



Entity name:	FAO Near East Forestry and Range Commission
Date of submission:	15/10/2019

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

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
2. While considering the word limits, regional and sub-regional entities are invited to provide as much detail as possible in their answers, including regarding figures and deadlines, if applicable.
3. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
4. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
5. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

*Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org with cc: tavora-jainchill@un.org
by 15 November 2019.*

General Information

Information on Entity

Official Name:	Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC)
Membership:	Afghanistan, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen. Observers: Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, Arab Organization for Agricultural Development, International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, International Union for Conservation of Nature, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (Silva Mediterranea), African Forestry and Wildlife Commission and Palestine Authority
Mandate:	Established in 1953, to foster regional collaboration in forestry development related issues, NEFRC mandate was expanded, in 2010, at the request of the member countries, to include rangelands, hence has strengthened cross-sectoral coordination.. NEFRC seeks to advise on the formulation of forest, range and protected areas policies, strategies and legislations; facilitate exchanging information and experiences; and advising on suitable practices and actions with regard to technical problems, and to make appropriate recommendations in relation to the foregoing.

Entity's focal point

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Entity/entities involved in the preparation of the report

Entity/Entities:	
Address:	
Email:	

Global forest goal 1 and associated targets¹

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 ²
- 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, ³ what types of action have been taken by your entity to support Member States 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, if applicable, (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

<i>List of actions</i>	<i>Description of action</i>
-Support to the development of Jordan national forest policy (target 1.3)	A forest policy document integrating Global Forest Goals and SDGs was formulated and submitted for the government approval. The document was approved by the MoA and under consideration for enactment by the Cabinet.
- Support to the development of Sudan GGWI strategy and action plan (targets 1.3 & 1.4)	A strategy document for the Great Green Wall Initiative and Action Plan for Sudan were developed, validated through national consultation with all related stakeholders in the country and submitted to the government

ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

- Support provided to Lebanon to strengthen coordination for the implementation of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan – NARP (The 40 Million Tree Programme)	- Inter-Ministerial Committee and a Coordination Unit established and supported. - Communication Strategy for the NARP developed.
Support to the design of MRV system for Sudan under the frame of REDD+ process (ongoing) b(goals 1.2 & 1.3)	- Institutional mapping, gap analysis and capacity needs assessment for a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and REDD+ MRV system undertaken and capacity building activities implemented

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacities to regularly assess forest & land cover change are strengthened to produce activity data for REDD+ - Development of Forest Reference Level/ Forest Reference Emission Level following - A National Forest Inventory is carried out to improve carbon and forest information, and capacities are built to update it regularly. - GHG inventory and reporting process is developed for AFOLU sector
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¹ Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

² Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

2 Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

iii) Financial actions

<i>List of actions</i>	<i>Description of action</i>
Mobilization of financial resources to support country actions f	Financial resources mobilized from GEF (Morocco, Muaritania), WB (Tunisia), Carbon Partnership Facility (Sudan), Japan (Algeria), Norway (Lebanon)

iv) Technical and scientific actions

<i>List of actions</i>	<i>Description of action</i>
Support provided to Lebanon in strengthening the resilience of Mountain areas through reforestation, formulation of participatory forest management and improved forest pest and fire management (ongoing). (goals 1.3 & 1.4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1000 ha of degraded forest lands in Lebanon Mountain areas are currently under reforestation through participatory actions, using native species. - Forest management plans are under formulation in 16 sites with total area of 1000 ha - Capacity of forestry engineers in participatory forest management, integrated pest and forest fire management enhanced. - Vulnerability assessment to forest fire and forest pests carried in the sites selection for forest management and risk reduction measures incorporated in the forest management planning.
Support provided to Sudan, Lebanon and Tunisia to execute NFI (goal 1.3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National forest inventories are under implementation in Sudan, Lebanon and Tunisia to improve their data on the extent and status of their forest resources

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

Listed actions contribute to Global Forest Goal 1 and its associated targets 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4

- (c) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 1 in your region?

Main challenges are the limitation in financial resources and weak institutional and technical capacities

- (d) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets⁴

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 your entity to support Member States 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 if applicable (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:

Description of actions:

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

Description of actions:

⁴ Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(b) What other action is being taken by your entity in support Member States to achieve goal 2?

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

(d) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 2 in your region?

(e) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets⁵

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 your entity to support Member States 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 if applicable, (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:

Description of actions:

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

Description of actions:

⁵ Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(b) What other action is being taken your entity in support Member States to achieve goal 3?

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

(d) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 3 in your region?

(e) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets⁶

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 region to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

- Increased in trust funds allocation for forestry projects including in Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia and Sudan
- Increase in mobilizing financial resources from the Global Environmental Fund.
- Lebanon is establishing a National Forest Fund to finance its National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan (the Forty Million Tree Programme)

- (b) Since 2015, has your entity been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources to support Member States in the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

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

- The fact that the majority of the countries in the region are classified as high and middle income countries (only three countries are LCD) and the general impression that this is a rich counties region makes it difficult to mobilize financial resource from bilateral and multilateral funding sources.
- On the other side almost all the high income countries do not have any significant forest cover to invest on and forestry is a low priority to them.

⁶ Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–



17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16 -17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 4.3

(c) Please specify the actors/stakeholders with which your entity is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other (please specify):

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

(d) Since 2015, has your entity supported Member States in developing or implementing financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes – Support is provided to Lebanon to establish a National Forest Fund

No

Comments if needed:

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets ⁷

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 region to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

⁷ Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 5.2

(b) Since 2015, has your entity supported Member States in promoting or participating in National/Regional/Sub-Regional initiatives to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

No

Comments if needed:

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets⁸

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 region to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

6.5 Greater engagement of the countries of the region in work of the UNFF and its intersessional work.

⁸ Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 6.3 (cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation)

(b) Please describe major actions taken in your region to regarding cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation.

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are there criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used by your entity?

- Yes** No

Based on the globally adopted seven criteria we developed a set of 32 indicators tailored to the region context for sustainable management of forest and rangelands under the name of Criteria and indicators for Sustainable Forests and rangelands Management in the Near East and North Africa.

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 your entity 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:

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your entity 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:

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your entity taken action to support Member States in promoting gender equality in the forest sector?

- Yes No

If yes, please indicate action taken regarding 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:

(b) What action has been taken by your entity 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:

Success stories

8. Does your entity have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017– 2030? 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

Action taken:

Goals and targets addressed:

Outcome and results achieved: