



Country:	State of Palestine
Date of submission:	28/11/2019

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 contributions¹

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 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 by 15 November 2019.

¹ 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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Global forest goal 1 and associated targets²

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 worldwide³
- 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 2015,⁴ 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:

- New strategy issued for agricultural sector under the name of 'National Agriculture sector strategy – **Resilience and Sustainable Development** (2017-20122).
- Adopted new articles in agricultural law related to forest sector.
- Impose Fines and punishments to control management and regulate the forest area.
- Created the security body to conserve the environmental content either in natural reserved or in the forest areas.
- law of nature conservation /planned

Description of actions:

The national agriculture sector strategy includes the strategic actions of the rehabilitation of deteriorated natural resources including forest area by increasing the green area and sustains the old forest by different activities which will be mentioned in the technical actions. MoA use the Agricultural law as a main legal source approved and announced in 2003 and forest by_ law issued in 2005 (Palestinian cabinet), during 2018 MOA updated the agricultural law and forest by-law by modifying some of the articles related to forest as a way to control and regulate some measures in order to protect and manage the forest areas. The participatory approach had been adopted, the decision-maker from all the relative institutions meet to take the right decision taking into consideration the socioeconomic aspect, environment aspects, and the hazards or natural disaster which expected happened recently near and far future. A technical committee from MOA and EQA and other main stakeholders start in preparing intermediate and ultimate plans and immediate actions in parallel of guidelines to the people and to the institutions (measures, and fines etc. to control, management and regulate the forest sector) in order to achieve the goals of the modified law. And also a big effort is given to organizing ecotourism inside the forest areas. Referring to the above subject regarding the environment protection system the state of Palestine agreed to create new police division under the ministry of interior called the environmental police working in integrated way with other relative institutions and stakeholders in order to conserve and protect the environment in Palestine include the nature reserve and forest area .

forest instrument.

³ Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

⁴ Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

The administration of forests in Palestine is under the supervision of MoA in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Whereas, MOA represents the umbrella for all the local and international institutions. The institutional actions plan considered the strategic plan prepared by all the players in the development process and it includes:

- Commitment Memorandum of understanding and agreement had been signed between MoA and the related institutions and created many of committees related with institute the work in the field of forest management and conservation.

-Determined the interventions locations.

- Preparing the action plan implementing the interventions which determined as a suitable to address the problem.

Description of actions:

Forest, afforestation, and conservation took a part in the nationally determined contribution (NDC) and we have an annual plan which delivered from the strategy of the ministry of agriculture (2017-2022) which mentioned the natural resources as one of the five strategic goals. Hence, implementing NDCs can support the achievement of sustainable development goals across the forest sector. The state of Palestine put the afforestation actions as the mitigation actions in NDCs. Regarding of agreement and memorandum of understanding the MOA signed with the ministry of high education, civilian defense system, and some municipalities and universities and with NGOs to participate in achieving our strategic goals related to forestation and sustainable forest management, MOA created some of committees related with the sustainable management of forest such as: Natural reserve management ministerial committee, infrastructure related to natural resources management ministerial committee, rangeland management committee, technical committee for green Palestine project. On the other hand, the Palestinian land and water settlement commission was established as a new governmental system responsible for a location, bordering, measuring and registration of the forestry lands. In addition allocation and updating the forest area in the national master plan to field surveys, also national data base prepared by MOA and EQA.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- Allocate financial support from the governmental budget for applied the interventions related to forest development.

-Enhanced the NGOs and municipalities contribution.

- promote the voluntary work in forestry activates

Description of actions:

All forestation programs in Palestine applied by the government particularly MOA under governmental financial support, but the private sector still needs time to invest and support forestation actions and giving priority in this field. Limited financial support related to wild life and forest conservation used by NGOs according to our strategy. More attention is giving to voluntary work especially young people and students from universities and school to promote voluntary work and decrease the cost related to forestation actions and to enhance the public awareness related to this field.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- Forestry seedling production.
- Forestation and greening.
- Sustainable forest management.
- Biodiversity conservation and wild life protect.

Description of actions:

Forestry seedling production is the most important step in the forestation process; good experiences are built in the field of seeds collections and seedling production in term of quality and quantities, which increased from 470 to 700 thousand seedlings through 7 forest nurseries distributed in 6 districts and we also planned to establish new nursery in Bethlehem district. A big priorities given for forestation and greening from the government and the decision-makers according to the strategy especially the policy related to increase the green area, in the last 4 years 8 thousand dunum (1 hectare = 10 dunums) were planted and sustained as a new forest in the governmental land, in addition, new ecosystems were reformed in the dry and semi-dry new sustained forest with a full coordination with local communities around, as well as our forest protected through the forest rangers although the Israeli closure, restrictions and land confiscation. Take a big part of our efforts in Palestine especially in the dry seasons because we are facing and combating fire in the forest by different ways and techniques starting from fire breaking lines, establishing simple road, thinning out dried trees and grazing management as a way to control weeds to halt the deforestation and firing.

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

All the above-mentioned actions aim to increase the green area and to increase the usage of the local people around the forest which enhance their income and also to have sustainable managed forest and ecosystem in term of adaptation and mitigation to climate change effects and increasing the biomass production and carbon sinking and absorption. Biodiversity conservation and combat desertification considered as other issues for forestation program

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

The access restrictions to water and land from Israeli occupation against the Palestinian- have constrained the development of forest in Palestine, only have access to about 15% of our water and only 35% of our land under our control, in addition the Israeli occupation restrictions in our forest land especially about 90 % of our forest under the Israeli control especially 50 Israeli settlement built in the forestry land which damaged around 80 thousand dunum for this issues. Dryness is another challenge that appears as a desertification indicator because of climate change effect caused water to be a limiting factor in addition to the financial needs in the forestation program as well as the firing represents the recent challenge in Palestine especially in dry and semi-dry areas.

(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.

No, it has not announced but we have communication with different sectors for these issues.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Two thousand dunum are annually planted as new forest in order to increase the green area in Palestine to achieve the UNFF instruments.

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets⁵

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

Associated targets

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

Questions on goal 2

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

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

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- *New strategy issued for agricultural sector under the name of 'National Agriculture sector strategy – Resilience and Sustainable Development (2017-20122).*
- *Environmental cross cutting sector strategy.*
- *Ecotourism organizing committee.*
- *National spatial plan for land use*

Description of actions:

Sectorial strategies (2017-2022) have been developed for 21 sectors in total, including Agriculture and other sectors, in addition, adopted the environmental strategy as a cross-cutting strategy, these strategies taken into consideration resilience of the Palestinian people on their lands and improve the livelihood and economic situation as well as create labour job opportunities to increase their income, especially criteria adopted to allocate the ecotourism and specific plans also prepared with the cooperation infrastructure committee with a coordination of related stakeholders special care needed to our forest in the dry and semi-dry conditions which are the environment forest, according to the national spatial plan and land use it is priorities to encourage private sector to invest in ecotourism inside forest.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

- *Awareness campaign conducted targeted the local level especially the village which closed to the forest area. Schools, where curriculum modified taken into account the benefit of forest trees in terms of socio-economic, environment ... etc.*
- *Memorandum of understanding had been built with other players in the agriculture sector in order to conserve the forest trees especially in the areas where those players implementing their interventions.*
- *Preliminary work starting negotiation with partnership (the private sector and investor) in order to cultivate public lands which suitable to be cultivated by forest trees for wood production.*
- *Dissemination knowledge to the local and international institutions for our interventions needed for the forest sector for deterioration and deforestation.*

(iii) Financial actions

<p>List of actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>The different small scale projects were applied or in process related to adaptation and mitigation climate change especially of the rangeland rehabilitation and forestation.</i>- <i>Governmental minimum fund is available because of the shortage of budget which not enough for sustainable management forest and decreased poverty.</i>- <i>Different ministry working in poverty eradication by supporting and empowering the poor families.</i> <p>Description of actions:</p>
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(iv) Technical and scientific actions

<p>List of actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Forestation and forest management activities.</i>- <i>Ecotourism and forestry parks.</i>- <i>Food, medicine and grazing management in the forest.</i>- <i>The reflection of the conventions related to biodiversity, climate change, desertification and forest restoration into real activities and achievement.</i> <p>Description of actions:</p> <p>The priorities are giving for the people close around the forest to be used as labor in our projects and activities in the project like forestation program, access road rehabilitation, nurseries, and other activities in order to eradicate poverty and increase the livelihood level (increase income), also these reflected directly to all aspects of their life, 400 thousand labor days were available since 2015. 10 forestry parks were established inside the forest with cooperation with the municipalities to be used for recreation according to the agriculture law. Under the sustainable forest management plan aim to establish safely recreation areas inside the forest, currently, ecotourism, in general, is priorities for the government, 10 ecotourism sites adopted a plan for infrastructure is prepared. Public awareness will be provided for the visitors especially those coming teaching activities. During the last years forests represents the food source in the time of crisis and wars, until now the villagers around the forest depend on the forest as source for wild vegetables, medicine plant, fresh fruit, mushroom, source of meat also use it for grazing and timber and wood sourced especially for fuel according to the regulation and supervision of Moa and EQA. The UNFF, UNCCD, CBD, and UNFCCC represent a term of reference for our plans reflected into the ground activities to achieve the goals adapted into conventions, forestation, rangeland rehabilitation conservation, and management greening represent the main activities related to the climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p>
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(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?

Different proposal for project is prepared according GCF needs to achieve the goals and it is under process.
Different program prepared by the government for the poverty eradication in general.

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

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

- Shortage of financial support.
- No access to our forest due to the Israeli occupation restrictions.
- Limited agricultural water in both of conventional and nonconventional water which represent the main limiting factor.
- Limiting in access the national and international markets
- Less revenue of cultivation forest trees at the personal level and the private sector
- Socioeconomic factors as unemployment, poverty and land ownership

(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.

No

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets⁶

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:

- *Update the forest locations on spatial planning.*
- *Registration the forest lands in the land and water settlement commission.*
- *Fines had been imposed in the agricultural law which is applied to the offenders to protect the forests sites.*
- *Created the ministerial committee to prepare the protect environment and hunting law include Moa and EQA.*

Description of actions:

Forest management plan represents a big issue for the government specially Moa and EQA in term of legislation, to achieve the sustainable forest management especially in the area affected by climate change, state of Palestine start revision for its spatial planning for land use. Forest sites reallocated on the maps after measuring and assessment in the ground, the area protected according to the agriculture and environment and local government laws and water and land settlement commission. Update the fines on the agriculture law to protect the forest and product by given the permission for cutting and collecting wood and products from the forest. Currently, we prepare the committee to protect the environment and hunting as a ministerial committee contains Moa and EQA.

⁶ 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:

- *Workshops and meeting.*
- *Focusing group.*
- *Participatory approach.*

Description of actions:

Moa as a main umbrella for management forest areas we considered the participatory approach as a tool to take the accurate decision to implement the best intervention on the forest areas, to achieve that we organized many workshops and meets with all stakeholders from the governmental institution and NGOs to manage the forest in a sustainable way and to enhance the livelihood of the local communities around the forest and to engage them in the decision making and the public aware activities

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- *Governmental financial support.*
- *Municipalities contribution to the management.*

Description of actions:

The forest has been conserved and protected by the government (Moa and EQA) with limiting financial support. And also full coordination with a stakeholder especially the environmental police to prevent hunting, trees cutting and other forest encroachments. The main objective of this regulation and activities to have a healthy and sustainable forest in terms of productivity and regeneration. Under the governmental commitment to rehabilitation and restore the biodiversity and deteriorated natural resources as the main policy of our strategy.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

<p>List of actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Guarding and rangers</i>- <i>Access simple fire break lines and simple roads</i>- <i>Thinning and pruning.</i>- <i>Reforestation of the deteriorated locations.</i> <p>Description of actions:</p> <p>Trained and qualified rangers in the MOA responsible for the applying of the management plan and protection of the forests, within the action plan we have effective interventions in the infrastructure established in the forest for multipurpose like road, breaking fires, ecotourism, recreation control, and food and fruit collection. Thinning and pruning is a continuous process especially after firing and snow, dry trees and branches should be removed from the dried medium forest to be used from the farmers and local people as a source of fuel (energy) and also on a small scale industry as small boxes and others.</p>
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(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?

<p>We are participatory all in the public awareness and voluntary work to promote the conservation of nature for the children and youth to enforce the relation with the nature more attention also given for ecotourism and trails and forestry parks by the municipalities and tourism agency to enhance the internal ecotourism in safety way for the families and the tourism. 40 ecotourism guides trained and qualified through extensive training under project apply by the Moa, EQA and wild life society and officially adopted by the ministry of tourism and antiquities</p>
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(c)How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

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

(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.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets⁷

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

⁷ 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.

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.

Currently, financial resources came from governmental for reforestation and landscape restoration under sustainable forest management. We are looking for another financial resource by presenting proposals related the forestation activities to different donors like united nation agencies. The state of Palestine put the forestation issue in major priorities in the policies and national strategies such as on the nationally determined contributions.

(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.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

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

Yes No

If yes, please specify the sources:

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

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

We have some restrictions on mobilizing funds because of the political issue, capacity building also needed for proposal preparation according to the criteria of the donor. Private sector and nongovernmental organizations' contributions in SLM are absent especially the donor who funds these NGOs focusing on rangeland rehabilitation and other projects related to the adaptation of climate change effect. Lack of information or connections related to agencies responsible for funding projects about SLM.

Progress towards target 4.3

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

- Yes No

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

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

Types of cooperation:

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

Areas of cooperation:

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

Progress towards target 4.4

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

- Yes No

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

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

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets⁸

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.

Agriculture strategy sector 2017-2022 taken into consideration the sustainable forest management within second strategic objective ' natural and agricultural resources sustainably managed and better adapted to climate change' by enhanced the administrative and technical procedure to management the designated lands including forests, rangeland and natural reserve.

(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.

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
 Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
 Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

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

- Yes No

All stakeholders participated in the formulation of the agriculture sector strategy (ministries, universities, NGOs and local communities, in addition, the private sector) and in formulation the inter-sectorial environment strategy prepared by the same way under the supervision of EQA. In addition, local people and local communities including women and youth have participated in the formulation of the strategic plans.

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

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

They are a part of the main committees responsible for the formulation strategies and legislations, also participated in the workshops and discussion through focusing groups reflecting the needs and challenges of the forest into clear policies and activities. As well as involvement in the planning builds upon the strategies. Implementation of the actions is the responsibility of designated ministry and the partnership.

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

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:

It's achieved through the new by-law in spatial national planning under the supervision local government ministry with full coordination and cooperation with stakeholders specially MOA, EQA and other, take into consideration update the national spatial plan in land use.

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets⁹

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

⁹ 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.

Continues meeting of the national committee of combating desertification which includes the related stakeholders responsible to halt the desertification effect by increasing the green area and forest management as well as forestation program. SLM is the main issue in natural resource management with cooperation and coordination with government and nongovernmental organization according to the national policy agenda of the government. Coherence and synergies between acts on the ground and between policies and plans represent a strength point to manage forest but different challenges and restrictions still facing us which affect the positive interventions and impacts especially 90% of our forest occupied by Israeli forces. Also, two committees were formed according to the government decisions which are the ministerial committee for natural reserved and climate change committees which are used as a term of reference for natural resources include forest management in term of adaptation and mitigation activities. These committees reflect the goals and rules of the United Nations (Rio conventions and UNFF) as a part of the plan to achieve SDGs.

(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.

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 international¹⁰

¹⁰ For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal

Other (please specify):

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

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

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

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

Yes No

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

The state of Palestine celebrated every year like any state in the world of the United Nations days as the world day to combat desertification and international day of the forest to highlight on these issues and raising the local awareness and put all related agencies on them responsibilities relating the forest and all climate issues, and to celebrate the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our forests. On the other hand, we put the natural resources issues and conservation of the forest in the Palestinian curriculum which is used to increase the student awareness on the forest and nature conservation.

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:

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

Please provide a brief description:

(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:

- TV interviews.

- Interviews on the local radio and news agencies.

-

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

Action taken:

- Forestation and reforestation actions.

- Improve Forestry seedling production in term of quality and quantity and iterance new technology in production.

Goals and targets addressed:

- increase the green area by planting 2 thousands dunums annually.

- Biodiversity conservation through protection and replanting of endangered species

Outcome and results achieved:

- 6000 dunums in the last three years were planted, managed and protected as new rehabilitated ecosystem (forest).

- New green areas have been opened safely used for recreation.

- Dry matter production used for grazing has been increased under the organized grazing management plan.

- 500 thousands forest and rangeland produced annually with less price and high quality distributed according to the plan.

- Government forest nurseries serve as extension centre for private sector nursery and major source of seed.

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. Forest area as a proportion of total land area	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. Forest area annual net change rate	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. Net greenhouse gas emissions (source)/removals (sink) of forests, and carbon balance of harvested wood products	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. Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas	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. Change in area of primary forests	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

<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>
Development Goal 15					
6. Proportion of forest area disturbed	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. Area of degraded forest	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. Above-ground biomass stock in forest	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. Volume of wood removals	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. Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption	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. Forest area with a designated management objective to maintain and enhance its protective functions	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. Employment related to the forest sector	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. Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty	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. Contribution of forests to food security	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. Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management	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. Existence of national or subnational policies, strategies, legislation, regulations and institutions that explicitly encourage sustainable forest management	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. Existence of national or subnational forest assessment process	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. Existence of national or subnational stakeholder platform for participation in forest policy development	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. Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan	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. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme	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. Existence of traceability system(s) for wood products	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.

^a Tier 1: methodology and data in place. Tier 2: methodology in place, data challenges. Tier 3: methodology and data both present challenges.