



Mr. Alexander Trepelkov  
Officer-in-Charge  
United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat  
2 United Nations Plaza  
DC2-2301 New York  
NY 10017 USA

Dear Mr Trepelkov

Please find attached Australia's submission for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030.

This report was collated by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture in collaboration with various government and non-government stakeholders.

Please contact Australia's alternate UNFF National Focal Point Mr Jesse Mahoney on [jesse.mahoney@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:jesse.mahoney@agriculture.gov.au) if there are any questions about this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Lauder'.

Michelle Lauder  
Assistant Secretary  
Forestry Branch

26 November 2019



<b>Country:</b>	AUSTRALIA
<b>Date of submission:</b>	26 NOVEMBER 2019

## General information

### National focal point

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### Person to contact concerning the national report, if someone other than the national focal point

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### Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report

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In completing this report, a number of stakeholders, both internal and external to the Australian Government, were consulted in order to retrieve the most current information available. The consultation of external parties was a small, representative sample and by no means represents all of the Australian forest industry or external forestry bodies.

The following Federal Government Agencies contributed to this report:

- The Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE)
- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

- The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Non-Governmental Agency contributions included:

- The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)
- Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA)
- The Institute of Foresters Australia (IFA)
- Other private sector contacts (including academia and industry).

## Global forest goal 1 and associated targets

**Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change**

### *Associated targets*

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 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
- 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

### **Questions on goal 1**

1. (a) **Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?**

*Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.*

#### **(i) Legislative and policy actions**

##### **List of actions and description:**

- Australia's legal forestry framework incorporates:
  - *the Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002*
  - *the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012*
  - *the Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*
- Other relevant Australian laws and international agreements to which Australia is a party, include:
  - *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*
  - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
  - the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
  - the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
  - the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) **Australia's 2018 National Forest Industries Plan<sup>1</sup>**, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth* (in progress)
  - The plan aims to support industry in establishing a billion new plantation trees over 10 years, to the benefit of forest industries, regional economies and forest-dependent communities, helping to secure the future of Australia's renewable timber and wood-fibre industries.
  - Plan commitments include:
    - Regional Forestry Hubs
    - National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) centres

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/national-forest-industries-plan.pdf>

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) **20 Million Trees Program**<sup>2</sup> (in progress)
  - The Australian Government program is on track to plant 20 million trees by 2020, re-establishing green corridors, urban forests and threatened ecological communities. Approximately 18 million trees have been planted as at September 2019.
- (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Emissions Reduction Fund**<sup>3</sup> (in progress)
  - Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) supports voluntary actions across the economy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Eligible forest activities include establishing new plantations and permanent plantings, shifts to longer-rotation plantations, regenerating native vegetation and protecting existing native forest from clearing for agriculture. The Australian Government has contracted to purchase carbon credits from forest projects representing about 125 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (as at October 2019).
  - The Government has announced a AU\$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to extend government purchasing of carbon credits under the current ERF mechanism from 2020-21.
- (1.2, 1.3) **Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs)** (in progress)
  - RFAs are long-term plans for the sustainable management and conservation of Australia's native forests. They are bilateral agreements between the Australian Government and relevant state governments. RFAs seek to balance economic, social and environmental demands on forests by setting obligations and commitments for forest management. The RFA framework delivers certainty for Australia's forest industries while enabling nature conservation and securing recreational amenities.
- (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **The National Reserve System (NRS)** (continuous)
  - The NRS is Australia's network of protected areas (including national parks), conserving examples of natural landscapes and native plants and animals for future generations. It is based on a scientific framework and acts as the nation's natural safety net against environmental challenges<sup>4</sup>.
  - 33.6 million hectares of Australia's forests are protected in the National Reserve System.<sup>5</sup>
- (1.1, 1.2) **The National Landcare Program** (in progress)
  - The Australian Government is investing more than AU\$1 billion for phase two of the National Landcare Program, being delivered from July 2017 to June 2023. The investment will include a range of measures to support natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and to protect Australia's biodiversity.
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Research and Development**
  - The Australian Government Department of Agriculture has a Statutory Funding Contract 2017-2021 with Forest Wood Products Australia (FWPA) Limited. FWPA is an industry-owned rural research and development corporation (RDC) established under the Forestry Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2007. FWPA is one of the forest industry's key providers of research and development (R&D), marketing, promotion and other activities for the forest and wood products sector. FWPA is funded through mandatory industry levies and charges on various forest and wood products, voluntary contributions from state and territory forestry agencies and matched funding from the Australian Government for eligible R&D expenditure.
  - Under Australia's 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, two centres of the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) have been established, with another two planned. NIFPI centres provide a major boost to the forest industries in their respective regions and nationally, and play a vital role supporting cutting-edge research, fostering collaboration, boosting innovation, increasing profitability, maintaining jobs and growing the market.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nrm.gov.au/national/20-million-trees>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/government/emissions-reduction-fund>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.environment.gov.au/land/nrs>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/sofr-2018>

## (ii) Institutional actions

### *List of actions and description:*

- (1.4) **Australian Government Climate and Disaster Resilience Reference Group** (in progress)
  - Australian Government agencies (including those representing the forestry industry) are integrating disaster and climate resilience in policies, programs and asset management across government. In 2018, the Australian Government released the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, outlining a national, comprehensive approach to proactively reducing disaster risk, now and into the future.<sup>6</sup>
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Multilateral and bilateral engagement** (in progress)

Australia engages in a range of multilateral forums including the UNFF, Montreal Process, FAO and COFO/APFC, APEC EGILAT and ITTO to promote sustainable forest management globally.

Australia promotes the sustainable management of forests globally through strong bilateral ties and capacity-building engagement. Australia remains committed to supporting foreign governments take action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through these actions. It also supports the development of robust and transparent measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems around the world.

  - (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) **Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership** (ongoing)
    - Australia has provided significant and ongoing support in the establishment and operation of the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership, which builds connections between governments, the private sector and civil society to promote greater action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the Asia-Pacific Region (delivered three rainforest summits in 2014, 2016, and 2018).
  - (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **The Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)** (in progress)
    - The Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) is a global partnership which supports the development of robust national forest monitoring systems that allow developing countries to meet UNFCCC reporting requirements and deliver on Nationally Determined Contributions related to reducing emissions from forest-related activities under the Paris Agreement<sup>7</sup>.
    - The Australian Government is part of the GFOI Lead Team. Australia leads the development of the GFOI Methods and Guidance Documentation (MGD), which provides practical advice for designing and implementing forest MRV systems that comply with international requirements.
    - Australia's major contribution to the GFOI has been an online, interactive tool 'REDDcompass'. This innovative resource (based on the MGD) has been well received and has been adopted by GFOI partners as part of their international capacity development activities. It has been used by over 100 countries to date.
  - (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **The System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK)** (in progress)
    - Australia is supporting the Government of Kenya to implement (SLEEK for the period 2013-2019. SLEEK provides direct support to the Government of Kenya to improve and maintain capacity to enable effective reporting on priority land sector emissions reduction commitments. The program will enable Kenya to quantify and report its emissions, meet international climate change obligations and domestic forest and land-use planning policy objectives, and evaluate different land-use scenarios for sustainable development.
  - (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **The World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**<sup>8</sup> (in progress)
    - FCPF is a global partnership of government, business, civil society and indigenous peoples focused on piloting a market mechanism for REDD+ supported by The World Bank. The

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/national-disaster-risk-reduction-framework.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.fao.org/gfoi/home/en/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/>

Readiness Fund supports countries to design and prepare activities and policies for reducing emissions, and the Carbon Fund provides performance based payments for the emissions reductions achieved by implementing those activities. Australian officials work with The World Bank to manage these funds, including through playing a key role in the Carbon Fund assessment process to ensure that country proposals are technically robust and transparent.

- (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **The Indonesia MRV program** (in progress)
  - Australia provides direct support to the Government of Indonesia to develop a robust and flexible national forest monitoring system and to develop policies to establish capacity in the MRV of greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector. This work supports Indonesia to improve and maintain capacity to enable effective reporting on priority land sector emissions reduction commitments.
  - This support builds on work that began under the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership (2009-2014).
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Partnership (RAFT)** (completed 2019)
  - The Australian Government worked with the RAFT Partnership to build the capacity of smallholders and communities for sustainable forest management. RAFT supports the development of robust and transparent verification systems in the timber trade in Southeast Asia. Phase 3 of the RAFT program was delivered from 2015-2019, providing funding for 63 sustainable forestry activities across Papua New Guinea, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar.
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) projects** (in progress)
  - ACIAR is an Australian Government statutory authority which funds and connects agricultural research in Australia to the developing world. ACIAR partners with countries in Asia, Africa and the Pacific to increase tree cover and carbon standing stock in agroforestry and reforestation projects. Projects now under development are designed to assist partner countries in meeting forest restoration targets under the Bonn Challenge and within REDD+. Climate resilience is a factor in selecting planting materials, configurations, and plantation management.

### (iii) Financial actions

#### *List of actions:*

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) **Australia's 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth*** (in progress)
  - The Australian Government made a AU\$20 million commitment to implementing the National Forest Industries Plan, with various actions outlined to support a goal of one billion new trees in Australia.
    - This also includes the Australian Government commitment of AU\$200,000 towards the delivery of forestry education projects to develop forestry education activities (a new National University Challenge for innovative uses of wood residues or timber products, and a virtual reality education tool to bolster forestry education in secondary schools, highlighting the renewable cycle of forests).
  - Since 2018, the Australian Government has provided AU\$4 million to enable the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) centres to establish research centres, with the funding to be shared equally between the research centres. The South Australian and Tasmanian Governments each committed AU\$2 million towards the research in their respective regions. Industry and research community contributions are being provided through financial and in-kind contributions to projects which have been supported by the NIFPI committees in each location.

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) **20 Million Trees Program**
  - The Australian Government has committed AU\$70 million over six years to deliver the program<sup>9</sup>.
- (1.1, 1.2) **The National Landcare Program** (see 1(a)(i))
  - The Australian Government is investing more than AU\$1 billion for phase two of the National Landcare Program, being delivered from July 2017 to June 2023.
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Research and development** (see 1(a)(i))
  - Since 2014–15, the Australian Government has provided AU\$25.2 million towards research and development to the FWPA, matching voluntary contributions and industry levies.
- (1.3) **Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund**
  - Australian Government commitment of AU\$200,000 to the Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund provided to the Institute of Foresters of Australia in 2017.
  - This funding has gone to supporting youth and young professionals to develop skills in leadership, for example as sponsorship to attend international and domestic conferences and workshops
- (1.3) **Communications surrounding forestry**
  - 2018-19 has seen the significant mobilisation of public and private funding towards increasing community understanding of forestry practices in Australia. (See 2(a)(i)) - Federal Government funding, Question 3(b) on FWPA work).
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **International policy and financing** (completed)
  - In May 2019, the Australian Government contributed AU\$50,000 to the UNFF Trust Fund for the development of the 2021 UNFF Flagship Publication.
  - In May 2019, the Australian Government contributed AU\$25,000 to the UNFF Trust Fund to support the participation of Pacific officials in future UNFF events.
- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **National Development Assistance and Aid projects** (in progress/completed) (see 1(a) (ii) for project information).
  - The Australian Government has invested in a range of MRV and foreign aid programs. Contributions include:
    - **ACIAR Forestry Program** (continuous)
      - Approximately AU\$9.8 million expenditure in 2018-19.
      - Approximately 20% of the Forestry program budget is expended on capacity building. ACIAR has a separate division devoted to capacity-building with a budget of about AU\$9 million annually. Forestry expenditure is about 15% of that budget.
    - **Indonesia MRV Program** (in progress)
      - AU\$1 million for the period 2017-2020.
    - **Kenya SLEEK Program** (in progress)
      - AU\$13 million from 2013-2019.
    - **Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI)** (in progress)
      - AU\$10.1 million.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.nrm.gov.au/system/files/resources/5e7f44d5-787c-4444-a7c7-f6b8cc12ead/files/20-million-trees-grant-guidelines-round-three.pdf>



- **The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)** (in progress)
  - AU\$42 million to the FCPF between 2008-2012. AU\$24 million worth of contributions were made to the Readiness Fund, and AU\$18 million to the Carbon Fund.
  - As of 2019, 18 countries have been approved to receive payments through the FCPF Carbon Fund in exchange for emissions reductions units. Australian officials work with The World Bank to manage these funds, including through playing a key role in the Carbon Fund assessment process to ensure that country proposals are technically robust and transparent.
- **Pacific attendance at the 2018 FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment workshop** (completed 2018)
  - AU\$20,000 contribution to support Pacific attendance at the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment workshop in Fiji (December 2018). This contribution strengthened the collective capacity of countries in the Pacific region to respond to regional and global reporting processes which in turn support sustainable forest management.
- **The Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Partnership (RAFT)** (completed 2019)
  - At the first Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit in 2014, the Australian Government announced AU\$6 million funding for Phase 3 of RAFT. Phase 3 was delivered from 2015-2019, providing funding for 63 sustainable forestry activities across PNG, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Vietnam and Myanmar.

**(iv) Technical and scientific actions**

*List of action and descriptions:*

- (1.3) **Australia's State of the Forests Report (SOFR)** (continuous)
  - SOFR is a five-yearly national report on the state of Australia's forests, including their environmental, social and economic values, using an international framework of criteria and indicators developed under the Montreal Process (MP C&I). SOFR represents the key source of comprehensive information describing Australia's forests.
  - SOFR 2018 is the latest report and the fifth in the series, and was published in February 2019.
- (1.1, 1.3) **FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 – Country Report** (completed).
  - Australia submitted its Country Report to the FAO global FRA 2020. The common reporting structure developed between FRA and the MP C&I enables the flow of Australia's forest data compiled in Australia's SOFR series directly into the FRA, the UNFF Global Forest Goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- (1.3, 1.4) **Ongoing Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) research**
  - CSIRO is an independent Australian Government research agency. Forestry projects are progressed through various CSIRO departments. CSIRO also collaborates with FWPA on a range of projects<sup>10</sup>.
- (1.3, 1.4) **Other R&D activities** supported by the Australian Government, include:
  - NIFPI centres (see 1(iii))
  - FWPA (see 1(a) (i)) Various forestry projects run through national tertiary institutions, including the Australian National University, University of Melbourne and Southern Cross University.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fwpa.com.au/tag-search/csiro.html>

**(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?**

- Demonstrated national policy towards sustainable forest management, reforestation and afforestation.
- Demonstrated framework for national action through the National Forest Industries Plan.
- Demonstrated international support of sustainable forest management, contributing towards agreed development goals and Australia's international commitments.
- Commitment to ongoing research and development to support sustainable forest management, including projects to increase forest cover and condition.

**(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?**

- **Environmental challenges:**
  - Drought is a recurrent feature of Australia's naturally variable climate, exacerbated by climate change. Forests must compete with other land uses for water use. Forest carbon stocks therefore vary naturally over time, decreasing during periods of drought and increasing during wetter period.
  - Fire is a recurrent feature of Australia's forest ecosystems and is an essential part of the health of the landscape (e.g. ensuring seed germination) in many regions. However, it is also exacerbated by climate change and anthropogenic ignition such as arson. Forest carbon stocks therefore vary naturally over time, decreasing rapidly after fire and increasing more slowly during periods of regrowth.
  - Pests and weeds pose an ongoing threat to the health and condition of Australia's forests and forest resources.
- **Competing land-use challenges:**
  - Competition and changes in land uses and land management practices, including farming and forestry systems as well as urban expansion, which compete for space with natural systems, may impact on forest cover and distribution, ecosystem function, and the provision of ecosystem services.

**(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**

- Australia's voluntary national contribution (VNC) outlines Australia's commitment to the achievement of the Global Forest Goals and sustainable forest management, including monitoring and reporting on our progress. Identified actions include:
  - increasing our productive forests
    - Delivery of the 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth* is on track, including implementation of AU\$20 million associated funding.
  - ongoing commitment to ecologically sustainable forest management
    - Reviewing and implementing long-term extensions to Regional Forest Agreements to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of Australia's native forests.
    - Australia's commitment to plant 20 million trees by 2020 to increase native vegetation that supports native species and contribute to Australia's reduction of GHG emissions is on track.
  - emissions reductions through forest management and monitoring
    - Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) through the Climate Solutions Fund is the key policy to help Australia meet its international emissions reduction targets. The ERF promotes the implementation of practical actions across the economy, to improve the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Under the ERF, forest-related vegetation management projects have had

the greatest uptake, accounting for over 65% of contracted emissions abatement (as at October 2019).

- Australia remains committed to supporting foreign governments take action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through bilateral and regional forest monitoring initiatives. (See Goal 1 (a) for more detail.)
- combatting illegal logging and associated trade
  - Australia's *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* promotes the trade of legal timber products, obligating wood and wood product importers to undertake due diligence requirements to ensure timber and timber products imported into Australia are legally harvested.
    - The Australian Government worked with research institutions to develop new technologies such as DNA fingerprinting, to support timber verification and law enforcement domestically and internationally. Project concluded in 2017.
    - Australia continues to develop and review Country Specific Guidelines (CSGs) to support the trade of legally harvested timber for Australia and our key trading countries. Australia has nine CSGs in place as at October 2019.
    - Since January 2018, Australia has implemented a full compliance model for its timber imports, with importers now potentially facing significant financial penalties if they fail to comply with their legal due diligence requirements.
    - Australia continues to play a key role in our region, influencing dialogue on illegal logging through bilateral relationships and participation in multilateral forums.
    - International commitments including multilateral engagement are made through various platforms such as the APEC Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT), the FLEGT Timber Regulation Enforcement Exchange (TREE), the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO).

(e) **Any additional comments on goal 1:** N/A

## Global forest goal 2 and associated targets

### Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

#### *Associated targets*

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

#### **Questions on goal 2**

2. (a) **Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?**

*Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.*

#### (i) **Legislative and policy actions**

##### **List of actions and description:**

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **National Forest Industries Plan** (in progress)
  - (2.4) Reducing unnecessary barriers to forestry expansion by reviewing existing legislation and policies for unnecessary red tape
    - Regional Forestry Hubs are being established in key forestry regions and as part of their role they will be identifying barriers to increasing wood production in their region.
  - (2.4) Ensuring forestry meets community expectations, building trust and confidence (in progress).
    - Developing communication materials to encourage community understanding of the sustainability and significance of Australia's forest industry. The Australian Government has developed a suite of communication products to promote the role of forestry, raise awareness of the Australian forestry industry and forests as a sustainably managed resource. This includes development of videos showcasing the Australian forestry industry, available via: [agriculture.gov.au/forestry/planning-tomorrow](http://agriculture.gov.au/forestry/planning-tomorrow)
- (2.2, 2.3, 2.4) **Farm Forestry Strategy** (in development)
  - The Australian Government has committed to developing a farm forestry strategy. Increasing the wood supply to industry is a priority for the Australian Government, and will help industry meet targets set out in the National Forest Industries Plan. The Department of Agriculture will host a forum of farm forestry specialists in early 2020 to help inform development of the strategy.

**(ii) Institutional actions**

*List of actions and description:*

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **Regional Forestry Hubs** (in progress)
  - Establishment of nine Regional Forestry Hubs to drive investment and jobs growth for forest industries and the rural communities that support them (in progress – five pilot hubs were established in 2019, with four to follow in 2020).
- (2.1, 2.4, 2.5) **National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI)** (in progress)
  - See 1 (iii) for more information.

**(iii) Financial actions**

*List of actions and description:*

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **Regional Forestry Hubs** (in progress) (see 2(a) (ii))
  - In 2018, the Australian Government allocated AU\$9 million over four years to support the establishment and operation of 9 Regional Forestry Hubs.
- (2.1, 2.4, 2.5) **National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) centres** (in progress)
  - See 1(iii) for more information.

**(iv) Technical and scientific actions**

*List of actions and description:*

- (2.2, 2.3 2.4) **The National Forest Industries Plan’s National Resource Inventories** (in progress)
  - Development of a national resource inventory of private native forests, farm forests, and Indigenous forests to determine the potential for these to supply wood for the processing sectors. This process may shed light on potential areas for multiple land-use management, tree resource expansion, and environmental and social co-benefits.

**(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?**

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **National Forest Industries Plan** (in progress)
  - The National Forest Industries Plan includes actions to encourage Indigenous communities to participate in commercial forestry, including identifying, improving and using existing forest resources on Indigenous owned and managed land.
- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **Capacity-building through multi- and bi-lateral work** (in progress) (see 1(a))
  - Capacity-building projects are managed through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and such capacity-building is integral to all ACIAR forestry projects. For example:
    - Activities in the Madang province of Papua New Guinea, focused on promoting participatory land use management planning by local communities and community-based organisations to better manage their environment and forest resources (DFAT).
    - Supporting Indonesian land users and policy makers to address the drivers of forest and land fires through better land management practices (DFAT).

- Formal tertiary education is supported through scholarships, professional development fellowships and technical short courses. Mentoring by Australian scientists is provided within research teams (ACIAR).
- Forest policy project in Vietnam and Laos which has contributed to an enabling policy environment for industry expansion. Through policy revision and wood technology research this project supports investment attraction for the development of engineered wood manufacturing capability in Laos (AU\$24 million in new plantings to date) to create high-value products from small trees grown on short rotations (ACIAR).

**(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?**

- Demonstrated national policy towards sustainable forest management, while enhancing forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, and benefits to forest-dependent people.
- Demonstrated framework for national action through the National Forest Industries Plan.
- Demonstrated support of Sustainable Development Goals for forest-dependent people, whilst ensuring sustainable forest management (as above).

**(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country?**

- Addressing the need to constantly innovate and adapt Australia's forest industry in order to manage our commitment to grow Australia's forest industry to meet increasing national and global demand, in a responsible and sustainable manner.
- Definitional challenges for GFG indicators around food security in forests and classification of a forest-dependent person.
- Cross-sectoral issues relating to land use competition – forestry competes with other sectors for land and water resources.
- Negative public perceptions around environmental effects of forestry and forest management create challenges for resource expansion and multiple-use landscape opportunities.

**(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**

- Australia's voluntary national contribution outlines Australia's commitment to:
  - increasing our productive forests, including through delivery of the 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth*. As outlined above, delivery of this initiative is on track, including implementation of AU\$20 million associated funding.
  - support foreign governments to develop and implement robust forest monitoring systems to take action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including the role of sustainable management of forests, conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). Delivery of support to foreign governments on MRV for REDD+ has largely been achieved through Australia's contribution to multilateral initiatives.

**(f) Any additional comments on goal 2: N/A**

## Global forest goal 3 and associated targets

**Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests**

### *Associated targets*

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

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

### **Questions on goal 3**

**3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?**

*Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.*

#### **(i) Legislative and policy actions**

##### ***List of actions and description:***

- (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) **Regional Forest Agreements (RFA)** (in progress) (see 1 (a) (i))
- (3.1, 3.3) **20 Million Trees Program** (in progress) (see 1 (a) (i))
- (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) **The National Forest Industries Plan's** goal for a billion new plantation trees over 10 years (in progress).
- (3.3) Australia has strong legal frameworks at a national and sub-national level, including Acts and dependent Regulations that are designed to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of forests. These include:
  - the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012*
  - the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Regulation 2012*
  - the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*
- (3.1) **The National Reserve System (NRS)** (continuous) (see 1(a)(i))

#### **(ii) Institutional actions**

##### ***List of actions and description:***

- (3.1, 3.3) **Multilateral fora engagement** (in progress) (See 1(a) (ii))
  - Australia engages in a range of multilateral forums including the UNFF, Global Environment Facility (GEF), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), CITES, the Montreal Process, FAO and COFO/APFC, APEC EGILAT, and ITTO to promote sustainable forest management globally. Examples of engagement include:
    - In 2019, Australia helped coordinate APEC EGILAT work on a two year policy theme on “Advancing the trade and distribution of legally harvested forest products”. The policy theme will run from August 2019 to August 2021, examining the issues faced by the private sector in trading in legal forest products.

- Australia is co-sponsoring a Chinese Government project to review progress against APEC’s aspirational goal of ‘increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all forest types by 2020’. This project will be funded by the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management (APFNET) and draws on quantitative data provided by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.
- (3.1, 3.3) **Bilateral engagement and capacity-building** (in progress) (See 1(a), 2(b))
  - Australia promotes the sustainable management of forests globally through strong bilateral ties, including through supporting the development of robust and transparent measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) systems around the world. (in progress)

**(iii) Financial actions**

***List of actions and description:***

- **Australia’s 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth*** (in progress)
  - The Australian Government made a AU\$20 million commitment to implement the National Forest Industries Plan, with various actions outlined to support a goal of one billion new trees in Australia.

**(iv) Technical and scientific actions**

***List of actions and description:***

- (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) **Australia’s State of the Forests Report (SOFR)** (Australia’s most recent 2018 report, released February 2019) (see 1(a) (iv))
  - SOFR is the key source of comprehensive information on Australia’s forests. The mechanisms implemented to manage forests for the conservation of biological diversity, and the area of forests managed for this purpose, are described in SOFR 2018, as well as the areas of forests under long-term forest management plans.
- (3.2, 3.3) Technical components of capacity-building projects in partner countries such as those delivered by ACIAR which;
  - create plantation resources to supply products that might otherwise be generated from unsustainable forest exploitation
  - support research on substitution with bamboo for products otherwise derived from native hardwoods
  - assist partner countries to rehabilitate and expand indigenous forest cover
- (3.2, 3.3) Other actions and programs include
  - CSIRO research (see 1(a)(iv))
  - Other Research & Development activities supported by Federal Government funding, including:
    - NIFPI centres (see 1(iii))
    - FWPA (see 1(a)(i))
    - Various forestry research projects run through national tertiary institutions, including the Australian National University, University of Melbourne and Southern Cross University

**(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?**

- (3.1, 3.2, 3.3) Capacity-building forestry-related projects (as above) in developing countries to increase protected forests and sustainable forest practices within the region, as well as working with developing country governments to establish long-term forestry management.



- (3.3) Forest certification. Australia supports effective forest certification, recognising its importance in promoting sustainable forestry and helping consumers to easily identify and purchase sustainable and legal wood products.
  - Australian businesses use the two main systems of certification, FSC and PEFC. Both systems seek to provide assurance that products are sustainably and legally harvested, build awareness in the market, and promote legal timber production.
- (3.3) Forest and Wood Products Australia (FWPA) is a partially Government-funded not-for profit company that provides national, integrated research and development services to the Australia's forest and wood products industry. The Make It Wood<sup>11</sup> campaign, born out of a partnership between Planet Ark and FWPA, encourages the use of responsibly sourced wood as a building material, and champions woods' carbon-storage potential. Through this program, the FWPA conducted consumer and industry research that has led to the new consumer advertising for The Ultimate Renewable™ with AU\$1.8 million advertising spend in July-August 2019. The advertising campaign for The Ultimate Renewable™ has been highly successful with the advertising being seen by 25% of Australians and those who have seen the advertisement have a greater understanding of forestry sustainability credentials across a large number of metrics.

**(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?**

- Demonstrated legislative frameworks in place at an Australian and state/territory government level to ensure forest conservation and sustainable management of forests. For example,
  - the Australian Government's key legislation, the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) provides national protection of the environment, especially matters of national environmental significance.
  - the *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* provides legislative commitment and support for the outcomes for the Regional Forest Agreements.
- Demonstrated policy towards sustainable forest management, through Regional Forest Agreements and the National Forest Industries Plan
- Demonstrated international support of sustainable forest management, contributing towards agreed development goals and Australia's international commitments.

**(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?**

- Demonstrating to the wider community how sustainable forest management can deliver both Australia's commitment to conservation and the growing national and global demand for increased supply of forest products.
- The availability and reporting of relevant information to describe at the national level the areas of forest protected or conserved through both private and public mechanisms, and the areas of forest under long-term management plans.
- Motivating businesses to further expand Australia's plantation forestry continues to prove challenging despite a number of incentives, given the long-term planning and delayed return on investment. In addition, the variety of climatic and environmental risks for the forest sector, such as fire, drought and pests, can also deter business investment in plantations.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://makeitwood.org/>

**(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**

- Australia's voluntary national contribution outlines Australia's commitment towards:
  - increasing our productive forests
    - Delivery of the 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth* supports the expansion of plantation forests and provides options for other forest products through additional investment in research and development. Delivery of this plan is on track, including implementation of AU\$20 million associated funding.
  - ecologically sustainable forest management
    - Reviewing and implementing long-term extensions to Regional Forest Agreements to ensure the sustainable management and conservation Australia's native forests.
    - Australia's commitment to plant 20 million trees by 2020 to increase native vegetation that supports native species is on track.

**(f) Any additional comments on goal 3: N/A**

## Global forest goal 4 and associated targets

### **Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships**

#### *Associated targets*

- 4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 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
- 4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased
- 4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased
- 4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

#### **Questions on goal 4**

4. (a) **Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.**
  - Under the National Forest Industries Plan's commitment to Regional Forestry Hubs and the National Institute for Forest Products Innovation, the Australian Government mobilises forestry funding from the private sector and local and state governments to support research and develop industry hubs.
  - Australia also mobilises financial resources internationally through matched funding, contributing to capacity building and aid support. For example:
    - ACIAR program and associated projects (continuous)
      - ACIAR provides core funding to ICRAF, CIFOR, and BIOVERSITY (CGIAR Research Institutions) to further assist countries to fulfil the UNFI and progress SFM more broadly. ACIAR has funded projects to support development of effective systems for payment for environmental services in Laos and Indonesia.
      - Numerous projects are partnerships with private enterprise to generate self-sustaining, profitable and sustainable forest and plantation utilisation, including use of non-traditional materials such as small stems and senile coconuts.
      - 26 projects involved producing timber in agroforests of small woodlots. For example, extensive cross-stakeholder cooperation occurs on two projects treating commercialisation of indigenous tree nuts in Melanesia to support forest-based livelihoods and encourage forest conservation. Another project in Indonesia focuses on developing sustainable management and efficient utilisation of bamboo
    - Official Development Assistance
      - Several activities exist which exercise and support triangular cooperation in fields of forestry, climate, and the environment more broadly.
      - For example, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade undertakes capacity-building activities in the Madang province of Papua New Guinea, focused on promoting participatory land use management planning by local communities and community-based organisations to better manage their environment and forest resources.

- Australian industry also contributes to the international mobilisation of finance to progress SFM outcomes.

**(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**

- Australia’s voluntary national contribution (VNC) outlines Australia’s commitment to:
  - emissions reductions through forest management and monitoring
    - Australia remains committed to supporting foreign governments take action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through multilateral, bilateral and regional forest monitoring initiatives including:
      - the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Partnership
      - the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership
      - Global Forest Observations Initiative (including REDDCompass)
      - the System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya;
      - the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.
  - combatting illegal logging and associated trade
    - Australia’s *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* promotes the trade of legal timber products, obligating wood and wood product importers to undertake due diligence requirements to ensure timber and timber products imported into Australia are legally harvested.
      - Australia continues to develop and review Country Specific Guidelines to support the trade of legally harvested timber for Australia and our key trading countries.
      - Since January 2018, Australia has implemented a full compliance model for its timber imports, with importers now potentially facing significant financial penalties if they fail to comply with the Act’s due diligence requirements. Australia continues to play a key role in our region, influencing dialogue on illegal logging through bilateral relationships and participation in multilateral forums.

**Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2**

**(c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?**

Yes       No

If yes, please specify the sources:

- Public domestic funding
- Private domestic funding\*
- Public international funding, including official development assistance
- Private international funding\*
- Blended financing

\*The Australian Government does not collect data on private sources of domestic or international funding. See response to question 4(a) for an example of private funding.

**Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:**

As above, the Australian Government does not collect data on private sources of domestic or international funding.

**Progress towards target 4.3**

**(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?**

Yes       No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other

Types of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- North-North
- Triangular
- Technical
- Financial
- Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Production of timber or non-timber products
- Other (please specify):

**Progress towards target 4.4**

(e) **Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?**

Yes       No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

- 2–5 years
- 5–10 years
- 10–20 years
- More than 20 years

## Global forest goal 5 and associated targets

### **promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

#### *Associated targets*

- 5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased
- 5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide
- 5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

#### **Questions on goal 5**

5. (a) **Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.**
- (5.1) Australia is committed to giving effect to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in 2018 released the first voluntary national review on national progress implementing the SDGs. The Australian Government's National Reporting Platform on the SDG Indicators was also launched in 2018. It is a whole-of-government initiative that contains national data for 118 of the 232 SDG Indicators including data on the forest-related indicators. The Platform is available at [sdgdata.gov.au](http://sdgdata.gov.au).
  - (5.2) Australia continues to take strong action to combat illegal logging and promote the trade of legal timber products, including through the *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012*. Since January 2018, Australia has implemented a full compliance model for its timber imports, with importers now potentially facing significant financial penalties if they fail to comply with the Act's due diligence requirements.
  - (5.2) Australia remains an active participant in a number of forums that help facilitate international cooperation in the fight against illegal logging and its associated trade. This includes regular participation in the APEC EGILAT group, the Timber Regulators Enforcement Exchange (TREE) meetings, Interpol's Forestry Crime Working Group and the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN).
  - (5.2) Australia engages with foreign economies to support implementation of their own illegal logging measures. For example, in 2018, Australia agreed to an Australia Country Specific Guideline for Korea to assist Korean buyers in sourcing legal Australian timber and wood products.
  - (5.2) The Australian Government continues to work with research institutions and groups to advance timber traceability and verification technologies to support timber verification and law enforcement domestically and internationally. For example,
    - from 2015-2018, Australia provided financial support to an ITTO project which built a reference database of Indonesian *meranti* species and showcased its application in real timber supply chains.
    - in 2017, Australia joined the Steering Committee of the Global Timber Tracking Network (GTTN)

- providing ongoing research through the University of Adelaide to create DNA markers to identify timber product origin, advancing methods in species traceability<sup>12</sup>.
  - (5.3, 5.4) Regional Forest Agreements (RFA)
    - RFAs are long term plans for the sustainable management and conservation of Australia’s native forests. They are bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and relevant state governments.
    - RFA extensions, Inter-departmental committees, workshops including Victoria’s youth workshop.
  - (5.3) Industry commitment to engaging with international standards for sustainability
    - For example, the Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) – Australia’s peak national industry body representing forest products industries – engages with international forest industry organisations, such as the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations. The current CEO of AFPA, Mr Ross Hampton, holds the position of Vice-Chair of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries.
  - (5.4) Consultation with industry on the National Forest Industries Plan and the Regional Forestry Hubs.
    - Whilst developing the National Forest Industries Plan, the Australian Government consulted with a range of stakeholders from the forestry sector including industry and state governments, as an input into the Plan’s development.
    - The Regional Forestry Hubs will, over 4 years, develop detailed assessments on opportunities for growth, and factors impacting forest growing and processing sectors in the region. The assessments will include consultation in the region with forest growers, processors, local government, transport providers, training providers and State and Commonwealth agencies as appropriate.
- (b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**
- Australia’s Voluntary National Contribution outlines Australia’s commitment to:
    - combat illegal logging and associated trade
      - Australia continues to develop and review Country Specific Guidelines to support the trade of legally harvested timber for Australia and our key trading countries.
      - The Australian Government continues to work with research institutions to develop new technologies such as DNA fingerprinting, to support timber verification and law enforcement domestically and internationally.
      - Since January 2018, Australia has implemented a full compliance model for its timber imports, with importers now potentially facing significant financial penalties if they fail to comply with the Act’s due diligence requirements.
      - Australia continues to play a key role in our region, influencing dialogue on illegal logging through bilateral relationships and participation in multilateral forums.
    - ecologically sustainable forest management
      - Reviewing and implementing long-term extensions to Regional Forestry Agreements to ensure forestry in Australia remains responsive to conditions and sustainably managed.

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<sup>12</sup> <http://theleadsouthaustralia.com.au/industries/education/dna-testing-on-trees-fells-illegal-loggers/>



### Progress towards target 5.1

(c) **In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?**

Yes  No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

- National sustainable development plans and/or  
 Poverty reduction strategies

The Australian government is committed to actions to progress the Sustainable Development Goals, and considers sustainable forest management as an integral component in meeting these goals.

### Progress towards target 5.2

(d) **Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?**

Yes  No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

- New legislation  
 Improved enforcement of existing legislation  
 Export controls  
 Import controls  
 Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries  
 Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

See 1(d) for information regarding Australia's illegal logging laws; 5(a) for information surrounding traceability program support; and 1(a) (ii) for information on Government engagement with multilateral platforms including ITTO, and Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership, which contributes to the prevention and reduction of illegal trade. Australia also implements the CITES framework and implements the Federal *Export Control Act 1982*<sup>13</sup> for some domestic cases of illegal logging.

### Progress towards target 5.3

(e) **Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:**

- Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia (MIG): In 1996, Australia established the MIG to co-ordinate Australia's input to the international Montreal Process Working Group and coordinate domestic activities between Commonwealth and state/territory agencies and other stakeholders.
- National Forest Inventory Steering Committee (NFISC): established in 1988, the NFISC is comprised of representatives from state and territory forest management agencies, who collectively provide technical guidance and support to the development of nationally consistent approaches for forest measurement and

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2011L02005>

reporting. With the MIG, the NFISC is a co-author of the *Australia's State of the Forests Report 2018* and collectively they deliver domestic implementation and reporting of the Montreal Process criteria and indicators in Australia.

- The Australian and state governments measure, monitor and report on forests in RFA regions. Implementation of RFA milestones, commitments and obligations are reviewed every five years. RFAs include a specific provisions (such as a scoping agreement) to outline the process for review between the Australian and relevant state government. Since 2017, the New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia RFAs have been reviewed and extended following extensive assessment, public consultation, independent review and negotiation. A number of improvements have been made to the extended RFAs including the requirement for annual meetings between the Australian Government and each RFA state, to be held in the years between the five-yearly reviews, to discuss the implementation of the RFA.
- Shared responsibilities of forestry matters across portfolios ensure significant cross-government coordination between key Australian Government agencies. Examples include:
  - shared data with the Department of the Environment and Energy on forest area change and on forest carbon stocks
  - shared responsibility for delivering Australia's international climate commitments through departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Environment, and Agriculture.
- Shared responsibility for various legislative frameworks and international agreements to which Australia is a party, including:
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Responsibility for SDGs is dispersed amongst the relevant Australian Government departments. Responsible departments have lead or supporting roles in pursuit of the goal/s. For example, SDG 15: Life on Land, is the shared responsibility between the Department of Environment (lead) and the Department of Agriculture (support).
  - Data for indicators 15.1.1 and 15.2 is provided for by Australia's monitoring and reporting under the Montreal Process, noting that the UNFAO FRA will furnish to the UNSDG, data provided by National Correspondents to the FRA.
  - CITES, the CBD, and the EPBC Act.

**(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?**

**Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:**

- The RFA five-yearly review process includes public consultation with relevant stakeholders including industry, NGOs, communities, and broader stakeholders. As part of the five-yearly review, the Australian Government and the relevant state government release an implementation report and invite stakeholders to respond through public submissions. A reviewer examines the implementation report and the public submissions, and then presents a report which is tabled in the Parliament of Australia.
- As part of the extension process for each RFA, the Australian Government and the relevant state government undertook extensive public consultation on possible improvements and changes to the RFAs.

**Progress towards target 5.4**

**(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?**

Yes       No

**If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:**

- Policy matters impacting on the production forestry industries are discussed by senior forestry officials and state and territory forestry ministers at meetings convened by the Commonwealth Forestry Minister.

- A range of state and regional level meetings occur regularly. For example, Australian Forest Products Association Board Meetings and National Timber Council Association's Local Government Forest and Timber Industry Conference<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup> <https://ausfpa.com.au/event/national-timber-councils-association-2018-local-government-forest-and-timber-industry-conference/>

## Global forest goal 6 and associated targets

**Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders**

*Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level*

### *Associated targets*

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

### **Questions on goal 6**

**6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.**

- (6.3) The National Forest Industries Plan promotes the cooperation and coordination of land use sectors, namely farming and agriculture. It also promotes regional, state-wide and national-level coordination through the implementation of the Regional Forestry Hubs.
- (6.4) Australia's five-yearly *State of the Forests Report* (SOFR) is developed using the framework provided for under the international Montreal Process. Australia has accepted the seven criteria developed by the Montreal Process, and adapted the indicators (44) to better suit the country's unique forests:
  - Criteria and indicators provide a common understanding of the components of sustainable forest management, and a common framework for describing, assessing and evaluating progress towards sustainable forest management. The SOFR measures progress and informs decision making.
  - Australia has also remained engaged with the CPF's ongoing program of work to develop the 'Global core set of forest-related indicators', to finalise methodologies and definitions, including through participation in workshops (UNFF Experts Group Meeting – November 2018).
- (6.5) Australia has actively sought to support the involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. Notably we engage across a number of multilateral forums, including the FAO's Committee on Forestry and Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and other similar processes, where we seek to ensure the Global Forest Goals remain front of mind in work plans and strategic plans to ensure policies and programs support their delivery, that duplication is avoided, and we maximise value for time and money.

**(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**

- Australia's VNC outlines Australia's commitment supporting foreign governments in taking action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Australia does this through bilateral initiatives, regional initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership, and as a founding partner of the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI) (see 1(a)(ii)).

**Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)**

(c) **Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?**

Yes  No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

- National or subnational
- Regional or international<sup>15</sup>
- Other (please specify):

**For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)**

- To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
- To monitor and assess forest conditions and management
- To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management
- To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

**Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)**

(d) **Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?**

Yes  No

**If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:**

- The Australian Government has developed a suite of communication products to promote the role of forestry, raise awareness of the Australian forestry industry and forests as a sustainably managed resource. This includes development of videos showcasing the Australian forestry industry<sup>16</sup>.
- Across 2018-19, Australia undertook consultations across both Commonwealth and state/territory governments to prepare the Australia's VNC to the Global Forest Goals. Beyond delivering a consultative approach to the VNC, this consultation drove awareness across all levels of government of the Global Forest Goals and the benefits of sustainable forest management.
- SOFR 2018 communicates and promotes a greater understanding of SFM, in that it:
  - aims to inform the public about Australia's forests, their management, use and conservation, and to provide information on how they are changing.
  - is a key source of comprehensive, current information on Australia's forests for use by industry, state, territory and Australian governments, and research and educational institutions.
  - underpins a range of international reporting requirements.
- The Forests Australia website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/>) is dedicated to the communication of data and information describing Australia's forests, and includes electronic versions of all SOFRs, together with maps, data tables and spatial data products.

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<sup>15</sup> For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

<sup>16</sup> Available via: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/planning-tomorrow>

- Since 2014, the Australian Government has taken a comprehensive approach to building community understanding of illegal logging and associated trade, and to improve compliance with Australia’s illegal logging laws. Major activities have included:
  - building a user-friendly and informative series of illegal logging webpages;
  - delivering online training via targeted webinars for importers and domestic processors; producing factsheets for importers/exporters in nine languages;
  - knowledge sharing and awareness building in numerous domestic and international conferences/events;
  - conducting overseas seminars with exporters; and production of an animated illegal logging video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6RyT84hgIY>.
- A number of industry associations also undertake communications activities promoting sustainable forest management. Examples include:
  - Sustainable Timber Tasmania, a Government Business Enterprise, released their Annual Report 2018-19, Sustainable by nature<sup>17</sup>, which highlights issues including certification, biodiversity conservation, and fire management.
  - the Australian Forest Products Association and Forest Wood Products Australia both host online information sessions including webinars and conduct media activities.<sup>18</sup>
  - New Forests, an independent entity not affiliated with the Australian Government, publishes website and social media content to generate awareness of the role of responsible investment in supporting SFM.<sup>19</sup> The company raises awareness around SFM and forestry investment through an annual sustainability report, their ‘Timberland Investment Outlook’, published every 2-3 years, which includes updates on SFM trending topics, and by presenting at key events on finance, forestry, impact, and other relevant topics.

**Progress towards target 6.5**

**(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?**

Yes       No

**If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:**

Australia continues to engage with the Major Groups, such as Major Group Children and Youth (MGCY), to provide support on implementation of the Global Forest Goals wherever possible. In 2019, Australia participated in the MGCY pre-UNFF14 webinar training sessions to share experiences on supporting the UN Forest Instrument and the opportunities for youth engagement in high level policy dialogue. At UNFF sessions in 2018 and 2019, Australian officials met with MGCY delegates in the margins for the purposes of assisting capacity development.

In August 2015, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade released its Indigenous Peoples Strategy which provides a framework to work collaboratively with Australia Indigenous peoples, communities and businesses, to advance and promote the wellbeing of indigenous peoples around the world. Australia is the fifth largest contributor to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Indigenous Populations.

**Other questions**

**7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?**

Yes       No

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.sttas.com.au/about-us/corporate-overview/annual-reports/2018-19-annual-report>

<sup>18</sup> <https://ausfpa.com.au/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://newforests.com.au/#insightsTarget>

**If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:**

- Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
- Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
- ✓ Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions
- ✓ Other

**Please provide a brief description:**

- The Australian Government is committed to gender equity and established the Workplace Gender Equality Agency under the *Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012*. The Agency is charged with promoting and improving gender equality in Australian workplaces.
- In July 2016 the Australian Government committed to a gender diversity target of women holding 50% of Government board positions overall, and women and men each holding at least 40% of positions at the individual board level.
  - As at 31 December 2018, women held 47.3 per cent of Government board positions, an increase of 1.5 percentage points from 45.8 per cent at 30 June 2018, and the highest overall result since public reporting began in 2010–11.
  - In October 2014, the Australian Government established the Forest Industry Advisory Council (FIAC) to provide advice from a cross-section of industry participants on issues affecting Australia's forestry sector. As of September 2019, FIAC consists of 50% female membership.
- Australia's peak industry body representing forest products, Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA), has committed to promoting the diversity of the forestry industry workforce. AFPA is working to improve gender diversity across the forest industry, including through hosting Women in Forestry workshops and developing a forest industries gender and diversity charter, for industry adoption.
- Forest Wood Products Australia have recently developed and adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy (2018), and are encouraging other forest industry bodies to follow their example.

**(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?**

- ✓ Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
- ✓ Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
- ✓ Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)
- ✓ Social media activities
- Other

**Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:**

- The Australian Government Department of Agriculture has hosted seminars open to the public, with university and industry participation on International Day of Forests in 2017 and 2018. These seminars have focused on providing interested and informed individuals and groups with information on Australian forestry, our forest industries, and developments for the IDoF themes (Cities and Forests 2017; Energy and Forests 2018).
- Industry bodies also engage in IDF activities. For example, the IFA and AFPA observed the day through localised announcements through media channels to support various tree planting events across Australia.

## Success stories

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

### Success Story 1

#### TIWI ISLANDS – SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY THROUGH SFM

The Tiwi Islands, located off Australia’s Northern Territory, are home to the indigenous Tiwi people and are governed by the Tiwi Land Council. The Tiwi people have a culture, language, and history distinct from mainland Indigenous people, and have occupied the islands for between 8,000 to 12,000 years. As traditional custodians of the land, the Tiwi people actively manage the region’s natural resources. These resources have been traditionally used for food, shelter, medicine, weapons, tools, and spiritual purposes, and forestry operations have been ongoing on the islands since the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The vision of the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) includes an independent and resilient Tiwi society that is economically self-sufficient and does not rely on external welfare support. In 2003, the Tiwi Land Council produced the Tiwi Islands Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy. The Tiwi leaders decided to use up to 10% of their land to create an economy to provide jobs for future generations and ensure long-term protection of Tiwi natural resource and cultural values. From that strategy, Tiwi leaders established a number of commercial businesses and enterprises in order to create jobs and income for their people, including the Tiwi Plantations Corporation.

The Tiwi Plantations Corporation employs local Tiwi people and engages in ecological research to ensure the best environmental, social and economic outcomes for the plantations. Such work includes trialling different tree species (such as eucalyptus hybrids) and conducting ongoing soil and water studies.

In March 2014, Tiwi Plantations Corporation signed a sales and purchase agreement to supply woodchips and market quality *Acacia mangium* to overseas paper manufacturers. This action speaks to an ongoing commitment to the sustainability of the forestry operations, as new and emerging markets are identified and capitalised upon. Since October 2018, under the guidance of an independent forest management organisation, Tiwi Plantation Corporation is going from strength to strength. They have secured an increased price for woodchip sales and have scheduled nine shipments per year until 2023 securing the future of the community and its industry.

*‘It is not enough to hope that the land will look after itself. Using the land for jobs and our own economy requires us to manage the land properly. We must bring together our knowledge of the past with the new scientific information about the land. Why the soils behave like they do; how the water reserves work; the way the animals and plants work together to keep the land healthy; the impact of fire and erosion and foreign weeds and pests. Just as Tiwi traditional owners understood and cared for our land when we used it for the traditions in the past, the new generations of Tiwi land managers need to understand and care for it now and into the future.’<sup>1</sup>*

- Frederick Mungatopi, Former TLC Chairman

#### **How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?**

The ongoing work of the Tiwi Plantations Corporation, the community, and supporting businesses, is helping to ensure the Tiwi forests are sustainably managed for the betterment of the community. These forestry activities assist in maintaining the cultural connection between the Tiwi people and their traditional lands while helping the community to advance its goal of being economically self-sufficient.



**References:**

Tiwi Land Council, <http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com//index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=128>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=244&l=2&id=64&smid=135>

**Goals and targets addressed / achieved:**

1.1 - plantation expansions

1.3 - promoting the implementation of sustainable forest management

2.1, 2.4 - increased social and economic resilience

3.3 - contribution of increased forest products from sustainable managed forests

4.5 - collection of forest-related information is improved

5.1 - natural resource management is identified as a means to reduce financial dependency/welfare, and increase social/economic resilience

5.4 - forest management fully integrated into land use planning and management for the islands

## Success Story 2

### MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION – MRV AND THE SLEEK INITIATIVE

The System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) is the result of a nearly decade long partnership between the Australian Government and the Government of Kenya. The program has utilised the expertise of many partners, including the Clinton Climate Initiative and the Mullion Group. SLEEK is a robust and credible system that allows for effective monitoring of forest area change within Kenya, as well as the measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions associated with these changes. These data are designed to assist Kenya to meet their emissions reduction commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As a result of the development of SLEEK, there has been significant advancements in the data, process, tools and capacity available in Kenya. This supports land use planning and decision-making on forestry, agricultural and food security, and ultimately drives sustainable development in the country. SLEEK is underpinned by an advanced data integration platform, the Full Lands Integration Tool (FLINT). The FLINT is now an open source tool under moja global, a project of the Linux Foundation, making it possible for other countries to implement more advanced MRV procedures, and produce more accurate and timely reports. The SLEEK project and the subsequent development of these forest monitoring tools was facilitated by resilient, effective partnerships and collaborations between public and private stakeholders. The Australian Government has been an ongoing supporting body throughout the initiative, and continues to develop multi-stakeholder relationships to progress sustainable development both domestically and abroad.

### **How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?**

Through SLEEK and development of the FLINT, all countries now have the opportunity to transform how they report on forests. By providing a robust framework that supports multiple reporting objectives, the FLINT can streamline reporting of forest information into many international processes. By enhancing transparency, consistency and efficiency, we can deliver and showcase greater progress against international commitments, frameworks and agreements such as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030, the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **References:**

Roberts, G., 2019, The Mullion Group, Direct correspondence  
Moja global – [www.moja.global](http://www.moja.global)

### **Goals and targets addressed / achieved:**

- 1.1 - plantation expansions
- 1.3 - promoting the implementation of sustainable forest management
- 2.1, 2.4 - increased social and economic resilience
- 3.3 - contribution of increased forest products from sustainable managed forests