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Format for United Nations Forum on Forests regional/sub-regional partners reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the United Nations Forest Instrument

Consolidate response from the FAO regional forestry bodies

General comments

- FAO has six Regional Forestry Commissions, covering the whole world. The mandate of these commissions are largely identical and presented below.
- The response from the commissions contain actions and activities performed by the bodies and their secretariat, which are the FAO Regional Offices
- The response **does not** contain activities performed by the FAO headquarters under the Regular Programme or as part of Regional or Global Projects, therefore cannot be considered as a full account of FAO activities in support of the Global Forest Goals. It can however provide a good overview of key activities performed under the aegis of the Regional Forestry Commissions.
- The responses provide information on both the actions taken by the Regional Forestry Commissions, as well as their secretariats, implementing the Commissions' decisions.
- The questionnaire requests information according to the Global Forest Goals and the associated targets. It has to be noted however that hardly any action can be linked with one target, most of the cases not even with one goal. In most cases they impact several goals and multiple targets at the same time. Whenever possible, references were made to other goals and targets but multiple listing was avoided. It is the responsibility of the reader, and if a compilation of the responses will be prepared, of the analyzer to properly consider these linkages both when presenting actions on the specific goals and targets and when describing the big picture.
- The same applies to clustering the actions according to the predefined categories, they often cover more than one category.
- Policy and legislative actions taken by all commissions are provided separately in these introductory remarks.
- For obvious reasons the responses place more emphasis on completed and ongoing activities than on new or planned ones, to avoid a too extensive and complex document, which would be very hard to interpret.
- The questionnaire leaves room for interpretation and therefore some conceptual differences may occur between the responses from the different regions. It is proposed that the differences



observed in the course of analyzing the regional responses of the 2019 reporting be taken into consideration for streamlining future reporting exercises.

General elements of the response applicable to all FAO Regional Forestry Commissions

FAO services the following Commissions:

- [African Forestry and Wildlife Commission \(AFWC\)](#)
- [Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission \(APFC\)](#)
- [European Forestry Commission \(EFC\)](#)
- [Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission \(LACFC\)](#)
- [Near East Forestry and Range Commission \(NEFRC\)](#)
- [North American Forest Commission \(NAFC\)](#)

Mandate:

Regional Forestry Commissions had been established between 1947 and 1958 to advise on the formulation of forest (as well as rangelands and wildlife, as applicable) management policy and to review and coordinate its/their implementation at the regional level; to exchange information and, generally through special Subsidiary Bodies, advise on suitable practices and action in regard to technical problems; and to make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing.

The Regional Forestry Commissions report to their respective Regional Conferences as well as to the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO).

Legislative and policy action:

In addition to specific actions performed on the regional level, all Regional Forestry Commissions have considered the following topics relevant for the implementation of the all the Global Forest Goals during the 2017 and 2019 sessions and gave guidance for members and FAO:

In 2017

- Outcome of global policy processes of relevance for the Regional Forestry Commissions. This document included the Sustainable Developments Goals; the 22nd COP of the UNFCCC; the UN Biodiversity Conference and the 13th COP of the CBD COP; the Green Climate Fund; the UN Strategic Plan for Forests; the outcomes of the 12th session of UNFF. **(GFGs: All)**
- The High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition report on Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. **(GFGs: All)**
- Forest Resources Assessment 2020 and efforts for reducing reporting burden by streamlining international forest-related reporting **(GFGs: All)**.

In 2019

- Outcome of UNFCCC COP24; UNCCD COP13 and 14; CBD COP14; the High-Level Political Forum 2018 and 2019; the United Nations Climate Action Summit; World Forum on Urban Forests; the World Agroforestry Congress; the UN Decade of Family Farming; the UN Decade on



Ecosystem Restoration; the UN reform process; and the reform of the International Poplar Commission. (GFGs: All)

- Implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and collaboration with the UN Forum on Forests; (GFGs: All)
- FAO's work on biodiversity ((GFGs: All)).

Furthermore, Regional Forestry Commissions discussed the following topics and gave policy and operational guidance in 2017 and 2019 (please note that some of the discussions will take place after the submission of this report). The topics have been overarching in nature covering most or all of the Global Forest Goals, however some of the most relevant ones may be indicated below. References to these recommendations in terms of technical, operational and financial activities are made in the reports by the respective commissions:

- Forest and the SDGs (GFGs: All)
- Forest concessions for sustainable forest management (GFGs: 2-5)
- Forest health, fire and invasive species (GFGs: 1-3)
- Forest and landscape restoration (GFGs: 1-4)
- Forest degradation and its monitoring (GFGs: 1-3, 6)
- Forest and climate change, including accessing related funds (GFGs: 1, 2, 4, 5)
- Community forestry (GFGs: 1, 2, 5)
- Forest and bioeconomy (GFGs: 2, 3, 5)
- Forest value chains (GFGs: 2-5)
- Forests (and rangelands and wildlife) in the NDCs (GFGs: 1, 2, 4, 5)

Most importantly for this report, starting from 2019 FAO will label every action recommendation according to the global forest goals they contribute to. The recommendations from the current sessions of the Regional Forestry Commissions have been labelled accordingly making monitoring easier and clear in the future. It has to be noted however that this labeling cannot go down to the target level as most of the actions cover several goals at the same time.

The recommendations of the Regional Forestry Commissions were taken to the respective Regional Conferences and appeared in the work programme of the secretariats, as illustrated by the annexes to the current report.

The recommendations were also taken to COFO and several of them became part of FAO's work in forestry. Those activities which are performed by the FAO Decentralized Offices appear in this report, while others, which are implemented on the global scale, may be obtained only from FAO, as a global organization and not through the Commissions (see the note under the General Comments section).

Annexes

1. Regional questionnaire 2019 FAO APFC
2. Regional questionnaire 2019 FAO AFWC
3. Regional questionnaire 2019 FAO EFC
4. Regional questionnaire 2019 FAO LACFC
5. Regional questionnaire 2019 FAO NAFC



6. Regional questionnaire 2019 FAO NEFRC