

Concept Note, 30 September 2019

**Expert Workshop in support of the CPF Joint Initiative on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting:  
Strengthening the Global Core Set of Forest Indicators to support the implementation of the 2030  
Agenda and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030**

**22-24 October 2019 at FAO, Rome**

**Background**

The United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 contains six Global Forest Goals (GFG) and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. It provides a global framework for action at all levels, aiming at contributing to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including the related targets of CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals.

In order to help streamline action and reduce the reporting burden on countries, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) has developed a Global Core Set (GCS) of Forest related Indicators. The GCS consists of 21 indicators, which address efficiently and comprehensively the topics identified in high level political commitments on forests. They at the same time address forest related aspects of SDG indicators, in particular SDG 15 “Life on Land”.

The GCS indicators are classified as Tier 1, Tier 2 or Tier 3 based on the existence of an agreed methodology and the availability of comparable data (see Annex). Tier 1 indicators are those for which data can be readily collected. Tier 2 indicators may require additional efforts but are manageable through various data sources. Tier 3 indicators are those for which data is generally lacking and data collection poses significant challenges. Of the four Tier 3 indicators, three deal with socio-economic and financing issues directly related to reporting on GFG 2.1 on eradicating extreme poverty for forest dependent populations, GFG 2.3 on the contribution of forests and trees to food security, and GFG 4.1 and 4.2 on mobilizing significant resources and increasing forest-related financing from all sources.

UNFF13, in 2018, welcomed the progress made in developing the GCS, acknowledging the value of such a set in assessing progress and in better focusing data collection efforts in order to reduce duplication. It encouraged applying indicators ready for use, and requested the CPF to continue to develop the remaining indicators and report on progress in that regard to the Forum at its fourteenth session in 2019.

At its twenty-fourth session, in 2018, the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) acknowledged the progress made on the Global Core Set of forest-related indicators and invited the Forum and the governing bodies of the member organizations of the CPF to consider the use of tier 1 and tier 2 indicators in their reporting processes. The COFO requested FAO to continue working with the CPF on further development of tier 2, tier 3 and “candidate” indicators of the global core set and continue to report on progress in that regard, including at UNFF. Work related to the Global Core Set of indicators was subsequently endorsed by the FAO Council in December 2018.

The development of a platform with online tools for the collection and dissemination of socioeconomic data relating to forest-dependent people and the contribution of forests to food security was also suggested. In addition, participants stressed the need for greater coordination with national statistical offices, using the increased understanding of the relationships between forests and poverty eradication

and food security to design appropriate national census questions.

At UNFF14, many delegates indicated satisfaction with the progress reported on developing a Global Core Set of forest indicators to be used in national reporting, capacity-building efforts for national reporting, efforts to raise awareness about the GFGs, and synching cooperation and enhancing collaboration among CPF organizations. The UNFF14 Chair's summary specified an expert meeting on further improving indicators of the core set as part of plans for intersessional activities on the road to UNFF15. At UNFF15 (2020), the Forum will consider the results of this first round of reporting, as well as the timing of the next round of reporting.

### **Goal and Objectives**

The overarching goal of the Expert Workshop (EWS) is to review progress on the Global Core Set of forest indicators and develop recommendations to make full use of the set, particularly by further improving methodology and data availability of selected indicators.

The specific objectives are:

- to take stock of progress and existing gaps related to methods and data needed to use the Global Core Set for measuring progress towards Global Forest Goals and SDGs at national, regional and global levels;
- to discuss and develop recommendations and proposals for selected "Tier 3" GCS forest indicators for which both methodology and data availability challenges exist: definition, classifications and other metadata specifications; possible national approaches for data collection/generation; piloting:
  - Indicator 13 (Number of forest dependent people in extreme poverty)
  - Indicator 14 (Contribution of forests to food security)
  - Indicator 15 (Financial resources from all sources for implementation of SFM)
- to discuss and develop recommendations for selected "Tier 2" global core set of forest indicators (methodology is sound but data challenges still exist): addressing data availability issues, national approaches for data collection/generation through existing structures and mechanisms, data generation through analytical tools; possible pilot studies;
  - Indicator 10 (Wood based energy share of total final energy consumption)
  - Indicator 12 (Employment related to the forest sector)
- to discuss and develop recommendations on next steps/roadmap to further develop methodology and data availability on Tier 3 and Tier 2 indicators and to share views and discuss possible actions on enhancing the use of GCS indicators.

### **Expected deliverables and results**

The expected deliverable of the Expert Workshop is a report to the CPF Task Force on streamlining forest-related reporting:

- the current understanding of methodological and data issues of selected Global Core Set of forest indicators classified as Tier 3 and Tier 2;
- recommendations on methodological specifications of selected Tier 3 indicators, particularly internationally agreed definitions and methodologies for data collection and analysis;
- recommendations on ways to considerably enhance data availability at national levels, particularly through better utilizing existing structures and mechanisms for data collection, analysis and reporting;

- recommendations and proposals for further work on Tier 3 and Tier 2 indicators and outlook on steps needed to utilize the full potential of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators at all levels.

The expected result of the meeting is advise to the CPF Task Force in developing the GCS further to effectively enhance the ability of countries and organizations to use and report on the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators, further strengthening evidence-based decision-making and streamlining global reporting on forest-related aspects.

**Venue**

FAO Headquarters, Rome

**Date**

22-24 October 2019

**Participation**

The EWS is a meeting of technical experts. Participation is by invitation, drawn from all Member States, CPF members, representatives of international and regional organizations/processes, UN system organizations/agencies/programmes/commissions, other relevant entities and processes, including criteria and indicators processes, major groups and other interested stakeholders. It is anticipated that the meeting will bring together 80-100 (?) participants.

**Structure of the event**

The structure will combine the following elements:

- Background paper focusing on the global core set Tier 3 and Tier 2 indicators:
  - Progress in further developing methodologies of GCS indicators, existing gaps, and ways to address them
  - Progress in further improving data availability on GCS indicators, existing gaps, and ways to address them
- Parallel work sessions will be designed around specific indicators
  - Short presentations of a specific note on method and data availability considerations and options per indicator to frame the discussion;
  - Discussions and elaboration of recommendations in Working Groups;
- Plenary sessions to validate working group results and discuss elements of the report, including recommendations;
- Plenary session to discuss further work, incl. promotion of up-take and related experience sharing and capacity development

The detailed agenda and schedule will be elaborated by the Steering Committee.

The event will be held in English, with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish in plenary sessions.

## **Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee of selected members of the CPF Taskforce on streamlining forest-related reporting (UNFF, FAO, World Bank, UNFCCC Secretariat, IUFRO as well as CIFOR/ICRAF), guides the work by:

- Deciding/approving main issues to frame meetings (themes and sub-themes)
- Deciding/approving draft agenda and detailed schedules
- Overseeing the selection of panelists, speakers, etc.
- Providing financial oversight

## Annex: Global Core Set of Forest Indicators

E/CN.18/2018/4

### Annex II

#### Draft global core set of forest-related indicators

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
1. <b>Forest area as a proportion of total land area</b>	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and global forest goal 1. Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.1
2. <b>Forest area annual net change rate</b>	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and target 1.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
3. <b>Net greenhouse gas emissions (source)/ removals (sink) of forests, and carbon balance of harvested wood products</b>	1. Extent of forest resources 4. Productive functions of forest resources	Kilotons of carbon dioxide emissions per year	2	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat	Measures progress towards targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and measuring, reporting and verifying requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. <b>Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas</b>	2. Forest biological diversity	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 2.5 and 3.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
5. <b>Change in area of primary forests</b>	2. Forest biological diversity	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 15

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
6. <b>Proportion of forest area disturbed</b>	3. Forest health and vitality	Percentage of forest area	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
7. <b>Area of degraded forest</b>	3. Forest health and vitality	Hectares	3	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Linkages to strategic objective 1 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (2008–2018), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
8. <b>Above-ground biomass stock in forest</b>	4. Productive function of forest resources	Tons per hectare	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
9. <b>Volume of wood removals</b>	4. Productive function of forest resources	Cubic metres	1	ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
10. <b>Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption</b>	4. Productive function of forest resources	Percentage	2	ECE and FAO	Linked to target 7.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
11. <b>Forest area with a designated management objective to maintain and enhance its protective functions</b>	5. Protective function of forest resources	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Linked to target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
12. <b>Employment related to the forest sector</b>	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number of full-time equivalents	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
13. <b>Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty</b>	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
14. <b>Contribution of forests to food security</b>	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	To be decided	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
15. <b>Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management</b>	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	United States dollars	3	OECD, World Bank	Measures progress towards global forest goal 4 and targets 4.1 and 4.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with targets 15.a and 15.b of the Sustainable Development Goals
16. <b>Existence of national or subnational policies, strategies, legislation, regulations and institutions that explicitly encourage sustainable forest management</b>	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards global forest goal 5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
17. <b>Existence of national or subnational forest assessment process</b>	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
18. <b>Existence of national or subnational stakeholder platform for participation in forest policy development</b>	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
19. <b>Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan</b>	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 1.3 and 3.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
20. <b>Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme</b>	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.3 and 3.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
21. <b>Existence of traceability system(s) for wood products</b>	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards targets 3.3 and 5.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

*Abbreviations:* ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

<sup>a</sup> Tier 1: methodology and data in place. Tier 2: methodology in place, data challenges. Tier 3: methodology and data both present challenges.