

Explanatory notes for reporting
on the United Nations Strategic
Plan for Forests 2017-30 (UNSPF)

A. Introduction to Explanatory Notes

- Reporting Format agreed by UNFF following a pilot exercise and the November 2017 expert meeting in Nairobi
- Explanatory Notes intended to help national correspondents prepare their Country Reports in a consistent way, by explaining:
 - the purpose of the questions
 - the way in which information from Country Reports will be used
 - relationships with other sources of information.

B. Purpose and Use of Country Reports

- Country Reports a vital source of information for assessing progress towards implementation of the UNSPF.
- The analysis of Country Reports (to be submitted by mid-November 2019) will be used to help prepare:
 - a report on progress towards the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), for consideration by UNFF in 2020.
 - a concise “flagship” publication for release by the end of 2021.
- Country Reports will also be published on the UNFF website.

Other general points

- There is a 250-word limit for responses to each sub-question
 - if all answers were comprehensive global analysis would be extremely complex and without a word limit there is a risk of bias towards those countries which provide most detail
- Country Reports should focus on action taken since the beginning of 2015
 - consistent with the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) cycle
 - previous Report of the Secretary General on progress towards SFM considered by UNFF in 2015.
- Reason for questions on gender equality and International Day of Forests

C. Information from other sources

- No need for Country Reports to repeat information already provided to international databases
- Assessment of progress towards SFM will use Country Reports and numerical information from FRA 2020
 - For consistency, national correspondents preparing Country Reports should coordinate with FRA 2020 correspondents for their country
- Other sources of information include:
 - FAO *State of the World's Forests (SOFO)* publications and FAOSTAT
 - other CPF members and regional processes, DESA Statistics Division, OECD, FSC and PEFC, and SDG reports.
- Relationship with SDG indicators and Global Core Set (GCS)

D. Assessing progress towards GFG 1

Target 1.1 - *forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide*

➤ information from Country Reports & FRA 2020

Target 1.2 - *the world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced*

➤ information from Country Reports & FRA 2020, plus UNFCCC

Target 1.3 - *by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally*

➤ SDG indicator 15.2.1 overview

➤ information from Country Reports & FRA 2020

BUT no internationally agreed definition of degraded forest – similar problem for GCS indicator 7

GFG 1 (continued)

Target 1.4 - *the resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide*

- information from Country Reports
- update *SOFO 2018* analysis of number of countries with national Disaster Risk Reduction strategies that include forest-related measures

BUT concepts of “resilience” and “adaptive capacity” difficult to address in a standardised way.

Assessing progress towards GFG 2

Target 2.1 - *extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated*

- information from Country Reports
- *SOFO 2018* offers a methodological approach to developing a baseline

BUT no internationally agreed definition of *forest dependent people* - similar problem for GCS indicator 13.

Target 2.2 - *increase access of small-scale forest enterprises to financial services ... and their integration into value chains and markets*

- information from Country Reports

BUT lack of statistical information. SDG indicators 9.3.1 and 9.3.2 potentially relevant, but not disaggregated for forest enterprises

GFG 2 (continued)

Target 2.3 - *the contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased*

- information from Country Reports
- **BUT** no robust data sources at global level providing quantitative information about the contribution of forests and trees to the various dimensions of food security - similar problem for GCS indicator 14.

GFG 2 (continued)

Target 2.4 - *the contribution of forest industry ... and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased*

- information from Country Reports
- Social: FRA information on employment in forestry/logging sector
- Economic: update *SOFO 2014* information on the contribution of the forest sector to the global economy
- Environmental: FRA 2020 information on forests managed for soil and water conservation (together information relating to GFGT 2.5 and 3.1)

- **BUT** employment data takes no account of either indirect employment or the informal sector; and economic data take no account of non-monetary benefits relating to energy, shelter, food security and health

GFG 2 (continued)

Target 2.5 - *the contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced ...*

- information from Country Reports & FRA 2020
- FRA information on changes in the area of primary forest and on forest managed for conservation of biodiversity
- ***if*** disaggregated information for forests becomes available, information from SDG indicator 15.1.2 (Protected Areas) and SDG indicator 15.5.1 (Red List Index)

BUT harder to assess progress towards the climate change mitigation and adaptation. Progress on GCS indicator 3 may help, as may update of *SOFO 2018* analysis of number of countries mentioning forests in submissions to UNFCCC.

Assessing progress towards GFG 3

Target 3.1 - *the area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased*

➤ information from Country Reports & FRA 2020

Target 3.2 - *the area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased*

➤ information from Country Reports & FRA 2020

Target 3.3 - *the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased*

➤ information from Country Reports

➤ update *SOFO 2018* - 38% industrial roundwood from FSC/PEFC certified forests.

Assessing progress towards GFG 4

Target 4.1 - *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*

and Target 4.2 - forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing is significantly increased.

- information from Country Reports, including sources of SFM finance (Q 4c)
- update *SOFO 2018* analysis of OECD data on ODA disbursement on forestry

BUT difficult to obtain comprehensive information at the global level about other sources of finance for SFM - similar problem for GCS indicator 15.

GFG 4 (continued)

Target 4.3 - *N-S, S-S, N-N and triangular cooperation and public private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased*

➤ information from Country Reports, including international cooperation (Q 4d)

Target 4.4 - *the number of countries which have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased*

➤ information from Country Reports, including on financing strategies (Q 4e)

Target 4.5 - *the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved ...*

➤ information from Country Reports

Assessing progress towards GFG 5

Target 5.1 – *increase number of countries which have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies*

- information from Country Reports, including integration of forests in plans/strategies (Q 5c)

Target 5.2 - *forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade is significantly reduced worldwide*

- information from Country Reports, including steps taken to prevent and reduce illegal trafficking (Q 5d)
- FRA information on traceability systems for wood products

GFG 5 (continued)

Target 5.3 - *national and subnational forest-related policies and programs are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples ...*

- information from Country Reports, including mechanisms for cross-sectoral coordination (Q 5e) and stakeholder involvement (Q 5f)
- FRA information on national platforms for stakeholder participation

Target 5.4 - *forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision making processes of land use planning and development*

- information from Country Reports on relevant mechanisms (Q 5g)

Assessing progress towards GFG 6

Targets 6.1 and 6.2 address international actions - information will be requested from CPF

Target 6.3 - *cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote SFM and halt deforestation and forest degradation is significantly enhanced at all levels*

- information from Country Reports

Target 6.4 – *a greater common understanding of the concept of SFM is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified*

- information on Country Reports, including on criteria and indicators (Q 6c) and promoting understanding and awareness of SFM (Q 6d).

Target 6.5 - *the input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the UNSPF and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened*

- information from Country Reports, including on involving major groups and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the UNSPF (Q 6e)

E. Explanation of terms used in the Reporting Format

- Consistency with FRA 2020 Terms and Definitions
- Other terms queried during process of developing Reporting Format
 - *Legislative actions*
 - *Policy actions*
 - *Institutional actions*
 - *Financial actions*
 - *Technical and scientific actions*
 - *significantly*
 - *public-private partnership*

QUESTIONS FOR ROME WORKSHOP

- Does **section B** explain the purpose and use of Country Reports sufficiently well? How can it be improved?
- Is there anything missing from **section C** (information from other sources)? How can it be improved?
- Is the approach taken in **section D** helpful? How can assessment of progress towards targets for each Goal be improved?
- Are any other terms that it would be helpful to define in **section E**?

GENERAL QUESTIONS AT THIS STAGE?

Further discussion of detail in Breakout sessions on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday