024				
4.2 Mobilising adequate and sustainable Funding for the MGs								
4.2.1 Map funding sources and create awareness/inform stakeholders of the potential financing mechanisms available for implementing SFM	All Levels	GFG 4.	2018 (soon after UNFF 13)	2018	MGs Coordinating Officer	With UNFFS, CPF, UNCBD Alliance, GEF, GCG, Governments	Trends in awareness and financing of SFM projects	Database and other on-line resources on SFM financing
4.2.2 Mobilise funding for MG priority actions to achieve GFG and targets: e.g. based on collective MG workplan and separate MG plans, prepare and market fundable programmes and projects to donors, philanthropists, companies (under corporate social/environmental responsibility)	Mainly at community level but also at higher levels for non-action interventions	Link to Table 1 (3); Table 2(3); Table 3(3) & Table 4 (3, 5).	2018	always	Operational costs of interventions Preparation of a "living" Directory of potential donors/ grants	Chair MG and Chairs of each specialised MG (key being Member State Governments; CPF; philanthropies); UNFF's GFFFN	Quality and fundable programme/project documents	MG activities increasingly funded including through GFFFN support to MGs for SFM activities

Continued 4.2 Mobilising adequate and sustainable Funding for the MGs								
Actions/Interventions (not necessarily presented in order of importance)	Focus Level	Time Frame			Resource Needs	Lead MG & potential partners (All major groups can contribute from their own perspective)	Key Indicators	Expected Outcome
		4POW and/or GFG Link	Start	End				

² Progressively convert MG workplans into fundable and implementable proposals for programmes and projects.

4.2.3 Advocate for inclusion of project funding for Major Groups within the GFFN mandate	Global	GFG 4	2018	2019	MGs	With UNFFS, GFFN and Member States	Overall increase in MGs financial support	GFFN support to MGs for SFM activities
4.2.4 Sustain appeals for operationalisation of the Financial Clearing House mechanism to assist MGs and developing countries to source funds for implementing SFM	All Levels	GFG 4	2018	2019		With UNFFS CPF, UNCBD Alliance, GEF, GCG, Member States	Overall increase in MGs and developing countries funding for implementing SFM	Guidelines for SFM Funds mobilisation.
4.3 MG Direct inputs and support to UNFF dialogue								
4.3.1 Organise MG-led Initiatives before UNFF meetings to deliberate & prepare MGs inputs for sessions (UNFF 13, 14, 15 etc.) and the HLPF. [Also apply online tools]	Global	Table 1 - 4(c).	Mar 2018 2019 2020	Mar 2018 2019 2020	Meeting Logistics, Funds, Consultants	Chair MGPoF UNFFS Donors	Proposals to sponsors to support MGI	MGs Inputs for sessions and HLPF
4.3.2 Organise MGs meeting i) to refine priorities for MGs workplan in the light of 2018-2020 experience ii) to prepare MGs position paper for the UNSPF 2024 review	Global Global		2021 2023	2024 2023	Meeting Logistics, Funds & Facilitator,	MG Focal Points UNFFS MG Focal Points UNFFS	MGs Annual Reports MGI Reports	Revised Workplan MGs Position paper on 2024 UNSPF review
4.3.3 Undertake feasibility assessment of developing a scientific platform for UNFF	All Levels		All times			MG on S&T, UNFFS and CPF (especially IUFRO, CIFOR)	On-line S&T Question and Answer platform	Report and possible funding proposal for a UNFF S&T Platform.
4.3.4 Develop a roster of policy, technical and scientific experts of MGs to be used in development of papers for policy and technical sessions	Global		2018	2020		MG Chair with IUFRO, APAFRI, FORNESSA,		Database