



<b>Country:</b>	LIBERIA
<b>Date of submission:</b>	November 30, 2019

**Format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions<sup>1</sup>**

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and builds on the format previously used for reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session. It is largely narrative, reflecting the qualitative nature of many of the targets.

2. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or that is not in other international databases is requested. The information submitted will be supplemented with quantitative data, among other things, from the following international data providers:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment/collaborative forest resources questionnaires, Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

(b) Reports on the state of the world’s forests, produced every two years by FAO;

(c) Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Other data sources, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

3. Members are kindly requested:

(a) To submit their completed national reports electronically (in Microsoft Word format) in English, French or Spanish to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org) by mid-November 2019, bearing in mind that early submissions will greatly facilitate the secretariat’s preparation of the report on progress towards the goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 [title and focus to be determined] to be presented to the Forum in 2021 [to be confirmed];

(b) To submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official signed letter conveying their submission from the respective ministry, or a note verbale from their permanent mission to the United Nations in New York;

*Please submit the completed format to: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org) by 15 November 2019.*

<sup>1</sup> Detailed guidelines will be prepared and discussed and will, among other things, state the purpose of reporting and how the data will be used. References to voluntary national contributions will be harmonized with the process to be put in place for announcing voluntary national contributions.

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, to consult experts from relevant national ministries, such as those of the environment, economic development, finance and agriculture, in completing the reporting format and to consult the national focal points for the forest resources assessments, the Rio Conventions secretariats, other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Members may also wish to consult stakeholders when preparing their report.

4. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
5. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
6. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

## General information

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

Institution(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Development Authority</li> <li>• Voluntary Partnership Agreement Supporting Unit (VPASU)</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</li> <li>• Sustainable Development Institute (SDI)</li> <li>• Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (Liberia Office) (WCF)</li> <li>• Coalition of Environmental NGOs</li> <li>• USAID West Africa Biodiversity &amp; Climate Change</li> <li>• Society of Liberian Foresters</li> </ul>
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Address:	• All in Monrovia, Liberia
Email:	

## Global forest goal 1 and associated targets<sup>2</sup>

**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<sup>3</sup>
- 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,<sup>4</sup> 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:*

- *Wildlife and protected area management law of 2017*
- *Gazetement of two (2) additional protected areas (Gola and Grebo-Krahn National Parks)*
- *Wildlife regulation is in progress*
- *Proposed establishment of protected areas (Wonegizi, Foya, Kahn-Bassa, Sestos-Senkwein and Grand Kru- River Gee)*
- *Development of Strategic Management Policy document under REDD+*
- *Reforestation Policy and Afforestation Strategy is in progress under International Tropical Timber Organisation ( ITTO) Yokohama, Japan Project*
- *Developed National Forest Definition for Liberia and conducted National Forest Inventory under LFSP with support from the Government of Norway*
- *Developed Guidelines for Plantation Forest Harvesting and Management*
- *Revision of Chain Saw Milling Regulation in progress under FAO EU FLEGT Project*
- *Regulations on Abandoned, Transit, Confiscated, Imported Timber and Third Party Access to Resource area,*

- (ii) Institutional actions

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

*List of actions:*

- The actions support the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;
- Supported the implementation of UNFF Global Objective on Forests (GOFs) 1 & 3

*Liberia under progress*

- *Re-opening of Forestry Training Institution (FTI)*

*Description of actions:*

- *Training of Middle level technicians*
- *Hand-on experience on Sustainable Forest Management and Utilization*

(iii) Financial actions

*List of actions:*

- *Signed Letter of Intent (LOI) to support SFM in Liberia by the Govt. of Norway*
- *Established Transitory Account for the operation of Timber Legality Verification Division*
- *Established Transitory Account for SGS Side Agreement Contract*
- *Conservation Trust Fund Established (USD)*

*Description of actions:*

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

*List of actions:*

- *National Forest Definition*
- *National Forest Inventory*
- *Periodic Change in FOB values for commercial timber export*
- *Survey of flora and fauna in the proposed and protected areas*
- *Carried out scientific research on biodiversity issues in Mano River Basin*
- *Proposed action on establishment of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in the savanna grasslands of Foya and Northern part of Liberia*
- *Studies on Mangrove and Marine Protected species in wetlands of Liberia*
- *Soil analysis in the savanna grassland of Foya for the purpose of Agro-forestry system establishments by IDH Sustainable Group*
- *Development of Landscape Use Planning in Foya District of Liberia affected by the crippling grass savannah approach*
- *Assessment of government reforestation plantations across the country*

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

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

- *Public Financial incapability to build capacity and political will to mitigate institutional gaps;*
- *Shifting Cultivation and large scale agricultural expansion (Oil palm and rubber);*
- *Ignorance of effective utilization of forestry resources;*
- *Lack of information on indigenous, medicinal, aboriginal and lesser known timber species.*

(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.

- *Liberia has completed the National Forest Inventory to determine the extent of Natural Forest Area;*
- *National Definition of Forest of Liberia has been established in 2018 with the following thresholds: more than 1 hectare, 30% canopy cover and 5 meters of tree height'*
- *To date, Liberia has legally established five national-level PAs which together, amounting to about 480,000 ha or approximately 11 percent of the nation's forests;*
- *National Land Rights Law has been enacted that defined land tenure rights and security in 2017.*
- *Liberia Government is involved with project that is intended to strengthen the Climate Information and Services to Enhance Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation.*

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

- *Several Activities toward the increase of forest cover is taking a momentum through encouragement of smallholder's forest restoration (FLR) programs as well as enhancing Public-Private Partnership in the restoration initiative especially the concentration on agroforestry development.*
- *Encouraged the development of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) with the initial target of 5,000 hectare before the 2021*

## **Global forest goal 2 and associated targets<sup>5</sup>**

### **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

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

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:*

- *Establishment of National Benefit Sharing Trust Board (NBSTB)*
- *Establishment of Community Forestry*
- *Regulation for the production and utilization of wood based biomass energy*
- *Regulation on wood processing and value addition of timber*
- *Regulation on forest resource waste/ residues.*

*Description of actions:*

- *This National Benefit Sharing Trust Board is a process that will continuous as long as commercial forestry continues;*
- *More Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) continued to be awarded to the Forest Community Members;*
- *Technological capacity building for improved wood-based biomass energy production and utilization.*
- *Enforcement of policies on timber value-addition and increase the use of forest resource waste to create employment and reduces the pressure on natural forest resource.*

#### (ii) Institutional actions

*List of actions:*

- *Establishment of VPA Secretariat*
- *Establishment of Climate Change Secretariat (CCS)*
- *Establishment of Wildlife and Protected Area Management Law*
- *Establishment of Livelihood support in protected and proposed protected areas*
- *Bamboo and Rattan Resource Development Roadmap by International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)*

*Description of actions:*

- *The VPA Secretariat provides supports to implementation of the FLEGT action plan*
- *CCS will direct and coordinate actions for the implementation of Climate Change*
- *The institution will control and direct the efforts towards the management and protection of wildlife*
- *This is to ensure that the protection of natural habitat provide alternative livelihood for forest fringe communities.*
- *This helps to improve the sustainable use and management of Bamboo and Rattan resources in Liberia.*

(iii) Financial actions

*List of actions:*

- *Community Forest Cubic Meter Fee*
- *Land Rental/ Area Fee*
- *Allocation 55% of revenue from the harvest of the forest resources to the affected communities*
- *Co-management regime at established national parks (through park entry, research fee etc)*

*Description of actions:*

- *Collect at least US\$1.00 for every cubic meter of wood that is extracted for commercial purpose;*
- *Payment of and sharing of the land rental fees between the Government and the Authorized Forest Communities'*
- *Fees collected from the national parks be used to promote the livelihood of the communities around the protected areas.*

(iv) (a) Technical and scientific actions

*List of actions:*

- *Studies on wood wastes, residues and timber value chains*
- *Wildlife surveys on chimpanzees and elephants population*
- *Development of Forest Emission Level (FEL) for Carbon Sequestration through LFSP*
- *Ongoing studies on nationwide ecotourism potential*
- *Studies on Bamboo and Rattan Value Chain by INBAR*
- *INBAR studies on the Bamboo and Rattan Resources in Liberia*

*Description of actions:*

- *This action will provide knowledge on the utilization of forest resource wastes*
- *Undertake assessment of chimpanzee and elephant population to provide information and put in place the management regime for these wildlife.*
- *GOL commissions the studies on the potential of ecotourism to enhance the development strategy of this sector*

(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?

- *Establishment of Small-and Medium Forest Resource Enterprise Unit within the Forestry Development Authority;*
- *Attempt is being made to encourage the organization of small-scale forest products enterprises into an associations/unions/alliances.*
- *Developing policies and regulation that will make investment friendly and environmentally sustainable.*
- *Development of Policies and Strategies for the SMFEs Development.*



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

- *It helps to Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services and that also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities.*
- *The above actions are catalyst for enhancing the sustainable forest management and the SDGs especially those that are related to ending poverty and enhancing food security.*

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

- *Illegal logging*
- *Poor infrastructure to support forest sector (industrial set up, small scale units)*
- *Poor monitoring of finance transactions/ transparency (corruption reporting)*
- *Inadequate/weak enforcement of regulations towards community forestry*
- *Too much dependant on the export of unprocessed forest resources from Liberia because of the poor infrastructure and the transition cost.*

(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.

- *VNC 2.2*
- *Several efforts have been put in place through the FAO EU FLEGT Programme to support the organization of Chainsaw milling operations and the Wood-based Biomass Energy (Charcoal) Producers into associations as an effort to enhance the SMEs as in VNC reported.*
- *In 2017, FAO Forest and Farm Facility provided funding to Charcoal Union to organize the charcoal producers into an association. Three (3) Producers will organized into association in two of the Liberia's political sub-divisions*
- *Funding has been provided under the Direct Assistance Programme to the two organizations to organize the producers into an association. The duration of projects is one year and it is in progress.*

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

- *The Forestry Development Authority (FDA) has established a Unit with the sector called Small and Medium-Scale Forest Products Enterprise Development & Marketing. This is to fast track the development agenda of this sector to meet the development of forest based socio-economic and environmental sustainability.*

## Global forest goal 3 and associated targets<sup>6</sup>

**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:*

- *30% of Liberia's Forest cover allocated for Protected Area Management (to date 475,390 ha area under protected area management)*
- *501,765 ha area for proposed protected area (another 137,044 ha earmarked)*
- *Over 550,000 ha of forested land allocated to Community Forestry for Long Term SFM*
- *1.08 million hectares allocated under Forest Management Contracts (25 Year felling Cycles)*

#### *Description of actions:*

- *Efforts are exhausted to improve the outreach and support to local communities around PAs so that they can be encouraged to work together with FDA officials to monitor, maintain boundaries and buffer zones, and other activities that facilitate effective management.*
- *Sustainable livelihoods for the communities living near or within the PAs also need to be improved so that they (communities can be fully engaged in forest management jointly with the FDA.*
- *Traditional knowledge and the innovative practices of forest-based communities directly related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can be better promoted.*

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

(ii) Institutional actions

*List of actions:*

- *Over 30 Community Forest Management Agreements awarded to authorized forest communities*
- *2 Protected Areas established as National Parks (South eastern and North Western Regions).*

*Description of actions:*

- *The CFMAs are means of allowing the communities to participate in the management of the natural forests and benefit sharing strategy of the forest resources.*

(iii) Financial actions

*List of actions:*

- *Allow the Authorized Forest Communities (AFCs) to take a share of 55% of the fees, taxes and charges from the extraction of the forest resource.*

*Description of actions:*

- *55% of every revenue generated from the extraction of the forest resources are deposited into the Community Management Account until projects are identified by the AFC members in accordance to the Community Rights Law (CRL 2009) and the Regulation.*

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

*List of actions:*

- *9 steps to acquire authorized forest community status*
- *Socio economic survey in community forest areas*
- *Review of different forest management concessions*
- *Development of Code of Forest Harvesting Practices for Chainsaw Milling in Liberia*

*Description of actions:*

(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?

- *Restoration Opportunity Assistance Methodology (ROAM) for forest restoration initiative in Mano River Basin through the West Africa Biodiversity Conservation*
- *Memorandum of Understanding between Liberia and Dubai Carbon to undertake Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Liberia to combat Climate Change*

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

- *Promotion of Global objective 3 to 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;*

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

- *Limited Public funding to undertake sustainable forest Management;*
- *Inadequate capacity to development of Forest Financing Strategy and Mechanisms*
- *In adequate Capacity to a Bankable Project Proposal Development in Liberia*

(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.

- *VCN 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased.*
- *Over 30 Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) have been awarded to the Authorized Forest Communities for fifteen years management period even though the commercial harvesting of these areas are expected to have a rotational harvesting cycle for 25 years*

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

- *More efforts are put in place to put more forest under protected areas. At present, studies are being conducted on the mangrove forests in one of the Ramsar site (Marshall Wetland) for declaration as protected areas. Other Forest covers are also earmarked for declaration.*

## Global forest goal 4 and associated targets<sup>7</sup>

### **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.

- Developed **Libertrace software** as a Timber Legality Assurance System
- National Forest Inventory to understand the national forest capital
- Regulations, Acts, Laws, Codes, SOPs, WIs and Side Documents prepared to combat illegality and biodiversity conservation along with protection of forest areas

- (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.

- VNC 4.1 bullet one:
- Support provided to undertake a comprehensive national Forest inventory in Liberia under the Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP) and the FAO.
- The target has been met and final report is expected in October 2019.

#### **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?

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<sup>7</sup> 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.

X Yes       No

If yes, please specify the sources:

X Public domestic funding

X Private domestic funding

X Public international funding, including official development assistance

X Private international funding

X Blended financing

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

- *Inadequate capacity in developing forest financing strategy;*
- *Inadequate capacity to develop bankable projects for SFM;*
- *Lack of financial capacity to run day to day operations towards monitoring, enforcement and forest governance;*
- *Poor infrastructure within and outside Forestry Sector.*

**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?

X  Yes     No

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

Governments

X  Intergovernmental organizations/processes

X  Private sector

X  Non-governmental organizations

X  Other

Types of cooperation:

North-South

X  South-South

North-North

Triangular

X  Technical

X  Financial

Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

X  Forests and climate change

X  Forest biodiversity

X  Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests

X  Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods

X  Forest degradation and rehabilitation

X  Scientific cooperation

X  Forest monitoring/data collection

X  Technology transfer and capacity development

X  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    X  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<sup>8</sup>**

**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.

- *Progress towards implementation of Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Liberia and European Union (EU)*
- *Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD)*
- *10 years Strategic Management for SFM by FDA, Liberia*
- *Integrating United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests into Liberia Forest Management Strategies*

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<sup>8</sup> 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.



(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.

- Several Multi-stakeholders Groupings are established with the support of the Government especially in the areas of forest management and utilization.
- Community Forest Management Agreements (CFMAs) have three-levels of governance structure to ensure coordination and monitoring transparent and accountable management;
- There exist a National Multi-stakeholder Monitoring Committee for the Voluntary Partnership Agreement governance structure in Liberia. All sectors related to sustainable Management of Forest are part of this committee

**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

**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 (for Wildlife and other biological resources)

Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

- Legality Matrix update for verification of legal timber trade
- Joint inspections collectively by various ministries and agencies (MOL, EPA, etc) for monitoring compliance within forest sector
- Pre-qualification panel for legal participatory management of concession and exportation of forests and wildlife resources.

**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:

- LRA-FDA Tax collection monitoring
- FDA-NPA for Export of timber and timber products
- FDA-EPA for environmental monitoring and stakeholder consultation
- FDA-MoJ for forest governance
- FDA-other agencies for monitoring and enforcement of National code of forest harvesting practices

(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:

- *Joint Implementation Committee (JIC)*
- *Liberia Implementation Committee (LIC) of the VPA implementation*
- *National Multi-stakeholder Monitoring Committee (NMSMC)*
- *Inter-Agency Consultative Committee (IACC)*
- *Forest Management Advisory Committee (FMAC)*
- *National Forests and Landscape Forum*
- *County-level Forests and Landscape Forum in the counties*

#### **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:

- *Liberia Land Authority (LLA) responsible to coordinate and regulate land Rights Law of Liberia.*
- *The LLA and the Ministries of Agriculture and Interior are members of the Board of Director. This facilitate the participation of these sectors.*

#### **Global forest goal 6 and associated targets<sup>9</sup>**

**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

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<sup>9</sup> 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.

## 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.

- *Public Awareness and the sensitization of efforts on the UNFI through dialogues and discourses;*
- *Involvement of stakeholders in formulation and development of national policies and regulatory frameworks on forest management at both national and county levels;*
- *Periodic of forest sector donor meeting that included international Partners that are contributing to the sustainable management of Liberia's forests and forest resources.*

(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.

- Liberia is implementing the Paris Agreement in compliance to the outcome of the UNFCCC. We are moving toward implementation of forest restoration programme as a means of increasing forest cover. Up to 500 hectares of degraded forest areas are been restored;
- Intensive ROAM activities have been carried on with the support of West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC/USAID) programme for the Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative in the Mano River Basins. This FLR programme is expected to be fully implemented in the coming year.
- *Several multi-sectorial policy dialogues are currently taking place in the forestry sector at different levels. Each of these groupings included the international partners and donors including:*
  - ✓ *-REDD+ Strategies Implementation has its Multi-stakeholders Steering Committee. These groups meet every month*
  - ✓ *.-VPA-FLEGT has its Multi-stakeholders Grouping to discuss issues on Timber Legality Assurance System. This group meet monthly*
  - ✓ *-Community-Forestry Working Group that ensure that the Community forestry Agreement are legally and transparently done.*
  - ✓ *-Forest Donors Working Group that meet every month to discuss progress and happening in sector;*
  - ✓ *-Liberia is undertaking National Forests and Landscape Forum. This is a multi-sectorial policy dialogue to discuss issues pertaining to natural resource Management at both national and local levels.*

### 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>10</sup>

Other (please specify):

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<sup>10</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.

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:

- *Under the REDD+ and Liberia Forest Sector Project (LFSP), there are established platforms in the country that have dialogues on SFM in Liberia;*
- *There is also radio programs dissemination information on sustainable forest Management*
- *The Expert Panel Discourse Programs of the National Forests and Landscape Forum (NFLF) were intended to carries on awareness on sustainable forest management.*

**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:

- *Seven (7) Expert Panel Discourse of NFLF dialogues initiative was conducted at national level and three was held in counties. At national level, experts on each of the thematic areas related to the GFGs and the SDGs were discussed to provide expert opinion of the importance of these action on sustainable forest management.*

**Other questions**

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

Yes       No

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: Promoting women entrepreneurship in the forest resource utilization and management

Please provide a brief description:

- *The Community Forest Development Committee (CFDCs) composition provide at least two space for women*
- *Women are taking part in the bidding process for concession operation;*
- *Women are appointed to higher level position in the forestry administration (the Technical Manager for Community Forestry Department and the Regional Forester in Region # 1 of the Forest Regions. Forest Law enforcement being held by a woman.*

(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 Forestry Development Authority (FDA) website ([www.fda.gov.lr](http://www.fda.gov.lr))

### 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:** *Liberia ambition to fulfil its commitments to set 30% of its forest areas for conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services*

Action taken: *Establishment of two (2) protected forest areas in addition to other protected areas before 2015 including: Kranh-Grebo National Park and the Gola National Park*

#### Goals and targets addressed:

**Global Forest Goal 1 :** *Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.*

**Target : 1.1:** *Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide*

#### Outcome and results achieved:

- Two (2) protected areas for park established
- Functional Protected Area Management Plan in place

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

- *It increases the forests cover under protection*
- *It contributed to the global biodiversity conservation and management*

References:

**Success story 2:** *Enhance community forestry management practices that has empowered authorized forest communities to manage the forest for livelihood improvement.*

**Action taken:** *Government (FDA) awarded several community forest agreements to authorized forest communities*

#### Goals and targets addressed:

**Global Forest Goal 2:** *Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people*

**Targets :** *2.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4*

#### Outcomes and Result:

- *Improved authorized forest communities social and economic status*

## 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
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



<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>
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.