

**Report**  
**Major Groups-led Initiative in Support of the Fifteenth Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15):**

**Theme – “*Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes*”**



**Organised by Major Groups (led by the Major Group Children and Youth) in cooperation with the Secretariat  
of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFFS) at the**

**United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON)  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Content	Page
1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
2	LIST OF ACRONYMS	4
3	KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	5
	Focus of Nairobi MGI meeting	5
	Recommendations Addressed by the Major Groups to the UNFF15 as it Considers the 4POW 2021-2024 ( <i>Item 9 of the UNFF15 Agenda</i> )	6
	Major Groups Statement of Commitment to Forests Action	6
	<i>Other Major Group Views of Significance to the UNFF15 (Item 8 of the UNFF15 Agenda)</i>	8
	Recommendations on Major Groups/Civil Society's Contributions ( <i>Item 3, 6, 8, and 9 of the UNFF15 Agenda</i> )	9
4	A. VENUE AND OPENING	10
5	B. AGENDA	11
	B.1 <u>Workstream 1</u> – theme presentations and summary discussions	11
	B.1.1 <i>Presentations</i>	11
	B.1.2 <i>Expectations and Experience of MGs in Workplan Implementation</i>	12
	B.2 <u>Workstream 2</u> – Convergence presentations and summary discussion	15
	B.3 <u>Workstream 3</u> – Development of proposals for UNFF15	18
	B.3.1 <i>Presentations and discussion</i>	18
	B.3.2 <i>Major Groups Proposals for Inputs into the UNFF15 4POW 2021-2024 - focus on Landscape Restoration and Conservation in a Cross-sectoral Context</i>	18
	B.3.3 <i>Unified priorities of Major Groups for input into 4POW 2021-2024</i>	21
6	C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNFF15 ON MAJOR GROUPS/CIVIL SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTIONS	24
7	D. MAJOR GROUP VIEWS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR THE UNFF15 HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT (HLS) AND ITS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION	27
	<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	
	Table 1 Selected earlier MG decisions relevant to their taking on more action-oriented roles for the GFGs and the UNSPF2030 (adapted from report of the Bangkok MG meeting, January 2019)	19
8	<b>LIST OF BOXES</b>	
	<u>Box 1:</u> Summary of MGI Objectives	11
	<u>Box 2:</u> Invited External Presentations	15
	<u>Box 3:</u> Statement of Commitment to Forests Action	24
	<u>Box 4:</u> MGs/Civil Society actions to institutionalize participation in SFM	26
10	<b>ANNEXES</b>	29
	<u>Annex 1:</u> Agenda	30
	<u>Annex 2:</u> List of participants	35
	<u>Annex 3:</u> MG expectations from the MGI and highlights of their experiences in the past few years	39
	(a) <i>Tabulation of MG expectations and highlights of experience</i>	39
	(b) <i>Bullet-point notes on each MGs observations on their MGI expectations and their experience</i>	43
	<u>Annex 4:</u> MGs and the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests (4POW) for the Period 2021-2024	53
	(a) <i>Notes from Expert Group Meeting on the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests (4POW) for the Period 2021-2024 (Geneva 14-15 November 2019)</i>	53
	(b) <i>Highlights of individual MG priorities for the 2021-2024 4POW of the UNFF</i>	55
	<u>Annex 5:</u> Towards a Common Understanding of Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes	62
	<u>Annex 6:</u> Range of Perceptions by MG groups on importance of forests and on their roles and challenges in managing them	63



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

4POW	Quadrennial Programme of Work (of the UNFF)
AFF	African Forest Forum
AFR	African Forest (Landscape) Restoration
CBD	UN Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conference of the Parties (of whatever treaty or convention)
CPF	Collaborative Partnership on Forests (of the UNFF)
FAO	Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FORNESSA	Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFFFN	Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (within the UNFFS)
GFGs	Global Forest Goals (of the UNFF)
HLPF	High Level Political Forum (of the UN Economic & Social Council)
HLS	High Level Segment
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organisation
KEFRI	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
MG	Major Groups (a societal category created at UNCED) <sup>1</sup>
MGI	Major Groups Initiative
MGSTC	Major Group Scientific and Technological Community
NGARA	Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
QPOW	Quadrennial Programme of Work
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
S&T	Science and Technology
TFRK	Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992 (“the Rio Summit”)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFFS	United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat
UNSPF	UN Strategic Plan on Forests

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<sup>1</sup> According to UNCED as reported in <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/aboutmajorgroups.html>, Major Groups include: Women; Children and Youth; Indigenous Peoples; Farmers and small landowners; Non-Governmental Organizations; Local Authorities; Workers and Trade Unions; Business and Industry; and Scientific and Technological Community.

## KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Focus of Nairobi MGI meeting*

1. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020, a Major Group-led Initiative (MGI) meeting took place at the United Nations Office in Nairobi complex (UNON) in Kenya under the theme “**Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes**”. The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) led conceptualisation and implementation of the MGI meeting, in mobilisation of funding for it from the Government of Germany. The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFFS) organised the event. Details of the opening formalities and meeting procedures, agenda, participants, presentations and discussions are in this report.
2. This section presents only key messages and recommendations. Of particular importance in this section are recommendations directed at the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15) originally planned for May 2020. The MGI carried the main ambition of urging all stakeholders in the UNFF process and committing its own MG members to move rapidly to implementing actions on the ground, especially to rehabilitate damaged forest and tree resources and to increase the area of forest ecosystems. The ambition is to make a practical difference and go well beyond policy dialogue under the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and the UN Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF2030). To this end, the MG focused on the concept of Integrated Forest Landscapes (IFL), while recognising that many other approaches will contribute to renewing and expanding the world’s forest and tree resources.
3. The special attention to adopting a forest landscape approach is in keeping with the outcome of the Expert Group Meeting on the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests (4POW) for the Period 2021-2024 (Geneva, 14-15 November 2019). The Co-chairs summary report of that meeting emphasises the need to implement the UN Strategic Plan on Forests (UNSPF2030) in practice. It also favours a cross-sectoral approach and highlights interlinkages between forests and climate change and with biodiversity, apart from an obvious need to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
4. ***The key messages presented below amount to the recommendations of the Nairobi MGI of March 2020 to the UNFF15 and to its High Level Segment.*** At the same time, the Major Groups urge the 3<sup>rd</sup> session of the *Forest partnerships Forum with the CPF Heads, NGOs and private sector CEOs* that was planned to take place during the UNFF15 to also take account of the their recommendations to the UNFF15 itself.

**Recommendations Addressed by the Major Groups to the UNFF15 as it Considers the 4POW 2021-2024** (Item 9 of the UNFF15 Agenda)

5. The MGs have opted to adopt a **Statement of Commitment to Forests Action**, as their Declaration committing themselves to their inputs but also setting out priorities and calling for the action of all stakeholders including member state governments, intergovernmental actors (within or outside the Collaborative Partnership on Forests) and non-state actors in the commercial private and non-profit domains. The Statement, which is [Box 3](#) in the report, is as follows:

### Major Groups Statement of Commitment to Forests Action

At the Major Group Initiative meeting held on 3-5 March 2020 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, we, the Major Groups (MGs) present, all of which value the long association we have enjoyed with the United Nations Forum on Forests:

1. **Observed** that since 1995 when the third session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development established the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (UNIPF) that has undergone successive transformations into the present United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the global policy dialogue on forests has achieved considerable progress in retaining attention to the forest agenda, in clarifying the issues, in proposing required policy improvements and in identifying necessary interventions;
2. **Noted with concern** that practical action on the ground has lagged far behind the policy dialogue, with the net position of forests not much better now and in cases is worse than at the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) - "the Rio Summit";
3. **Recognised** that Member State governments have increasingly observed the mismatch between ambitions for sustainable management of forests and the reality of action to correct the unsatisfactory situation;
4. **Believed** that increasingly the community of interest which the UNFF represents for forests has grown restless and began speaking more emphatically on the need for practical action, this message having been most clearly communicated by the Expert Group Meeting for the UNFF15 held in Geneva 4-9 November 2019;
5. **Noted** that at the same preparatory Geneva Expert Group Meeting the forests community of interest clearly saw the need to act on forests in the context of other land uses, so promoting adoption of a cross-sectoral approach to confronting forestry challenges;
6. **Recognized** cross-sectoral work as our inherent capacity, in line with the holistic manner in which the communities we serve also view development;

7. **Recognised** that as MGs that operate closest to communities and societal formations at all levels in each country (especially at sub-national levels) we could in cooperation with Member State national and local governments do better in helping society achieve significant action on the ground, in many cases drawing upon lessons learned from past actions;
8. **Accepted** that as civil society catalysts, we MGs can take advantage of our particular attributes to take greater responsibility to act with greater strength, less fragmentation among ourselves, and with more open cooperation with other stakeholders to release the full energies of society for forests action;
9. **Now propose** that under the 4POW 2021-2024 of the UNFF we shall focus our attention on the following, while appealing for the cooperation of Member State governments and the non-governmental international community both within and without the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). To achieve desired ends, we as the Major Groups working with the UNFF resolve and commit to:
  - i. *motivate, mobilise and renew society's acceptance of responsibility to act on forest expansion and restoration in all countries, with action to be most intense where the threat to forests and tree cover is greatest;*
  - ii. *in the spirit of the Geneva preparatory expert meeting for the UNFF15, select and strengthen use of cross-sectoral approaches in more energetically pursuing forests interventions, with forests placed in the context of full land use. To this end, Major Groups will in a mutually coherent manner update their workplans for the period 2021-2024;*
  - iii. *accept the primacy of regaining ecosystem functions as the reason to accelerate action on forests but - in the spirit of the Rio Summit - to also pursue contribution to achieving balance among environmental, economic and social functions of forests;*
  - iv. *help capitalise on the energy which a motivated civil society can apply to forest action when encouraged to adopt the spirit of self-help and self-sacrifice as prime motors of action on forests. To this end, emphasise societal mobilisation, with pursuit of new and additional funding to be a complementary factor rather than a prime-mover of our engagement;*
  - v. *seize the opportunity of UNFF15 to exhort Member State governments and other stakeholders both within and outside the CPF to endorse this decision of the Major Groups and to adopt corresponding commitments for themselves;*
  - vi. *further appeal to Member State governments to empower their local authorities - which operate closest to communities - to become more active on forest issues because almost all on the ground action requires local government collaboration. Local authorities have been missing from the UNFF forest dialogue even since the Rio Summit at which they were designated as a Major Group;*

- vii. *challenge the UNFF15 to put in place measures for up to 10 UNFF Member States to volunteer to champion practical action on forests in an intensified manner, with the volunteering countries to preferably reflect geographical representativeness for all regions. The volunteer countries would serve as icons in societal mobilisation for forest action to which the MG community will lend its support based on internal solidarity and coordination;*
- viii. *exhort members of the CPF to be prime partners of the Major Groups in this endeavour of moving beyond forests dialogue towards action that touches human lives for the better;*
- ix. *request the UNFF to include Major Groups among beneficiaries to receive assistance from the GFFFN in funding mobilisation (including through capacity building in preparing bankable projects) by having MG organizations/entities in the list of member states, regional and subregional entities that can request GFFFN support under the guidelines for requesting GFFFN support adopted by the Forum at UNFF13.*

***Other Major Group Views of Significance to the UNFF15 (Item 8 of the UNFF15 Agenda)***

6. The Major Groups appeal to the UNFF15 to reflect their **Statement of Commitment to Forests Action** in their decisions and commitments, drawing attention to the commitment of the Major Groups membership to work in close partnership with other stakeholders on practical action – specific comments are in articles 9 (i)-(ix) of the Statement of commitment. For rapid and sustained action on the ground, the Major Groups draw specific attention to:
- article (vii): Volunteer member countries to champion action;
  - article (vi): empower local governments to come to the table – they have been absent in MG fora and activities;
  - article (vi): CPF becoming a key partner to Major Groups in action; and
  - article (ix): have the UNFFS Global Forests Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) include Major Groups in mobilising resources to complement their own in-kind contributions.

The Major Groups believe that their appeal should ideally find room in the UNFF’s own report or declaration of commitment.



***Recommendations on Major Groups/Civil Society's Contributions (Item 3, 6, 8, and 9 of the Agenda)***

7. The MGI in Nairobi considered in some depth the need for closer collaboration among its various groups and on the specific roles of Major Groups to facilitate as well as participate in action due to their special attributes as players close to society at all levels especially the all-important local communities. The MG commitments to contribute are also already included in their **Statement of Commitment to Forests Action**. In addition:
- Major Groups observed at Nairobi that few examples were mentioned of field interventions (thematic or in a specific locality) where separate MGs had deliberately chosen to work together for shared outcomes. They accordingly committed themselves to reversing this, especially as their planned intervention into forestry in land use context will greatly need this collaborative approach. They appeal to partner stakeholders desiring to work with them to encourage greater cooperation among MGs rather than preferring to work with MGs singly;
  - Having observed again (as at earlier MG events) that the Major Groups for *Local Government* and *Business and Industry* were not present at the MGI and have not been present for a very long time, participants invite these groups to come forward and appeal to Member State governments to provide incentives for such participation both in dialogue and practical action.

## A. VENUE AND OPENING

8. In the spirit of solidarity among Major Groups (MGs) that work with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its Secretariat (UNFFS), the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) with the current Focal Points **Ms. Celina Schelle** and **Mr. Frederik Buchholz** and former Focal Point **Mr. Steffen Dehn**, took a much-appreciated lead in conceptualizing and implementing the Major Group-led Initiative (MGI) meeting in Nairobi and in mobilising funding for it from the Government of Germany. The activities of the MGCY was backstopped and overseen by the MG Steering Committee whose membership included several Major Groups.
9. At the meeting, the MGCY guided the agenda, made key presentations for each session, led the recording of discussions and encouraged focus on future MG roles in implementing UNFF ambitions in a practical manner on the ground. The MGCY believed - and secured endorsement by other major groups – that a cross-sector approach should be adopted in achieving Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), given that forests co-exist with other land-demanding sectors occupying land as a finite resource. The MG for Children and Youth drew upon the spirit of the Geneva Expert Group meeting of November 2019 and so proposed for the Nairobi MGI meeting the theme ***“Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes”***.
10. The meeting, which was attended (Annex 2) by almost the full spectrum of MGs active in the forests agenda, opened at 9.00 am on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi complex (UNON) in Kenya. It started with brief opening remarks by **Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild** (Chief, Programme Coordination, Outreach and Technical Support) on behalf of the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS). She praised the longstanding good working relationships the UNFFS has with the Major Groups and expressed thanks to the Government of Germany for funding the event. UNFFS recognizes the value of MGs and their contributions to achieving the ambitions of halting deforestation and increasing the amount and proportion of forests under sustainable management; these are global challenges which require strong collaboration amongst all stakeholders.
11. Ms Kemitale-Rothschild briefly mentioned the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), for the achievement of which the MGI would offer important ideas, including through the cross sectoral approach that the Nairobi meeting was to focus on. Going across more than one sector would be in line with the spirit of GFG6 (Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies at all levels). She also welcomed the lead role and energy of the MGCY in organising the MGI event, including preparations of the conceptual work on the cross-sectors theme. Collectively, the MGs meeting at Nairobi proposed to use this cross-sectoral approach as the basis on which they would make proposals for action to the Fifteenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF15) planned for early May 2020.
12. The Chair of the Major Groups, **Dr. Joe Cobbinah**, also expressed the collective MG appreciation for the support of the Government of Germany and the work of the MGCY for leading the process of planning the event. He looked forward to the event meeting its main objective of strengthening the capacities of MGs to contribute to implementation of the GFGs and associated targets. He also hoped for strengthened commitment by the MGs present to working effectively together.
13. **Mr. Mafa Chipeta**, the overall facilitator of the MGI, reminded the meeting that the leading purpose of the MGI was to generate input into UNFF15 which will agree on the Quadrennial Programme of Work (4POW) of the UNFF for the period 2021-2024. He was happy to see the MGs pursue multi sectoralism in the management of forests, under which forestry and tree interventions would be deliberately implemented in a broader landscapes context. He was happy to see the spirit of solidarity under which MGs wish to work in

cooperation, given that dispersed and separate efforts are almost certain to fail or to under-perform. The function of facilitation was undertaken for two sessions by **Ms. Cecile Ndjebet** and **Dr Ben Chikamai**.

## B. AGENDA

### B.1 Workstream 1 – theme presentations and summary discussions

#### B.1.1 Presentations

14. **Mr. Frederik Buchholz**, the MGCY focal point, presented the vision and rationale to guide the MGI. He pointed out that it is important not to work in silos but to start collaborating more. He also presented the objectives of the MGI (see Box 1) and gave an overview of the 3 day Agenda and the Objectives of the MGI. In collaboration with **Ms Celina Schelle** and **Mr Steffen Dehn**, Mr Buchholz led the meeting through the Agenda for the next 3 days. In presenting the MGI structure and objectives, the MGCY team indicated that the rationale for the MGI was (a) to not just look into implementation and experience in executing existing MG Workplans but also to plan towards the future under the UNFF 4POW for 2021-2024; and (b) to strengthen collaboration among MGs.

#### **Box 1: Summary of MGI Objectives**

In its pre-meeting flyers, the MGCY had shared the following:

- Establish a common understanding of the relevance of the MGI central topic: Cross sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes
- Strengthening MG relations and collaborative potentials;
- Identify potentials in the collective MG work plan to contribute to the implementation of the UNSPF;
- Exchange of experiences, challenges and potentials of cross-sectoral collaboration for UNSPF/GFG implementation;
- Identify necessary member state actions to achieve inclusive forest landscapes (how to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration) and determine how MG can support member state action;
- Identify further potential entry points and content of civil society contributions to UNFF15; and
- Develop an MGI Report to be presented during UNFF15 and at a side event.

Source: MGCY pre-meeting messaging

15. In her detailed supplement, **Ms Celina Schelle** gave greater depth to the concept of “*Cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes*”. She indicated that the diverse group of individuals should bring theoretical knowledge that they wanted to share in order to better understand the gap between the ideal scenario of cross sectoral collaboration and what is actually happening - what needs to be done to close the gap? She presented the concept of Integrated Forest Landscapes (IFL), features of the landscape approach for IFL, its great reliance on non-profit financing (including its high risk and unpredictability, high investments over a long period, and frequent inadequate or missing comparability to other existing projects).

16. The MGs would need to formulate/share their current goals and actions with regard to the GFGs using the MGI as just the start of a knowledge platform where to exchange and network lasting beyond the MGI. The outcome of all this should help to shape the 4POW for 2021-2024 of the UNFF through messages from the MGI to member states. The MGCY team suggested that participants should seek to answer 3 questions:

- What can we contribute to this year's topic (Cross sectoral collaboration for pursuit of forest landscapes?)
- What do we want to learn from this MGI?
- What else do we expect from this MGI?



*Reflection on MGI expectations from the MG Science and Technology*

17. The Provisional Agenda of the MGI ([Annex 1](#)) was designed in a flexible manner responsive to progress made during the dialogue. It allowed stepwise convergence towards areas of collective and individual practical engagement and commitment by the MGs. It also promoted focus on a narrow range of engagements so that MGs, in cooperation with governments and other stakeholders, could make demonstrable progress on the ground in implementing their ambitions for the GFGs and the UNSPF.
18. Given agenda flexibility, the MGI did not select full-time Rapporteurs; the following volunteers complemented the note-taking of the MGCY: **Dr. Adejoke Olukemi Akinyele; Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi; Ms. Monica Sia Nyorkor Moore; Ms Mariana Schuchovski, Ms Milagre Nuvunga and Mr. David Walugembe.**

### ***B.1.2 Expectations and Experience of MGs in Workplan Implementation***

19. As convener of the MGI, the expectations of MGCY are already clear from their presentations (section B.1.1). Other expectations from the MGs were given with varying degrees of detail by each MG, often accompanied by outlines of their experiences to date in implementing their Work Plans ([Annex 3](#)). A wide range of views and of implementation progress was on display. Some specific observations included:
- a. When forests-oriented MGs talk about landscapes, they must be careful not to omit other actors in the landscapes;
  - b. The role of human beings on landscapes is often perceived as a threat and it is necessary to convince all players that supporting sustainable development can create healthy and decent work while also conserving nature;
  - c. Some believed that shifting from handling aspects in isolation as individual MGs towards cross-sector would be difficult - one stated that "We do not have a mechanism to reach out to the people that work in the forestry sector. We can capture the strength of MGs and the impact on the IFL";

- d. An observation floated was that being too open to other sectors could carry some danger for forestry, which is a relatively weak sector relative to other land-users – agriculture, mining, public infrastructure, human settlements all being examples of strong sectors demanding land. It will require careful management of power- relationships to avoid the danger of powerful sectors overriding the legitimate roles of the weak as well as respect for suitability of portions of the land for the diverse land uses;
  - e. Development banks currently invest in small and medium projects, many sectoral. Packaging investments for many sectors will be needed with sustainable land management to include development of family livelihoods, the land, its resources at the same time;
  - f. Some observations focused on experiences in Nepal, such as:
    - i. the experience of working in Nepal reveals some difficulties in community organizations and local governments working well together: the local government tend to be authoritative and to focus more on protection rather than sustainable utilization of the resources for the communities. It has proved difficult to include marginalized people, lands and also culture in many programmes;
    - ii. the landscape approach has tried different approaches and scales of intervention- having started with watershed management it moved to river basins and now to (smaller?) landscape level. This landscape approach makes it difficult to manage people and secure agreement on timing, desired results, funding etc.<sup>2</sup> On this last, focus is more on grants, not loans.
20. From studying the experiences of various MGs as recorded in Annex 3 the following can be observed:
- a. the various MGs were making progress at different speeds;
  - b. all were attempting to follow the workplans they had developed at earlier meetings starting with that in Nairobi (November 2017) via New York and finally in Bangkok (January 2019) – extent of implementation varied and perhaps none can claim to be completely up to expected delivery;
  - c. few examples were mentioned of interventions (thematic or in a specific locality) where separate MGs had deliberately chosen to work together for shared outcomes – something that the desired intervention into forestry in land use context may greatly need. When adopted, this cooperation would allow holistic joint description of all MGs interventions and outputs;
  - d. almost none of the MGs seems to have taken on interventions at national scale in any country - individual projects in specific localities/communities appear to be most common. The S&T group shared information on on-going regional projects where interventions were at national scale;
  - e. where the MG is composed of many members (a common situation, given global status of all), each of these can have their own particular focus;
  - f. there appears to be universal interest to learn from other MGs but only limited success in this – often due to limited resources; and
  - g. there is much reliance on internal in-kind capacities but also great desire to mobilise donor money for upscaling interventions. Many MGs indicated that limited funding is a major constraint to impact.
- The UNFFS indicated that it planned a 2021 flagship publication in which MGs can feature if they have substantive experiences to offer.
21. There was frequent mention of money as a challenge in implementing planned work. An umbrella comment to this was that much may be achieved if it complements in-kind inputs of MGs in the spirit of self-help; money should complement actions driven by own energy. For example, the MGCY reports that much of its work so far has relied on using its own in-kind MG capacities. The MGCY believes that it has attracted funding on the basis that ...*“if so much can be achieved without external funding, how much more can we do when funds are*

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<sup>2</sup> And yet the participant then said “experience in Nepal has proved small to be beautiful”.

*made available?*”. It is significant to note that although many MGs have not yet attracted much funding, they are still able to report some accomplishments.

22. In the discussion, participants observed again (as at earlier MG events) that the Major Groups for *Local Government* and *Business and Industry* were not present and have not been present for a very long time. Given that forestry action is a local activity, any future impact on the ground will require active cooperation with these two missing MGs in future. Their absence is therefore a major handicap that must be corrected.

## B.2 Workstream 2 – Convergence presentations and summary discussion

23. Many interventions sought to give cases of MG association with cross-sectoral issues which have a forests dimension. To get external perspectives on multiple uses of the land within which forests and trees can fit, the MGCY had invited external experts to speak on topics relevant to the MGI theme. The first was **Dr Musonda-Mumba** (Chief of the UNEP Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit) who spoke on priorities in resource restoration under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The second was **Dr Carrie Waterman** (visiting scientist from the University of California, Davis at the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry – “World Agroforestry Centre” (ICRAF) in Nairobi) who presented the specific potential of Moringa in forest landscape restoration and agroforestry. Key messages from the interventions of **Dr Musonda-Mumba** and **Dr Carrie Waterman** are in Box 2.

### **Box 2: Invited External Presentations**

Key messages from the interventions of **Dr Musonda-Mumba** and **Dr Carrie Waterman** as well as discussions that they engendered are as follows:

**Dr Musonda-Mumba** indicated that the need to restore ecosystems is urgent. It requires multi-pronged interventions simultaneously from many sectors, including forests. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be launched in January 2021 but preparations are already underway. The following can be considered:

- a. The aim should be to conserve what we have and restore what is already degraded or lost;
- b. Success will require the mass participation of communities which look at resources jointly: therefore silo-type interventions by sectors cannot be expected to draw upon community energies very well;
- c. Communities have for ages been governed by traditional chieftainships/rulerships and related structures: their engagement may also be critical for successful intervention; and
- d. There is no clear preference for integration being through blending of vegetation on the entire territory or for significant recourse to mosaics of land use (at what scale?) or both.

A wide range of comments and questions were raised, including for example:

- a. whether planting monocultures can be recognised as restoration;
- b. how best to secure engagement of traditional systems but also of commercial/business entities;
- c. how to avoid overplaying “big money”; and
- d. how best to draw upon modern media in serious messaging for mass interest in restoration.

**Dr Carrie Waterman** dealt with the Moringa tree and its integration into diversified land use from the perspective of a scientist but with much attention to local livelihood benefits. She listed an impressive list of the multiple uses of Moringa, including as fertiliser, food, a source of oil and pesticides and a source of regular income. Moringa is adaptable to a wide variety of soil conditions and to planting patterns (from general blending into cropping patterns or as mosaics). In the context of discussing the use of Moringa, Dr Waterman pointed out the challenges of value-addition, business/market and organisational dimensions of making its adoption at scale.

Comments suggested that although the tree shows much promise, to expand to scale will require much more attention to profitability of planting it and handling it over its entire value-chain. In this case, more attention must go to market development, to organisation of production (including possible contracting to responsible buyers), and to generic challenges with all tree-planting such as land tenure. Women involved in it might need affirmative action to succeed.



Presentation from Dr. Carrie Waterman on Moringa farming as an avenue of resilient and sustainable land use practice

24. Following the external speakers presentation, Ms. Celina Schelle, MGCY focal point, illuminated in a presentation the case of moringa farming from the perspective of the MGI's central topic of *Cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes*. This paved the way for the subsequent group work, whereby each MG was asked to reflect on their experience within the work of their respective constituencies and identify a case study, including challenges and opportunities with regard to the central MGI topic. Afterwards, participants presented case studies at work group sessions to exchange their experiences among the MGs. The discussion of all cases highlighted the need for transparency, capacity building, empowerment and adequate funding to effectively engage in cross sectoral collaboration. Examples of cases presented and discussed are below:

- a. **MG Science and Technology** gave the example of the problem facing Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania arising from the degradation of the Lake Victoria catchment resulting in siltation and reduced stream flow and lake storage. This has impacted on various stakeholders including, women, fisherfolk, lake transport and farmers, local communities and governments. The problem has been acknowledged by all the countries surrounding the lake as well as downstream countries on the River Nile all operating under a multi-country Commission. The group emphasised the need for effective stakeholder dialogue and communication and effective cross-sectoral collaboration at landscape level.
- b. **The MG Women** spoke of access to river bank/ restricting water access to ensure conservation of river banks - all stakeholders were brought together with NGOs working to create a common understanding among competing land uses.
- c. **MG Indigenous Peoples** case was on management of forests and the landscape and highlighted competition among different land uses and players, such as loggers, different companies, national government, local government, etc. There is a tendency to pay little attention to indigenous knowledge for forest management and not to properly face issues of land ownership. Traditional institutions are in place but are not always effectively engaged.
- d. **MG Children and Youth** saw a major opportunity in their participation in regional and international events, which is often constrained by inadequate opportunities to participate and limited financial resources. Furthermore, **MG Children and Youth** highlighted that it is even more important to enhance forms of participation, so that the voices of young people must be heard and their positions can be more strongly incorporated in policy outputs.



- e. The **MG NGO** case was on a Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – Ottawa Valley Chapter (CPAWS-OV) campaign on Dumoine River (western Quebec province) involving many stakeholders: national & provincial government, NGOs, youth, university students, and indigenous peoples. The first stage had no financial support, lacked consensus and capacity. After several years of campaign, permanent cooperation and consultations with all stakeholders the campaign was strengthened and got a support from different stakeholders, including management authorities on the Dumoine. At present, the government of Quebec supports the idea of protected area establishment on Dumoine, Noire and Coulonge rivers; the campaign is supported by various stakeholders and by environmental communities.
- f. For the **MG Farmers and small landowners** group, the chosen case involved shared lessons among 50 farmers with cattle in Nepal and Guatemala, including by visits to each other. Required financial investment. Main challenges included limited benefits and financial support, disconnection between implementation and policy.
- g. The **MG Trade Unions and Workers** did not offer a case but highlighted key messages to member states, as follows: need to ratify, codify, and implement many international and national mechanisms about rights of child workers; better control of national governments over multinational companies. In some cases, capacity would need to be developed for groups to organise into unions. Civil society support for these improvements would be important.



*MG Women reflecting on own experiences in cross-sectoral work*



*MG Women (left) and MG Children and Youth (right) presenting positive experiences, as well as challenges and opportunities in cross-sectoral work*

### B.3 Workstream 3 – Development of proposals for UNFF15

#### B.3.1 *Presentations and discussion*

25. Development of proposals for what MGs should focus on in the 4POW 2021-2024 started with participants being briefed on the UNFF preparatory Expert Group meetings held in Geneva (November 2019) for the UNFF15. That meeting covered proposals for the 4POW itself as well as on the UNFFS-based Global Forests Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) and preparations for the next International Day of Forests (IDF) whose theme for 2020 is “Forest and Biodiversity”. Notes on these preparatory meetings are given in [Annex 4](#).
26. **Njeri Kariuki** of the UNFFS introduced the agenda for the UNFF15 meeting taking place from 4-8 May 2020 before referring participants to preparatory meetings for that event. She indicated that the best forum for presentation of the MGI reports at UNFF15 would be Monday 4 May when all reports will be presented. Strong key messages of MGI must be emphasized in their report. The MGs could identify participants and/ or member countries ahead of the meeting which could take up their suggestions with seriousness. MGs could reach out to regular attendees of UN meetings and member countries with good working relationship with them - a number of possibilities were mentioned. The hope could be for key MGI messages to feature not just in the UNFF15 main report but also the Ministerial segment resolutions.
27. The discussion on 4POW inputs of MGs into the UNFF 4POW started against the background of **facilitator remarks** on the need to realize that the UNSPF and GFGs ambitions cannot be fulfilled only through 4POW but at fuller mobilization of society’s energies. This would require that MGs, being close to communities, use and build up strong capacities to motivate, to mobilize for mass action, and to make ordinary people take responsibility for their forests and trees. Governments on their part need to make the conditions right for action – offer incentives for such action and ensure policy stability (clarity of policy alone is not enough).

#### B.3.2 *Major Groups Proposals for Inputs into the UNFF15 4POW 2021-2024 - focus on Landscape Restoration and Conservation in a Cross-sectoral Context*

28. For the MGCY **Steffen Dehn** suggested that each MG propose a few demands – a kind of “desires and ambitions” to present to the UNFF15 for what can energise action on the ground, all to be around the cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive landscapes. It was agreed by participants that in the context of the international dialogue on forests, the desires of the MGs would be presented under whatever could be the most appropriate label and phrasing.



*MGs developing propositions for the 4POW discussion during UNFF15*

29. Reference has been made in section B.3 to the Geneva 14-15 November 2019 Expert Group Meeting on the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests (4POW) for the Period 2021-2024. That meeting made proposals for the 4POW for the UNFF15 to consider for adoption. The Co-chairs summary report communicates a desire to emphasise implementation of UNSPF2030. It also indicates desire to adopt a cross-sectoral approach and to highlight interlinkages between forests and climate change and with biodiversity, apart from an obvious need to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. In preparing the concept note of the MGI in Nairobi, the MG for Children and Youth drew upon the spirit of the Geneva Expert Group meeting, thematic priorities of UNFF14 as well as the MG's inherent capacity of cross-sectoral work. In this way, the theme "***Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes***" was adopted for the MGI in Nairobi.
30. The MGI considered what MGs had already thought of at an earlier meeting as ways to taking on more action-oriented roles for the GFGs and the UNSPF2030; [Table 1](#) records selected earlier MG decisions relevant to this.

**Table 1: Selected earlier MG decisions relevant to their taking on more action-oriented roles for the GFGs and the UNSPF2030** (adapted from report of the Bangkok MG meeting, January 2019)

Topic	Key Messages to UNFF15
<p><b>Civil Society action to institutionalise participation in SFM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MG roles can help to mobilize society to take action, build capacity for smallholders, indigenous peoples &amp; local communities to demand and implement prior informed consent and grievance redress mechanisms, and communicate best practices and lessons learnt regards SFM;</li> <li>• Ideally, any structured engagement with governments must involve playing watchdog on accountability matters;</li> <li>• MGs are constrained from being active on many fronts and must mobilise funds for their own work plans to build up capacity and to achieve visibility for themselves among potential partners;</li> <li>• MGs have special attributes enabling them to domesticate (adapt to local circumstances and insert into local plans) international agreements at the local level in society and must structure their engagement at all levels: global, regional, and national. They should also engage with other non-governmental entities whether fellow MGs or profit/non-profit actors on forests and forestry.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main ideas - emerging issues and challenges of global significance that are related to and/or have an impact on forests and SFM</b></p>	<p>Participants felt priority should be granted because an issue is or remains important, even if old and not merely because it is new or emerging. They highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of political commitment to already-agreed multilateral environmental agreements, especially the Paris Agreement on climate change: some important forest countries, both developing and developed have expressed readiness to leave the Paris Agreement;</li> <li>• ambitious targets on forest restoration based upon widespread adoption of the landscape approach<sup>3</sup> – how to achieve them and – how to best synergise them with the UN Strategic Plan on Forests and the GFGs;</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> This is the basis for the MGI Nairobi 2020 orientation and focus.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to address three major failures at national level, leading to inadequate action on forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ failure to excite political will to protect forests;</li> <li>○ failure to secure inter-sectoral cooperation in combating deforestation and forest threats of powerful external origin (mining, infrastructure, agriculture, etc); and</li> <li>○ paralysis in anticipating and combating increasingly frequent extreme weather events affecting forests.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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#### B.3.2.1 Contribution of Major Group on Children and Youth (C&Y)

31. The presentation was made by **Frederik Buchholz** of the MG on Children and Youth, giving the following as main demands: (a) The UNFF/UNSPF need youth representatives in all events and involvement in policy dialogues of intermediate meetings of the UNFF bureau, because we need to ensure greater integration of the voice of youth in decision making and mainstream content of the UNSPF and the GFGs into broader society to have an impact; (b) every member state submit their Voluntary National Contribution because we need radical action by member states to achieve GFGs/UNSPF; (c) there should be transparency criteria/guidelines because the UNFF should guarantee accountability and social justice among all stakeholders.

#### B.3.2.2 Contribution of Major Group on Science and Technology (S&T)

32. The S&T group demands were presented by **Dr Joe Cobbinah**, as follows: (a) Support science-based evidence for policy-making towards implementation of FLR in the 2020-2030 decade; (b) African member states to uphold their commitment to support the Science & Technology by at least 1% of their GDP according to the Lagos Plan of Action (1980) and Pretoria (2006); (c) Support inclusive cross-sectoral collaboration for the implementation of the UNSPF.

#### B.3.2.3 Contribution of Major Group on Women

33. **Ms Cecile Ndjebet** presented on behalf of the group highlighting the following: (a) that member states acknowledge, recognize, document attribute property rights to women and ensure their fair share of benefits because they are the main repository of indigenous knowledge on forest and biodiversity; (b) that member states ensure the development and implementation of appropriate policy and legislation to guarantee land, forest, and tree tenure to women because current traditional and formal tenure systems discriminate against women. Thus, increasing their poverty and vulnerability to climate change.

#### B.3.2.4 Contribution of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) Major Group

34. **Andrey Laletin** presented three main demands: (a) that as MGNGO they urge UNFF not to consider monoculture tree plantations as forests and therefore they urge governments to focus reforestation efforts on restoring natural ecosystems; (b) that wood from forests not be considered as source of industrial bioenergy because they believe burning wood in power plants not to be carbon neutral; and (c) that governments uphold customary land tenure rights because forest biodiversity is crucial for food sovereignty and people's health.

#### B.3.2.5 Contribution of Major Group on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

35. **Ms. Lucy Mullenkei** presented the demands of this group, which urged (a) the UNFF to put emphasis on capacity building and awareness on issues of forest and biodiversity to enable all stakeholders to work together on the ground level taking into consideration the expert group meeting on the 4POW of the UNFF for the period 2021-2024, which recommends actions on the ground; (b) member states to recognize our traditional institutions and include them on discussions of land tenure systems that guarantee our rights to sustainably manage forests and biodiversity; and (c) member states to recognize the vital role that the indigenous peoples play in the conservation and management of forests and other natural resources through their traditional knowledge from ancestors (an important form of Intellectual Property) which has enabled them to manage and maintain ecosystem services. Therefore, they urge the UNFF to have linkages with other UN processes, e.g. CBD, to guarantee synergies.

#### B.3.2.6 Contribution of Major Group on Farmers and Small-Forest Landowners

36. **Mr Ghanshayam Pandey** presented the elements under which Major Group made the following demands: (a) recognition of capacities for the sustainable forest management, forest enterprise, development, access to fair markets, technology and networking to build the affective organization because it is Farmers and Small-Forest Landowners that have been effectively conserving resources over the years; (b) that all member states, UN system, CPF and other stakeholders recognize the forest land tenure rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and forest families for sustainable livelihoods and to achieve the SDGs and GFGs by 2030; (c ) that the UNFF secretariat, UN agencies and member states as well as private financiers provide adequate financing and related information to the indigenous peoples, local communities, forest families for the implementation of GFGs and UNSPF at regional and local levels.

#### B.3.2.7 Contribution of Major Group on Workers and Trade Unions

37. **Mr Coen van der Veer** presented the elements for this Major Group's demands: (a) that ILO articles 87, 98 and other labour-friendly laws agreed by the world body be ratified by all governments, which should commit to its implementation by all in the forestry sector. Workers in the forests need decent work conditions, job security, better health and safety conditions, living wage, etc; (b) that employers in the forestry sector should see Workers and Trade Unions as development partners and not as militant groups set up to fight employers. In absence of work, there will be no unions.

#### ***B.3.3 Unified priorities of Major Groups for input into 4POW 2021-2024***

38. The NGO statement that plantations do not qualify to be called forests led to some discussion. Participants made several points relevant to this: (a) that nature also has monocultures; (b) that use of fast-growing monocultures makes production of wood take little land and so reduces pressure on indigenous forests; (c) that although many fast-growing species or varieties may be exotic, this is not always the case; (d) also that fast growth does not only occur in mono-cultural settings; and (e ) that regarding concerns over low biodiversity in plantations, nature also allows "biodiversity by mosaic" with extensive pure stands of trees in natural forests due to ecological conditions varying among species.

39. From the above individual areas of intervention which each MG prioritises for the 4POW 2021-2024, a long list of 18 proposals emerged. A screening of the 18 elements proposed at the Nairobi MGI suggests four main subgroups of action areas: (a) *Institutional visibility and engagement of MGs in the UNFF processes*; (b) *Enhanced property rights over land and other assets, in particular for indigenous peoples and women*; (c)

*Transparency and enhanced actions to hold stakeholders accountable, and (d) Capacitation of MGs for action, and other uncategorised items. If the MGs want to be part of the proposed greater attention to practical action on the ground, they need to find action areas that allow this, partly by encouraging other stakeholders (especially governments) to actually act or to create conditions where stakeholders relevant for the implementation of the UNSPF can act.*

Institutional visibility and engagement of MGs in the UNFF processes:

40. The following suggested demands from participants come under this grouping:

- a. there is need to mainstream content of the UNSPF and the GFGs into broader society to have an impact;
- b. member states to recognize our traditional institutions and include them on discussions of land tenure systems that guarantee our rights to sustainably manage forests and biodiversity.

Enhanced property rights over land and other assets:

41. The following suggested demands from participants come under this grouping:

- a. that member states acknowledge, recognize, document attribute property rights to women and ensure their fair share of benefits because they are the main repository of indigenous knowledge on forest and biodiversity;
- b. that governments uphold customary land tenure rights because forest biodiversity is crucial for food sovereignty and people's health;
- c. that all member states, UN system, CPF and other stakeholders recognize the forest land tenure rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and forest families for sustainable livelihoods and to achieve the SDGs and GFGs by 2030;
- d. that member states ensure the development and implementation of appropriate policy and legislation to guarantee land, forest, and tree tenure to women because current traditional and formal tenure systems discriminate against women.

Transparency and enhanced actions to hold stakeholders to account:

42. The following suggested demands from participants come under this grouping:

- a. every member state submit their Voluntary National Contribution because we need radical action by member states to achieve GFGs/UNSPF;
- b. African member states to uphold their commitment to support the Science & Technology by at least 1% of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to decisions under the Lagos Plan of Action (1989) and Pretoria (2006);
- c. transparency criteria/guideline because UNFF should guarantee accountability and social justice among all stakeholders;
- d. that International Labour Organisation (ILO) articles 87, 98 and other labour-friendly laws agreed by the world body be ratified by all governments, which should commit to its implementation by all in the forestry sector. Workers in the forests need decent work conditions, job security, better health and safety conditions, living wage, etc.

Capacitation of MGs for action:

43. The following suggested demands from participants come under this grouping:

- a. support inclusive cross-sectoral collaboration for the implementation of the UNSPF;
- b. the UNFF to put emphasis on capacity building and awareness on issues of forest and biodiversity to enable all stakeholders to work together on the ground level taking into consideration the expert group meeting on the Quadrennial POW of the UNFF for the period 2021-2024, which recommends actions on the ground;
- c. access to fair markets, technology and networking to build the affective organization because it is Farmers and Small-Forest Landowners that have been effectively conserving resources over the years;
- d. that the UNFF secretariat, UN agencies and member states as well as private financiers provide adequate financing and related information to the indigenous peoples, local communities, forest families for the implementation of GFGs and UNSPF at regional and local levels;
- e. that employers in the forestry sector should see Workers and Trade Unions as development partners and not as militant groups set up to fight employers. In absence of work, there will no unions;
- f. support science-based evidence for policy-making towards implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) in the 2020-2030 decade;
- g. recognition of capacities for the sustainable forest management, forest enterprise, development.

Sundry additional actions:

44. The following are additional suggested demands from participants:

- a. that MGNGOs urge UNFF not to consider monoculture tree plantations as forests and therefore forest restoration should focus on natural ecosystems;
- b. MGNGOs also call for wood from forests not to be considered as source of industrial bioenergy because burning wood in power plants is according to them not carbon neutral;
- c. member states to recognize the vital role that the indigenous peoples play in the conservation and management of forests and other natural resources through their traditional knowledge from ancestors which has enabled them to manage and maintain ecosystem services.

**C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNFF15 ON MAJOR GROUPS/CIVIL SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

45. Participants considered as best option to express their intentions in a "Statement of Commitment to Forest Action" to convey to UNFF15 and its high-level segment, as follows (Box 3):

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNFF15 ON MAJOR GROUPS/CIVIL SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Box 3: Statement of Commitment to Forests Action**

At the Major Group Initiative meeting held on 3-5 March 2020 at the United Nations Office in Nairobi, we, the Major Groups (MGs) present, all of which value the long association we have enjoyed with the United Nations Forum on Forests:

1. **Observed** that since 1995 when the third session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development established the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (UNIPF) that has undergone successive transformations into the present United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the global policy dialogue on forests has achieved considerable progress in retaining attention to the forest agenda, in clarifying the issues, in proposing required policy improvements and in identifying necessary interventions;
2. **Noted with concern** that practical action on the ground has lagged far behind the policy dialogue, with the net position of forests not much better now and in cases is worse than at the time of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) – "the Rio Summit";
3. **Recognised** that Member State governments have increasingly observed the mismatch between ambitions for sustainable management of forests and the reality of action to correct the unsatisfactory situation;
4. **Believed** that increasingly the community of interest which the UNFF represents for forests has grown restless and began speaking more emphatically on the need for practical action, this message having been most clearly communicated by the Expert Group Meeting for the UNFF15 held in Geneva 4-9 November 2019;
5. **Noted** that at the same preparatory Geneva Expert Group Meeting the forests community of interest clearly saw the need to act on forests in the context of other land uses, so promoting adoption of a cross-sectoral approach to confronting forestry challenges;
6. **Recognized** cross-sectoral work as our inherent capacity, in line with the holistic manner in which the communities we serve also view development;
7. **Recognised** that as MGs that operate closest to communities and societal formations at all levels in each country (especially at sub-national levels) we could in cooperation with Member State national and local governments do better in helping society achieve significant action on the ground, in many cases drawing upon lessons learned from past actions;
8. **Accepted** that as civil society catalysts, we MGs can take advantage of our particular attributes to take greater responsibility to act with greater strength, less fragmentation among ourselves, and with more open cooperation with other stakeholders to release the full energies of society for forests action;



9. **Now propose** that under the 4POW 2021-2024 of the UNFF we shall focus our attention on the following, while appealing for the cooperation of Member State governments and the non-governmental international community both within and without the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). To achieve desired ends, we as the Major Groups working with the UNFF resolve and commit to:
- a. *motivate, mobilise and renew society's acceptance of responsibility* to act on forest expansion and restoration in all countries, with action to be most intense where the threat to forests and tree cover is greatest;
  - b. in the spirit of the Geneva preparatory expert meeting for the UNFF15, *select and strengthen use of cross-sectoral approaches in more energetically pursuing forests interventions*, with forests placed in the context of full land use. To this end, Major Groups will in a mutually coherent manner update their workplans for the period 2021-2024;
  - c. *accept the primacy of regaining ecosystem functions* as the reason to accelerate action on forests but - in the spirit of the Rio Summit - to also pursue contribution to achieving balance among environmental, economic and social functions of forests;
  - d. *help capitalise on the energy which a motivated civil society can apply* to forest action when encouraged to adopt the spirit of self-help and self-sacrifice as prime motors of action on forests. To this end, emphasise societal mobilisation, with pursuit of new and additional funding to be a complementary factor rather than a prime-mover of our engagement;
  - e. seize the opportunity of UNFF15 to *exhort Member State governments and other stakeholders* both within and outside the CPF to endorse this decision of the Major Groups and to adopt corresponding commitments for themselves;
  - f. *further appeal to Member State governments to empower their local authorities* – which operate closest to communities – to become more active on forest issues because almost all on the ground action requires local government collaboration. Local authorities have been missing from the UNFF forest dialogue even since the Rio Summit at which they were designated as a Major Group;
  - g. *challenge the UNFF15* to put in place measures for up to 10 UNFF Member States to volunteer to champion practical action on forests in an intensified manner, with the volunteering countries to preferably reflect geographical representativeness for all regions. The volunteer countries would serve as icons in societal mobilisation for forest action to which the MG community will lend its support based on internal solidarity and coordination;
  - h. *exhort members of the CPF to be prime partners of the Major Groups* in this endeavour of moving beyond forests dialogue towards action that touches human lives for the better;
  - i. *request the UNFF to include Major Groups among beneficiaries to receive assistance from the GFFFN in funding mobilisation* (including through capacity building in preparing bankable projects) by having MG organizations/entities in the list of member states, regional and subregional entities that can request GFFFN support under the guidelines for requesting GFFFN support adopted by the Forum at UNFF13.

46. For the Nairobi 2020 MGI, participants agreed on a future-oriented focus. But clearly a future orientation requires grounding in decisions and actions of the past. Among the most relevant in this connection are the MG thoughts and decisions from the Bangkok meeting (January 2019) on what to focus on during 2019-2020.

These offer the immediate foundation for what MGs should do in the 2021-2024 period. The Bangkok decisions are in Box 4.

**Box 4: MGs/Civil Society actions to institutionalize participation in SFM**

At their January 2019 meeting in Bangkok, UNFF-affiliated MGs discussed actions to institutionalise/structure their contribution to achieving the GFGs and their associated targets and their links also to the UNFF 4POWs; they wanted to avoid predominantly casual/ad hoc approaches.

They adopted work plans and intended that they would structure their engagement at all levels: global, regional, national. But they would also structure their engagement with other intergovernmental bodies (such as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)), non-governmental entities, profit/non-profit, or philanthropic actors on forests and forestry. Among other actions, the MGs decided in Bangkok to:

- a. As a next step, further strengthen the relation of their work plans to the GFG and associated targets as well as the relation to the SDGs. This should include looking at the bigger picture while remembering special MG attributes enabling them to domesticate international agreements at the local level in society;
- b. With the latter in mind, MGs use outreach and communication (mainstreaming) to reach people on the ground, at the same time to encourage governments to take local communities and civil society into account in planning processes;
- c. In engaging with global institutions for policy and programme coherence, institutionalise engagement in promoting SFM through fora such as side events & relevant meetings such as MGI (Major Groups Initiative) during international events all contribute. Corresponding initiatives are required at national & local levels involving collaborate with national and local governments, the corporate world and local communities.
- d. Push for political to be high enough to drive practical action. MGs believed that in setting up multi-stakeholder structures that can prompt action and press for accountability, governments should be able to count on MGs to help mobilize society to take action, build capacity for smallholders, indigenous & local communities to demand and implement free prior and informed consent and grievance redress mechanisms, and communicate best practices and lessons learnt regards SFM. MGs could also lobby for incentives that mobilise domestic resources alongside current appeals for international funding, such as through incentives for the private sector at all levels including small forest owners and communities.
- e. In their structured engagement with governments, MGs wished to play watchdog roles to hold governments accountable as they make legislation for SFM, promote implementation of SFM, and apply criteria and indicators at national and operational levels. MGs also wanted to press for creation of dialogue platforms to develop contextualised shared visions and common understanding of SFM for all stakeholders at various levels; to enhance policy dialogue for action on SFM, as well as for policy and programme coherence.
- f. In Bangkok, the MGs also decided to **incorporate Global Forest Goals and associated targets into their forest-related plans, programmes using the UNSPF**. They believed that their MG Workplan could be supported by resource mobilization, research, and access to accurate and reliable data to buttress their engagement with promoting GFGs. They believed that if adequately resourced, they would be well-placed to undertake capacity building (training, seminars) for their own constituencies and stakeholders including governments.

47. Although at their 2019 Bangkok meeting the MGs developed their umbrella Workplan for the period to 2020 (synchronised with the UNFF 4YPOW for the period), the MGs have not yet extended the workplan period to 2024. That process will be carried out in the coming period (but after this report is finalised) and could be accompanied by Workplan restructuring to more clearly show activities under each GFG. Given the desire expressed at the Nairobi MGI of March 2020 to focus on practical action on the ground that can lead to earliest improvement in forest size and condition, the restructured MG workplans (umbrella for all MGs plus separate sub-plans for each MG) will inevitably prioritise GFG No 1. However, the GFGs are interlinked so the MGs will also contribute to and benefit from the actions of other stakeholders under the other five GFGs.

#### **D. MAJOR GROUP VIEWS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR THE UNFF15 HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT (HLS) AND ITS MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

48. At the time of the MGI in Nairobi, the UNFF15 had a planned High Level Segment. With a view to providing inputs to it, participants discussed a number of critical items which they wished to have conveyed to that segment. What they identified remains relevant for the attention of the UNFF15 and is presented below.
49. **Njeri Kariuki** of the UNFFS briefly presented the topics of the UNFF15 HLS under Item 8 of the UNFF15 provisional Agenda, of which Roundtable 1 would be “*Forests: an effective nature-based solution to address global challenges*” and Roundtable 2 would be “*Achieving the Global Forest Goals and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests by 2030: accelerating actions and their impacts on the ground*”. To make a difference under either and both the above, it will be important for all actors to challenge themselves by acting to minimally comply with UNFF procedural requirements and policy/strategy improvements but to act on ambitious interventions that increase forest/woodland cover, apart from improving forest condition through restoration as well as tree retention in landscapes.
50. In the discussion, participants also noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> session **Forest partnerships Forum with the CPF Heads, NGOs and private sector CEOs** would be held on the afternoon 7 May during the HLS, which would give an opportunity for MGs to convey some of their ideas. In particular they could urge other stakeholders at that meeting to include partnership with them in actions that reflect raised ambitions for stronger collaborative, coherent and participatory actions to advance zero net deforestation, for which their desire to see rehabilitation and expansion of forests in broader land-use context would be an important approach.
51. Regarding Roundtable 1, participants generally felt that its “*Forests: an effective nature-based solution to address global challenges*” topic could easily gain from insights developed under the MGI theme of forest landscape restoration. The MGs strongly supported inclusion of this topic in the UNFF15 High Level Segment and hoped to be represented on the panel, which includes NGOs; this would afford them the opportunity to communicate how forest restoration can centrally contribute to addressing a number of global challenges, including climate change and recovery of ecosystems.
52. The participants particularly welcomed the topic of UNFF15 HLS Roundtable 2. The action focus of this roundtable should preferably permeate the whole UNFF15 session, both the main session and the HLS segment that will follow it. Given that during its long life the UNFF and its precursors have smoothed out many policy challenges, the MGs feel that all stakeholders should now step forward into action (governments, commercial and philanthropic donors, the CPF member organisations and civil society (including the MGs

themselves). For this, stakeholders should harness the energies of broader society by motivating it to take up action using in-kind contributions as well and mobilising community action through any ways that can make people act in their own interest. Since MGs have a major presence at the grassroots, they should play a great role in this motivation and mobilisation of society.

53. In choosing best approaches for practical action on the ground, the MGI participants adopted Forest Landscape Restoration as key. The approach is a fitting response to the ambitions of the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, the UNCED conventions and treaties on biological diversity and on desertification and drought, in carbon capture to combat global warming, as well as to agreed actions under many umbrellas for re-greening, such as the Bonn challenge. As mentioned earlier, MGs had at an earlier meeting also considered how to institutionalise their engagements in action on the UNSPF and GFSs achievement – their decisions at that time remain valid ([Box 3](#)).
54. However, *for the goal of Roundtable 2, “restoration” is not enough: the world needs to also increase the net area of forests, woodlands, and trees in the landscape.* This is especially so in the many countries that have low forest-cover. Therefore, in addition to restoring degraded forests/woodlands, the MGs believe that UNFF15 should commit to significant additional afforestation of land. New and additional forests, forest mosaics, woodlots and trees in mixed land uses should be varied in order to satisfy multiple objectives of environment, economy and social gains. Afforestation should go beyond monocultural planting to also have inclusion of forest and trees among other land uses.
55. Furthermore, some participants believed that the format of landscape restoration cannot be prejudged before going to UNFF15 nor can UNFF15 itself prescribe a single approach to restoration for all countries; for some, there may be predominantly integration among land-uses; for others preference for mosaics of contrasting land uses; for others, balance between the two.
56. The MGs also perceive that adequate practical action cannot be achieved only under the 4POWs but must be complemented by ambitious social mobilization, for which it will be essential to have incentivizing policies that are stable, institutional capacities (both modern and traditional) that mobilize the masses, and communication and public learning that makes communities and other institutions take responsibility for renewing and growing their forests and woodlands. Without incentives, mobilization and granting responsibility to society, large scale sustained success will not happen.
57. In the discussion, participants also noted that the 3<sup>rd</sup> session **Forest partnerships Forum with the CPF Heads, NGOs and private sector CEOs** would be held on the afternoon 7 May during the HLS, which would give an opportunity for MGs to convey some of their ideas. In particular they could offer themselves to other stakeholders at that meeting as strategic partners in action. They could stress their commitment to greater inter-MG cooperation and their collective raised ambitions for advancing zero net deforestation, for which they want to adopt inclusive forest land use approaches.

# **ANNEXES**

## **Annex 1: Agenda**

### **Day 1 - Workstream 1**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Segment Topic</b>	<b>UNFF agenda link</b>	<b>Time/Content</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Operationalization</b>
1.0	Official opening		09:00/ Welcome	Chair + UNFFS	
1.1	Presentation of MGI structure and objectives		9:30/ MGI Agenda Presentation Presentation of central MGI objectives	MGCY	Brief elaboration of objectives, which have been circulated among participants beforehand.
1.2.1	Informal Introduction of participants		9:40/ Giving participants an overview of who is in the room and getting people to talk to each other	MGCY	Short interactive exercise to get to know each other
1.2.2	Formal Introduction		9:50/ Gathering of MGs expectations	MGCY	Each MG discusses for 10min what their expectations and goals are for the MGI - Documented on post-its  Each MG presents briefly what they expect from the MGI - 3min presentation of each MGs
1.3	Reflection on the progress made of MGs towards the implementation of the UNSPF	Item 4	10:35/ Presentation of MGs on their achievements towards the UNSPF and the GFGs	Facilitation by Mafa	Every MG presents what its constituency has been doing towards achieving the UNSPF and GFGs (10 min; presentation to be prepared before MGI from every MG) Q&A round of 5 min will take place to discuss achievements, possibilities and challenges

Agenda Item	Segment Topic	UNFF agenda link	Time/Content	Responsible	Operationalization
1.4	Creating common ground		13:20/ Participants are introduced to UNFF 15 and informed about the EGM discussions and current status on the development of the 4POW and GFFFN	Facilitation by Mafa  Input from: UNFFS (UNFF15), Joe (GFFFN) and Andrei (4POW)	Information on 4POW, GFFFN and UNFF15 should be presented within 10 to 15min with additional 5-10min Q&A per topic
1.5	Developing a MG IDF action plan	Item 3a	15:00/ Gathering informational resources for IDF 2020	Facilitated by MGCY	30min group work inside respective MGs:  Working out 3-5 informative facts about Forests and Biodiversity  Working out in 3-5 sentences, why Forest and Biodiversity is important to their MG  30min presentation of results from MGs  MGCY will translate MG group work on forest and biodiversity into illustratable media content.
1.6	Wrap-up: Steering Committee only		16:00/ Summarizing main outputs from Day 1	Facilitation by Mafa: Closed session for the Steering Committee members only	

**Day 2 - Workstream 2**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Segment Topic</b>	<b>UNFF agenda link</b>	<b>Time/Content</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Operationalization</b>
2.0	Recap Day 1		09:00/ Presentation of central output from Day 1	Mafa	
2.1	Co-Creating a common understanding of this year's topic (Cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes)	Item 8 (HLS Roundtable 1)	09:15/ Presentation of concepts relevant for understanding and working through the MGI central topic	Presentation by MGCY on central concepts	Rationale of the central topic and entangling the concept of inclusive forest landscapes
2.2	UNEP and cross-sectoral collaboration in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration		9:45/ Presentation	Ms. Musonda-Mumba (UNEP)	
2.3	Illustrating potentials/best-practices for means of implementation on cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes	Item 8 (HLS Roundtable 1)	10:30/ 1-2 cases from practice will be illustrated based on contribution to the implementation of integrative landscape approaches and inclusive forest landscapes through cross-sectoral collaboration	External guest	Presentation by Dr. Waterman on a best practice case (Moringa tree), which demonstrates an integrative landscape approach and contributes to the achievement of inclusive forest landscapes.
2.4	Putting best practice cases into context of cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes	Item 6 Item 8 (HLS Roundtable 1) Item 3a	11:10/ Putting the illustrated business cases into broader context of Integrative landscape approaches and existing landscape finance mechanism for reforestation, SFM, and improving forest community livelihoods	MGCY	Contextualizing best practice → demonstrating its contribution to inclusive forest landscapes
2.6	MG lessons learned with regards to cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes	Item 6 Item 8 (HLS Roundtable 1) Item 9	12:30/ Exchange of MG perspectives on central topic and experiences associated with cross-sectoral collaboration as well as identification of difficulties for implementation  Exchanging ideas how to overcome experienced difficulties from MGs	Facilitated Group Work  MGCY and External Expert supports MGs in identifying	MGs are split into two rooms; each MG chooses one case with regard to the central topic and discusses associated positive aspects, challenges and opportunities  Each MG presents their findings in the respective rooms;  Group documents potential and barriers to success for each case



Agenda Item	Segment Topic	UNFF agenda link	Time/Content	Responsible	Operationalization
2.7	Shaping UNFF 15 and 4 POW	Discussion of MG experiences with cross-sectoral collaboration for inclusive forest landscapes		Facilitated by Mafa and MGCY	MGs come back together into one room and share their cases and experiences
2.8	Wrap-Up			Njeri and Mafa	
2.9	Networking reception (Connecting MG Stakeholders)		Restaurant visit to foster trust, exchange and personal relationships for improved future collaboration between MG stakeholders		

### Day 3 - Workstream 3

Agenda Item	Segment Topic	UNFF agenda link	Time/Content	Responsible	Operationalization
3.0	Shaping the 4POW	Item 8 Item 6	09:00 / Formulation of 2-3 statements per MG	MGCY	MGs formulate clearly defined statements to member states and CPF members. Presentation of statements by each MG.
Coffee Break (10:30; 15min)					
3.1	Development of MG action plans		10:45/ Every MG is invited to concretise ideas and develop clear MG activities that should be achieved in the coming two years	Interactive Facilitation MGCY	Each MG formulates activities for the upcoming 2 years by identifying the reason (problem), activity, vision and resources.
Lunch break (12:15; 60min)					
3.2	Presentation of MG work plans and Possibilities for cross sectoral collaboration		13:15/ Presentation of MG activities; necessary resources and possibilities for collaboration among various MG	Facilitated Group Work by MGCY	Each MG presents their planned activities and where they see possibilities for cross-sectoral collaboration

Coffee Break (3:00; 15min)					
Agenda Item	Segment Topic	UNFF agenda link	Time/Content	Responsible	Operationalization
3.3	Feedback round on MGI		15:15 Final report content	Mafa	Identification of most relevant content to be included in the final report.
3.4	Official Closing		9:00/ Welcome	Chair + UNFFS	
3.5	Wrap-up: Steering Committee only		16:00/ Summarizing major MGI outputs	Facilitation by Mafa; Closed session for the Steering Committee members only	Agreement on key points to be included in the report and way forward; organizational matters, i.e. UNFF side event; MGI report contributions

**Annex 2: List of participants**

\* Based in Kenya

	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
1	<b>Association of Family Forestry Owners Nepal (AFFON)</b>	Ms. Aarati Pathak	ashmitanepalhtd@gmail.com
2	<b>Association of Family Forestry Owners Nepal (AFFON)</b>	Mr. Padam Bahadur K C	greencommedia@gmail.com
3	<b>Alliance d'Appui et de promotion des Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire (ANAPAC-RD Congo)</b>	Mr. Joseph Mukumo Itongwa	itojose2000@yahoo.fr
4	<b>African Indigenous Women 's Organization (AIWO )</b>	*Ms. Mariya Sabato Letitoyia	aiwoafrica @ <a href="mailto:aiwoafrica@gmail.com">gmail.com</a>
5	<b>African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) – Cameroon</b>	Ms. Cecile Ndjebet	cecilendjebet28@gmail.com
6	<b>ARA</b>	Mr. Gerhard Friedrich Wolfgang Kuhlmann	wolfgang.kuhlmann@araonline.de
7	<b>Holarctic Bridges (Biodiversity and Environment conservation)</b>	Ms. Elena Kreuzberg	eakreuzberg@gmail.com
8	<b>Building and Wood Workers International (BWINT)</b>	Mr. Coen van der Veer	coen.vanderveer@bwint.org
9	<b>International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)</b>	*Mr. Charles Njuguna Nyanjui	charlesnyanjui@gmail.com
10	<b>CAFT Cameroun</b>	Mr. Patrice Pa'ah	caft.cameroun@gmail.com
11	<b>International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)</b>	Ms. Celina Schelle	celina.schelle@ifsa.net
12		Mr. Steffen Dehn	steffen.dehn.ifsa@gmail.com
13		Mr. Pragyan Raj Pokhrel	pragyanraj.pokhrel@gmail.com
14		Ms. Misaki Takahashi	tkhmisaki0913@gmail.com
15		Mr. Frederik Buchholz	frederik.buchholz@ifsa.net
16		Mr. Amos Amanubo	
17		Mr. Amaitum Joshua Elukut	
18	<b>The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)</b>	*Ms. Mercy Gichora	mewagi05@yahoo.com

	Organization	Name	E-mail
19	Cameroon Ecology	Ms. Iris Flore Ngo Nken Bayang	irisflore@yahoo.fr
20	Global Forest Coalition	Mr. Andrey Laletin	laletin3@yahoo.com, laletin3@gmail.com
21	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Mr. Ghanshyam Pandey	pandeygs2002@yahoo.com
22	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Ms Parbata Gautam	greenfoundationnepal@yahoo.com
23	Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Ms. Bharati Pathak	bharatipathak_2006@yahoo.com
24	Nirmanee Development Foudation	Mr. Nimalasiri Hewanila Hewadhura Gedera	slink2@sltnet.lk ; nirmaneenimal@gmail.com
25	Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones para la Defensa de la Naturaleza y el Medio Ambiente, CEDENMA	Ms. Martha Nuñez	marnuz4@yahoo.com
26	Paran Women Group/ IAITPTF	*Ms. Beatrice Nayian Kiplagat	<a href="mailto:naiyankiplagat@gmail.com">naiyankiplagat@gmail.com</a> . <a href="mailto:paranumbrella@gmail.com">paranumbrella@gmail.com</a>
27	Rede Mulher Florestal	Ms. Mariana Schuchovski Gaziri	redemulherflorestal@gmail.com
28	MICAIA Foundation	Ms. Milagre Nuvunga	milagremicaia@gmail.com
29	La Asociación de Forestería Comunitaria de Guatemala Ut'z Che' (UTZCHE)	Mr. Edy Yovani Alvarado Salazar	yovani.alvarado@gmail.com
30	Indigenous Information Network/ IAITPTF Kenya	*Ms. Lucy Mullenkei	<a href="mailto:iin.kenya@gmail.com">iin.kenya@gmail.com</a> mullenkei@gmail.com
31	The International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests – Kenya (IAITPTF)	*Ms. Cindy Kobei	<a href="mailto:internationalalliancetropicalf@gmail.com">internationalalliancetropicalf@gmail.com</a>
32	The Greens Movement of Georgia / Friends of the Earth Georgia	Mr. Avtandil Geladze	avtgeladze@gmail.com
33	The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA)	*Mr. Ben Chikamai	bnchikamai@gmail.com
	Organization	Name	E-mail

34	<b>The Network for Natural Gums and Resins in Africa (NGARA)</b>	*Mr Robinson Kiragu Ngethe	robngethe02@yahoo.com
35	<b>Timber and Wood-Workers' Union (TWU)</b>	Mr. Mark Ofori Asante	amarkofori@yahoo.com
36	<b>Vi Agroforestry - Kenya</b>	*Ms. Wangu Mutua	Wangu.Mutua@viagroforestry.org
37	<b>Tinkunkaku Kolla Indigenous Community</b>	Mr. Abelino Palacios	elparani@gmail.com
38	<b>Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales, A. C. (Red Mocaf)</b>	Mr. Erik Ossiel Torres Mireles	mocaf_proyectos@hotmail.com
39	<b>Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) - Uganda</b>	Ms. Gertrude Kabusimbi Kenyangi	ruralwomenug@gmail.com
40	<b>CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)</b>	Mr. Joseph Cobbinah	joe.cobbinah@ymail.com
41	<b>CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)</b>	Mr. Ernest Foli	efoli@hotmail.com
42	<b>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)</b>	*Mr. Paul Opanga	p.opanga@fsc.org
43	<b>Uganda Forestry Association - Kampala</b>	Mr. David Walugembe	davidwalugembe@yahoo.com
44	<b>Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA)/IAITPTF</b>	Mr. Emmanuel Nengo	emmanengo@yahoo.fr,
45	<b>Women Movement for Sustainable Development (WOMSUD)</b>	Ms. Monica Sia Nyorkor Moore	womsudliberia@yahoo.com
46	<b>University of Ibadan - Nigeria</b>	Dr. Adejoke Olukemi Akinyele	akinyelejo@yahoo.co.uk
47	<b>United Nations Forum on Forests - Secretariat</b>	Ms. Afsa Kemitale-Rothschild	kemitale@un.org
48	<b>United Nations Forum on Forests - Secretariat</b>	Ms. Njeri Kariuki	kariuki@un.org
49	<b>United Nations Forum on Forests - Secretariat</b>	Mr. Mafa Chipeta	emchipeta@gmail.com
50	<b>University of California, Davis and visiting scientist from the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi</b>	* Dr. Carrie Waterman	<a href="mailto:cwaterman@ucdavis.edu">cwaterman@ucdavis.edu</a>

### **Annex 3: MG expectations from the MGI and highlights of their experiences in the past few years**

#### ***(a) Tabulation of MG expectations and highlights of experience***

<b>Major Group</b>	<b>Expectations from MGI</b>	<b>Highlights from experiences in past few years</b>	<b>Some observations from experience<sup>4</sup></b>
<b>Farmers and small landowners</b>	They wanted to share their experiences and those of other MGs; to learn of the experiences of local communities; and to thereby gain clearer understanding.	Strengthening peoples organisations in a number of countries including for rights advocacy and general capacity building. Actual management of forestry/tree value chains. Mainstreaming gender. Examples given from Nepal (niche markets especially of indigenous forest products ignored by large players, community forestry including a planned workshop); Kenya (standards improvement including FSC, product aggregation for markets, diversification beyond timber); <u>Plans:</u> Convening in next 3 years a meeting to exchange experiences in depth. Add commercial/marketing dimension to activities – not just timber but also fruit, etc Continue all the above under the UNFF Global Forest Goals (GFGs)	In Nepal, there is still confusion about how to integrate marginal people, which is proving very difficult: various approaches leave the issue unresolved, whether operating at watershed, river basin or other scale of resource management. Local government can't easily accept smallholder involvement in decision-making.
<b>Indigenous Peoples</b>	To get / gain clearer understanding off objectives; to clarify process of the MGI and how to work towards action on the ground.	Many IPs have been involved in Management of forests at the local levels and some of them at the national levels though the different laws on land and forest have not been very clear on their role in the management.  They too have developed a Strategic Plan. The work plan developed is being reviewed collectively to ensure effective participation and involvement at all levels.  So far challenges have been lack of financial support to implement fully the work plan. However despite the challenges the MGs has kept active by	

<sup>4</sup> In response to questions on institutional cross-sectional approaches and on how to influence territorial planning. Responses were generally anecdotal rather than structured.

		<p>putting in some intervention that to have and will continue to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness creation and information sharing and enhance communication among IPs on forest issues with a focus on the objectives of UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>• Continue developing membership and mapping out the Indigenous Organizations and network working on forests</li> <li>• Promoting mutual accountability for commitments made and statements of intent in the UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>• Strengthening and building IPs capacities on advocacy and resource mobilization for effective action</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate/lack community involvement</li> <li>• Lack of clear Land tenure laws that many at times cause insecurity and conflict among communities</li> <li>• Lack of extension for services to assists communities</li> <li>• Disconnection between policies and implementation</li> <li>• Lack of water access</li> <li>• Lack of cooperation from youth and other actors for data collection</li> <li>• Lack of consensus</li> <li>• Lack of access of resources and inclusiveness in benefit sharing of resources</li> <li>• Inadequate civil and community participation/representation</li> <li>• Minimum wage in the extractive industry</li> </ul> <p><b>Best practices/opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening voice of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)</li> <li>• Strengthening law literacy</li> <li>• Awareness creation</li> <li>• Knowledge of forest conservation</li> <li>• Best Practices/opportunities</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political power</li> <li>• Conduct Outreach</li> <li>• Conduct advocacy meetings with decision markers</li> <li>• Stakeholders collaboration</li> <li>• Carry out media engagements</li> <li>• Experience sharing</li> <li>• Conduct field visits</li> <li>• Carried out outreach activities and advocacy groups</li> <li>• Social media involvement</li> <li>• Availability of financial investment for planting</li> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Experience sharing</li> <li>• Capacity development</li> <li>• Social media connection</li> <li>• Social audits are conducted at disbursed production facilities</li> <li>• Technical teaching/learning</li> <li>• CSO conducted advocacy for the adaptation of the international framework</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b></p>	<p>To communicate information from member NGOs, many of whom share a dislike for forest plantations; to discuss what other MGs do and their experience in the forests work; to do all that was expected of the MGI and to agree on 2-3 achievable.</p>	<p>Communications and outreach are key Each member may have own focus and priorities, but almost everyone defends land tenure rights.</p> <p>Works in partnership with others e.g. Global Forest Coalition, using holistic approaches</p> <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Problems in cross-sectoral cooperation</li> <li>• Full financial support not yet secured for the workplan (need more support for local and national and international work)</li> <li>• Exclusion from some activities due to conditions for participation</li> <li>• Larger investments mostly go to industrial forestry, where land tenure and conversion problems often arise.</li> <li>• There appear to be more restrictions and less space for civil society action</li> <li>• Local governments are weak in terms of capabilities and financial</li> </ul>	



		<p>resources; NGOs often have to support and guide them technically, recognizing that it is important to work with them to achieve long-term changes.</p> <p><u>Desires:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online information sharing, webinars, cooperation with other organizations, joint campaigns and actions</li> </ul>	
<b>Workers and Trade Unions</b>	To get the experience of others on how to be more successful; to learn from other MGs on contribution of women – this MG has members who are only 5% or less women. Other attributes of the membership being that forestry activities are 75% informal and the work is very dangerous.	Increase space for women in trade unions now too heavily male-dominated.	
<b>Scientific and Technological Community<sup>5</sup></b>	To inform that they can partner with other MGs and offer and disseminate information and knowledge based on research; share with other MGs strategies for inclusive forest management; and learn from other MGs that could be the basis to propose concrete input to the UNFF 4POW for practical action.	<p>Main <u>achievements</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalising FORNESSA</li> <li>• Documentation of indigenous forest-related knowledge progressed</li> <li>• NGARA enterprises in dryland forestry/tree value chains</li> <li>• Market information engagement</li> <li>• Databases on forest landscape restoration best practices</li> <li>• A start of building capacities via forestry/farmers associations</li> </ul> <p><u>Desires:</u></p> <p>Greater engagement of local governments</p> <p>Exchange visits among MGs and communities</p>	
<b>Women</b>		<p><u>Achievements:</u></p> <p>Slow implementation of existing UNFF workplan by the MG</p>	On financing, general need is for grants rather than loans.

<sup>5</sup> See immediately below this table the progress report on this Major Group's implementation of its workplan.

		<p>Some progress on gender-disaggregated data (Brazil); successful advocacy for revised community forestry law (Liberia); scoping women's role in Forestry (Togo); engagement in forest restoration (Cameroun, Togo, Coted'Ivoire); capacity building to increase engagement in decision-making.</p> <p><u>Plans/Desires:</u>  Increased capacity for mainstream women role in GFGs  Support greater market access  Increased work on gender-segregated data</p>	
<b>Children and Youth</b>		<p><u>Achievements</u>, many using in-kind capacities rather than awaiting funding:  School events  Media outreach including online training and webinars  Comics  Presence at key for a e.g. global landscape forum  Active participation on global International Day of Forests  <u>Plans:</u>  More webinars in series</p>	

***(b) Bullet-point notes on each MGs observations on their MGI expectations and their experience*** [for convenience, elements from discussion in the meeting have been included]

<b>Major Group</b>	<b>Notes on their experience</b>
<b>Farmers and small landowners</b>	<p><u>Aim:</u> Working with Farmer Groups to strengthen their voices especially on issues such as markets</p> <p><u>Expectations from Nairobi MGI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clear understanding on this year's topic – in order to have a positive impact</li> <li>● Learn and share with other MGs - wish to share from past experience, diverse backgrounds</li> <li>● We need to understand the role of Indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities in the MGI</li> <li>● Desire inclusive participation of stakeholders in the forum</li> </ul> <p><u>Observations on reality:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities are doing a lot of effort in managing biodiversity. However, some activities (e.g. monocultures, infrastructural development) are adversely interfering with biodiversity</li> <li>● Poverty levels at local level is a driver of biodiversity loss in a specific area.</li> <li>● Conserving biodiversity produce genetic diversity thus resulting increased forest productivity.</li> </ul> <p><u>How to improve:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Creating networks of community forests user groups, family foresters</li> <li>● Making strategies on 3 levels,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ International - advocating more on CC, G3, IFFA, Global alliance of community forests - working more on advocacy and in policy forums - on issues relating to the rights of local people and IP</li> <li>○ Country level - strengthen organization (a) Strengthening capacities of user groups on commercialization of products, (b) Mainstreaming gender policies</li> <li>● Had a plan to have a global family forest, community forest, indigenous peoples groups come together to work on how they can come together to work on GFGs and local goals</li> <li>● In the African context, working with farmers group, strengthening their voices on access to markets.</li> <li>● In Nepal, there is a platform, national and local government, private, CF actors gathered and discuss family forest. Also, gender issues</li> <li>● What is being done with regards to competition? Ensuring quality and standards; Ensuring sustainable harvesting; and Promoting fruit trees for diversifying income.</li> </ul> <p><u>Appeals to other stakeholders:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We call upon the member states to recognize the traditional knowledge that exists at the local level to protect and manage biodiversity.</li> <li>● We ask the UN states to increase more resources to achieve poverty reduction as this directly relates to poverty and biodiversity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities</b></p>	<p>They have developed a Strategic Plan, under which they have done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Awareness creation and information sharing and enhance communication among IPs on forest issues with a focus on the objectives of UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>● Continue developing membership and mapping out the Indigenous Organizations and network working on forests</li> <li>● Promoting mutual accountability for commitments made and statements of intent in the UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>● Strengthening and building IPs capacities on advocacy and resource mobilization for effective action.</li> </ul> <p><u>Situation:</u> Many IPs have been involved in Management of forests at the local levels and some of them at the national levels though the different laws on land and forest have not been very clear on their role in the management. They too have developed a Strategic Plan. The work plan developed is being reviewed collectively to ensure effective participation and involvement at all levels..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The focal point stepped down and the new focal point is being nominated</li> <li>● Established work plan for 2019-2020, other groups in the central Africa made 2018-2022 plan</li> </ul> <p><u>Facts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Approximately 350 million IPs are living in the forests</li> <li>● Indigenous knowledge plays a critical role in sustainable managing forest and biodiversity Statements</li> <li>● Our ancestral beliefs, culture, and livelihoods are depending on forests and biodiversity</li> <li>● Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and local communities (IPLCS) conserve forest and biodiversity for future generations and the world at large</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● So far challenges have been lack of financial support to implement fully the work plan. There have been many others such as: lack of consensus; inadequate/lack community involvement/participation/representation; lack of clear land tenure laws that many at times cause insecurity and conflict among communities; lack of access to resources (including to water) and inclusiveness in benefit sharing of resources; lack of extension for services to assists communities; disconnection</li> </ul>

	<p>between policies and implementation; lack of cooperation from youth and other actors for data collection; limited enforcement of minimum wage in the extractive industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However despite the challenges the MGs has kept active by putting in some intervention that to have and will continue to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Awareness creation and information sharing and enhance communication among IPs on forest issues with a focus on the objectives of UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>○ Continue developing membership and mapping out the Indigenous Organizations and network working on forests</li> <li>○ Promoting mutual accountability for commitments made and statements of intent in the UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>○ Strengthening and building IPs capacities on advocacy and resource mobilization for effective action</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Best practices/opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening voice of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)</li> <li>• Strengthening law literacy</li> <li>• Awareness creation</li> <li>• Knowledge of forest conservation</li> <li>• Best Practices/opportunities</li> <li>• Political power</li> <li>• Conduct Outreach</li> <li>• Conduct advocacy meetings with decision markers</li> <li>• Stakeholders collaboration</li> <li>• Carry out media engagements</li> <li>• Experience sharing</li> <li>• Conduct field visits</li> <li>• Carried out outreach activities and advocacy groups</li> <li>• Social media involvement</li> <li>• Availability of financial investment for planting</li> <li>• Networking</li> <li>• Experience sharing</li> <li>• Capacity development</li> <li>• Social media connection</li> <li>• Social audits are conducted at disbursed production facilities</li> <li>• Technical teaching/learning</li> <li>• CSO conducted advocacy for the adaptation of the international framework</li> </ul> <p><u>Expectations from Nairobi MGI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute - local/indigenous knowledge regarding forest management</li> <li>• Learn -How the process works and how the IPs can contribute to these?</li> <li>• Expect - Policies are in place, but hardly implemented in the ground level effectively.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b></p>	<p><u>Views:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since forests are ecosystems, biodiversity can only be protected in natural forests - forests (in-situ biodiversity conservation or ecosystem-based approach should be prioritized)</li> <li>• Forest biodiversity is crucial for food sovereignty and people’s health; therefore, governments should uphold customary land tenure rights.</li> <li>• Majority of the NGOs agree that plantations are not forests</li> </ul> <p><u>Expectations from Nairobi MGI:</u></p>

- Learn - what other major groups do and how can we collaborate? [one comment was to suggest that the MGs issue periodic joint reports which could encourage team thinking]
- Learn the success stories and lessons from other MGs as well as from other NGOs engaged in forest sustainable management, conservation and restoration
- Accomplish everything that was planned for this MGI
- Develop a workplan for the MG to focus on the activities

Situation:

- Members work with different emphasis of the development challenges at different levels - local, regional, international, and in diverse areas linked to SDGs and GFGs.
- Workplan was designed with a complementary and collaborative approach towards the actions that the other MGs proposed in their umbrella Work Plan. Priority areas: communication and outreach, capacity building, raising awareness, policy and legislation advocacy, oversight, and networking, and land use and tenure security

Approach to work:

- Work jointly with all stakeholders
- Working with a holistic approach
- Promoting and developing cross sectorial work and stewardship
- Developing efforts at local, national, regional and international levels
- Working towards compliance with the SDGs and GFGs
- Working to raise awareness and empowerment
- Networking
- Supporting and working with Indigenous Peoples, Peasants and Women and in alliance with other organisations
- Participating in COPS and SBSTASs of CBD and UNFCCC
- Citizen science to engage citizens for ecosystem studies and conservation.

Examples of NGOs actions:

- Global Forest Coalition (GFC) carries out awareness on Forests and Climate Change, protection of boreal forests, forest education.
- Through Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA): taking lead on IPCC land report
- Greenpeace creates awareness on fighting forest fires; protection on boreal forest.
- La VíaCampesina focuses on unsustainable agriculture and food sovereignty.
- Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Ottawa Valley Chapter (CPAWS-OV) focuses on preservation remained untouched forest landscapes and steward engagement for forest sustainable management.
- Coordinadora Ecuatoriana de Organizaciones para la Defensa del Medio Ambiente y la Naturaleza (CEDENMA) and its members create awareness and carry out projects about forests and SDGs in different areas.
  - EcoCiencia, Pachamama, Altropico Foundations in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples organizations and other partners at regional level: recollection and analysis of information on matters like risk of forest loss, land planning, forest governance; strengthen Indigenous Peoples capacity to protect their territories; conduct research and implementing alternatives to mitigate climate change; sustainable economic endeavours; forest and biodiversity management.
  - Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental (ECOLEX) coordinates actions with other global networks; e.g. access to land, with International Land Coalition (ULC); championing right to a healthy environment with Interamerican Association for Environmental Defence (AIDA).
- CEDENMA work on advocacy, trainings, organizing discussion forums and coordination with other institutions like the National Platform for Climate Justice.

Regional variation:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● EU NGOs focus on tree plantations</li> <li>● Importance to cooperate with local government who jurisdictionally operate conservation in the area, they should be here</li> <li>● Canada: the situation of NGOs is a bit different. Environmental NGO work with local steward, Indigenous Peoples, local farmers and business. NGOs initiated work to increase terrestrial protected areas up to 17% in according with Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Government supported this idea and even increased the conservation goal up to 25%. Policy to engage owners of land supporting sustainable land use initiatives and conservation (land management trusts, conservation authorities, stewardship programs, etc.).</li> <li>● Central Asia and the Caucasus: diversity of issues and approaches, but general tasks to increase forest areas due to low coverage. NGOs have been engaged in advocacy and public awareness campaigns, as well as in practical forest recovery projects, working with scientists and forester-practitioners.</li> </ul> <p><u>Observations on hindrances:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Insufficient sources of financing is an obstacle to effectively implement work plans</li> <li>● Conditions of participation and collaboration in international space are difficult - thus produces exclusion effect</li> <li>● Global challenges like climate Change and biodiversity and forest loss; international commitments such as targets to stop deforestation, Ecosystem Restoration Decade demand more efforts, capabilities and resources - thus NGOs participate in regional programs and projects, in platforms and coalitions at different levels</li> <li>● MNGOs invite the other MGs to support the Workplan implementation under this added value.</li> <li>● Civil society space is decreasing, that is felt by the MGs - the focus should also be on ways to navigate approaches and operations in this shrinking space</li> <li>● Local governments are often weak, lacking resources, so how do we put this opportunity to UNFF15, how to work with them, how to use international networks to address this issue?</li> <li>● Lack of understanding on civil society by trade organizations</li> <li>● Lack of NGO capacity for knowledge sharing.</li> <li>● Need optimization and better networking capacity for efficient collaboration</li> </ul>
<p><b>Workers and Trade Unions</b></p>	<p><u>Scope of engagement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working with other UN agencies, ILO, forest certification schemes</li> <li>● Ensure human rights, ban child labour</li> <li>● Engage with everybody to ensure that people who work in the forest have a decent and healthy workplace</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How do they mainstream women in the trade unions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the wood working, construction spaces, women do not play a role (exception of some countries in Global south)</li> <li>○ Made a statutory demand that in every gathering that they have, there is 30% women representation; 1/3rd of the leadership be women</li> <li>○ Every year they organize an event - highlight women issues, 10-12 June in Madrid</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Working with other UN agencies, ILO, forest certification schemes</li> <li>● Ensure human rights, ban child labour</li> <li>● Engage with everybody to ensure that people who work in the forest have a decent and healthy workplace</li> <li>● How do they mainstream women in the trade unions? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the wood working, construction spaces, women do not play a role (exception of some countries in Global south)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Made a statutory demand that in every gathering that they have, there is 30% women representation; 1/3rd of the leadership be women</li> <li>○ Every year they organize an event - highlight women issues, 10-12 June in Madrid</li> </ul> <p>Noted that most forest work is informal and therefore illegal. The MG wants to organize workers. Also the CSO space is shrinking. Laws are being changed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Workers in forests are hardly seen</li> <li>● Work in the forest is the 2nd most dangerous in the world, behind active soldiers</li> <li>● Global North- less than 5 percent of the workforce are women</li> <li>● We organize these workers, bring them to MGIs, bring expertise on decent conditions for work in forest</li> <li>● Trade unions by nature bring different people/stakeholders together - what we would want to learn is to make it more successful -</li> <li>● Expect - better mutual understanding - perhaps a common understanding on the issues to collaborate works - innovative, consolidated and united message for the member states in the UNFF15</li> <li>● Informal work within the forestry sector isn't registered thus the data is absent</li> <li>● Do you know that work in the forest is the second most dangerous occupation, after active soldiering. What does that mean for biodiversity?</li> <li>● On average a worker in the forest earns 2/3rd of a work in factories. Is that the right kind of biodiversity?</li> </ul> <p>To preserve the biodiversity in the forest, the workers need healthy and safe work with decent pay and education.</p>
<b>Scientific and Technological Community<sup>6</sup></b>	<p><u>Preoccupation:</u> We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life. (IPBES report, 2019). 25% of 4 million species face extinction within decades.</p> <p><u>Scope of engagement:</u> As per workplan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Generating information to build capacity for advocacy</li> <li>● Engaging in localization/domestication of international agreements</li> <li>● Promoting mutual accountability for commitments made and statements of intent in the UNSPF and Agenda 2030</li> <li>● Strengthening MG's own capacities and resource base for effective action</li> </ul> <p><u>Contributions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● we do research and gather information - disseminate this information to influence policy</li> <li>● Collaborate with other MGs to help them address their challenges</li> </ul> <p><u>Expectations from Nairobi MGI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Learn - challenges faced by other MGs - focus our research on those challenges to bring effective solutions to address said challenges</li> <li>● At the end of the meeting, we would have a clearly outlined collaborative approach and effective outline the role of MGSTC</li> </ul> <p><u>Examples of tasks engaged in:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advocate research, documentation and mainstreaming of Traditional Forest-Related Knowledge (TFRK), using ethically appropriate practices</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> See immediately below this table the progress report on this Major Group's implementation of its workplan.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support and consolidate data</li> <li>● made website of all scientific organization can share and upload sustainable management information</li> <li>● Develop foundation promoting gender mainstreaming in MGs activities</li> <li>● Development of forest-based enterprises including analysis of markets and pricing</li> <li>● Develop educational programmes - not yet done - another entry point for MGCY?</li> <li>● Promote establishment of community-based forest enterprises associations</li> <li>● Land/tree tenure, tree-security</li> <li>● Restoration efforts in line with the Bonn challenge and AFR 100 to share knowledge and experience, highlight good practice of forest restoration, monitoring projects</li> <li>● Strengthening MGs own capacities and resource base for effective action</li> <li>● Mobilizing funding for the MGs with focus on organizing proposal writing clinic to support competitiveness to get funds for SFM: other MGs can contribute/benefit. It is for mid-career scientists so far, but may all the major groups can be taken, would like to invite all</li> <li>● Organize MG meetings [Q. What does your group do to tackle tenure issues?]</li> <li>● Developing scientific platform to UNFF (prepare policy and technical sessions)</li> <li>● Work with IUFRO and others to update the GFEP database.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to funds has been difficult – e.g. European Union has not delivered the funds they promised (MGI secretary). This year, the UN celebrates 75years – try to use the opportunity for fundraising</li> <li>● Capacity of advocacy, developing strategic plan</li> <li>● We miss presence of “MG Local Authorities” which we really should include the actor as they could be very important for our MGI theme. In 2015, there was a local authority interested in MGI but could not make it (Canada).</li> <li>● We work with people on the ground, IP, local authorities etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Women</b>	<p><u>Self-perception:</u> Women are the main repository of indigenous knowledge on forest and biodiversity. Women’s knowledge on forests and biodiversity ensures intergenerational knowledge transfer. Opportunities to transfer this knowledge into economic development activities are often captured by men. Women’s knowledge on forests and biodiversity is a bridge towards recognition of their worth and central role in preserving the quality of life and addressing climate change.</p> <p><u>Expectations from Nairobi MGI:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contribute - experiences from the initiatives</li> <li>● Learn - how to strengthen our capacities and increase areas of collaboration</li> <li>● Expect - share lessons learned, ideas, expect to come up with concrete input for UNFF15 and 4POW</li> </ul> <p><u>Scope of engagement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UNFF14 came out with a consolidated Work Plan and identified 7 Priority Areas; the MG Women has identified 7 priority areas which lead to 9 actions plans that would be worked on through the decade. In line with the consolidated work plan, the Women Major Group (WMG) developed their specific work plan with emphasis on gender mainstreaming, information sharing and support to women entrepreneurship and leadership capacities and forest-related field-based initiatives. WMG work plan focuses on GFG 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.</li> <li>● The main objective is to mainstream gender in Global Forest Goals (GFG) implementation considering SDG5 and to empower women to help in the implementation of UNSPF. This will involve (a) Mainstreaming gender and empower women in the Global Forest Goals (GFG); (b) Strengthening weak women’s networks at national, regional and global levels; Correcting weak recognition and collaboration between women organizations - strengthen collaboration between all men organisations and women organisations and other stakeholders e.g. governments, private sector, etc.</li> </ul>



Views on how to improve effectiveness:

The WMG observed that promotion of UNSPF and GFGs requires:

- improvement of communication to larger audiences
- offering of capacity building opportunities
- implementation of UNSPF through Women's organization
- Creation of safe spaces to discuss gender

Challenges:

- Many challenges, including:
  - Weak women networks at national, regional and global levels
  - Weak recognition and collaboration between women organizations and other stakeholders e.g. governments, private sector, etc.
  - But regarding funding, since UNSPF is a non-binding agreement, no party has any obligation to provide financial resources.

Activities - worldwide:

**Under GFG 1:** WMG is collecting gender disaggregated data on women and men presence and roles in SFM

- Actions are concentrated on this goal:
  - Started collecting and organizing gender disaggregated data on women and presence and role on SFM, women in forest industry, women and their relation with land tenure and access and rights
  - Promote capacity building opportunities around gender equality in the forestry sector

**Under GFG 2**

- WMG is collecting gender disaggregated data on women and men presence and roles in SFM, Women Land tenure security, access and rights
  - Started collecting and organizing gender disaggregated data on women and presence and role on SFM, women in forest industry, women and their relation with land tenure and access and rights
  - Promote capacity building opportunities around gender equality in the forestry sector aiming to increase women entrepreneurship and leadership
  - Initiative advocacy to accelerated establishment of secure land and forest tenure
  - Advocacy campaigns
  - Develop information sharing mechanism

**Under GFG 3:** - Not presented

**Under GFG 4**

- Collect and/or organize gender disaggregated data on: women presence and role on sustainable forest management (SFM); women in forest industry; women and their relation with land tenure, access and rights.
- Engage with UNFF Secretariat to fundraise for the implementation of WMGWP

**Under GFG 5**

- Undertake education campaigns, provide information on tenure, access, control and rights
- Collect and organize data in order to have a baseline for resources allocated to gender equality
- Facilitate and set up networks on gender equality in the forest sector and to help engage in UNSPF implementation

**Under GFG 6**

- Gather Data on Gender equality elements in national forest programs and policies

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather data on gender equality related to indicators in standards of certification systems to share with UNFF</li> <li>• Engage with UN women in order to understand the possibilities of developing collective work and strong and effective networks.</li> </ul> <p><u>Some results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brazil:</b> Forest Women network collected some gender disaggregated data on women and men presence and roles in SFM; a webinar was organised to address gender equality</li> <li>• <b>Liberia:</b> Through Women advocacy, Liberia has reviewed community forest law on women participation</li> <li>• <b>Togo:</b> REFACOF conducted a scoping study on women forest sector and found women control 97% of wood related activities such as charcoal, wood fuel, and NTFP processing and marketing.</li> <li>• <b>Cameroon, Cote d' Ivoire and Togo:</b> Women engage in forest restoration activities. 600 ha of degraded forest land restored.</li> <li>• <b>Nepal:</b> Women capacity building to access forest-based decision making</li> </ul> <p><u>Future Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build the capacity of women and other stakeholders to mainstream gender</li> <li>• Support women entrepreneurship and leadership capacities to improve access to markets with high quality products</li> <li>• Collect and / or organize gender disaggregated data on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ women presence, role and contribution towards SFM</li> <li>○ Forest restoration and Climate Change concerns</li> <li>○ Women and forest industry</li> <li>○ Use this data to promote women's land tenure, access and rights.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Main opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the UNSPF and GFGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve communication to larger audience,</li> <li>○ Support the implementation of the UNSPF by members, observers, mgs and other stakeholders</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Creation of safe spaces to discuss gender equality in the forest sector in different governance level</li> </ul> <p><u>Main challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weak women networks at national, regional and global levels</li> <li>• Since UNSPF is a non-binding agreement and there are other instruments in place, government and other stakeholders may not prioritize the implementation and not monitor progress properly</li> <li>• Lack of financial resources</li> <li>• Weak recognition and collaboration between women organizations and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Discrimination in the workplace.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MG Children and Youth</b></p>	<p><u>Beliefs and aspirations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forests are essential for maintaining the world's social and natural carrying capacity that we must secure to ensure our future.</li> <li>• We want our children to still see and experience the beauty of natural forests.</li> </ul> <p><u>Earlier work done:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EGM on SDG15 in preparation for HLPF 2018 – key note on how youth can accelerate the mainstreaming of the importance of SDG15</li> <li>• Workshop during HLPF 2018 on how SDG15 should be at the core of sustainability efforts given its cross-cutting nature.</li> <li>• Co-conducted the art project: 'The Point' during Climate Week 2018 in NYC</li> </ul>

- Webinar series leading up to the UNFF14: online training in April 2019 (Global Challenges, Global Solutions: International Forest Policy)
- IDF 2019 World café sessions to bring people together and exchange information
- Creation of opportunities for young people to attend regional and international conferences
- Online webinars
- Landscape leadership youth workshop in the lead up to GLF 2018
- Global IDF World Café sessions - youth partnered with established organizations and thought leaders
- Preparation and Implementation of IDF webinar on Forest and Biodiversity

Experiences from earlier work and perceived benefits:

- Global youth engagement through various platforms giving them unique exposure and opportunity to get involved and learn about forest policy
- Capacity development of young people to engage in policy processes through direct participation in events and efforts made prior to events to inform and educate young people, i.e. webinars, workshops
- Use of social media is very effective, informing youth of what is happening in these meetings and conferences.
- Social media activity by youth increases virtual engagement.
- Networking opportunities during these events are essential for young professionals.
- Youth inclusion during international conferences and events demonstrate an important platform to learn from experts and people who have worked in their respective fields for decades.
- Youth engagement facilitates to voice our opinions and be heard! - We are an equal stakeholder.

Situation

- Have a work plan 2018-2020
- Part of The Point NYC Climate Week
- Made a mural to make the international community understand implications of Climate Change
- Conducted media outreaches, i.e. IDF social media campaign
- Conducted IDF 2020 webinar on forest and biodiversity
- Opportunities:
  - Time/capacities
  - Effective use of resources - there is still more that can be done with little to no resources
  - Build own capacity alongside/in cooperation with other MGs

Obstacles to implementation of the Work Plan:

In the group session of MGCY reference was made to best practice of cross-sectoral collaborations & challenges faced, as follows:

- Incorporation of our inputs;
- Being taken seriously - feels unappreciated
- Mobilization - geographical difficulties
- Consistency in participation
- Insufficient finances.
- Participation in international spaces difficult
- Global Challenges such as Climate Change, Increased Forest Loss, Failure by States to implement International Commitments to targets, i.e. stopping deforestation, Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

Future Actions:

- **Skills based Webinars for Future Environmental Change Managers**
  - Workshop facilitation
  - Negotiation skills
  - Change Management

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposal writing for project funding</li> <li>○ Design thinking</li> <li>● <b>Webinar series on UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kick-off webinar: Hopes and challenges of the landscape approach for restoration activities - perspectives from science, policy and practice</li> <li>○ This will be the first webinar of the series and aims to elaborate on intention, hopes and challenge of restoration activities. The decade promotes integrated approaches to achieve restoration. In this regard, a central focus of this introductory webinar lies on how the landscape approach can be applied to different restoration activities. Associated challenges and potentials will be elaborated based on the presentation of practical cases of landscape restoration from Africa, Asia and Latin America. Speakers from business, science and policy will be invited to elaborate on their respective perspectives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Webinar Series: Towards Forest Policy Literacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Webinar 1: European Commission (DG Environment) - Introduction into VPA-FLEGT and legislative developments around “Embodied Deforestation” within the European Commission</li> <li>○ Further Webinars are in preparation</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Webinar for Restore 4 Climate Youth Forum, happening alongside GLF Bonn, June 3-5th 2020 on Food and Livelihoods</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Webinar topic: Restoration of forest landscapes and its mitigation impacts on climate change</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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## **Annex 4: MGs and the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests (4POW) for the Period 2021-2024**

The notes below cover all that was discussed at the Geneva Expert Meeting. Apart from the 4POW, this includes the Global Forests Financing Facilitative Network (GFFFN) - which is part of the UNFFS - and the next International Day of the Forest (theme: Forests and Biodiversity).

### ***(a) Notes from Expert Group Meeting on the Quadrennial Programme of Work of the UN Forum on Forests (4POW) for the Period 2021-2024 (Geneva 14-15 November 2019)***

#### **1. UNFF Expert Group Meeting on 4POW: 2021-2024**

**Andrei Laletin** made a presentation on the 14-15 November 2019 meeting held at the UN Office in Geneva to discuss and make proposals on results of a survey on the 4POW 2021-2024 for consideration by UNFF15. In accordance with the 4POW of UNFF for the period 2017-2020, the fifteen session of UNFF to be held from 4-8 May 2020 in New York will adopt the 4POW of the UNFF for the period 2021-2024. To provide a background for informed discussion the UNFF secretariat organized the Geneva Expert meeting. Objectives of the EGM included to: review and discuss the results of the survey on the 4POW and, based on this review, make a proposal on the 4POW 2021-2024. Discuss possible draft elements for the 4POW 2021-2024 and finalise a proposal for it.

The experts acknowledged that the 4POWs are to reflect the forum's contribution to the GFGs and targets and that the QPOW for 2021-2024 which should further enhance the forum's work in support of the UNSPF 2030 and the GFGs and its associated targets. Specific recommendations for the 2021-2024 4POW included:

- highlight **linkages between GFGs & SDGs** and Climate change - forest linkage
- provide **flexibility in identifying specific future tasks as needed.**
- reflect a **cross-sectoral approach**
- address **science-policy interface** and **emerging issues** in the context of the Forum's technical discussion
- incorporate a **gender perspective** and encourage **private sector involvement**
- highlight **specific GFG targets or sub-themes** based on the SDGs under review by the HLPF
- reflect that technical session outputs inform/feed into next policy session

Quantity and quality of forests was not addressed at the meeting but principles were set up to guide voluntary nation contributions so no fixed quantity was highlighted.

#### **2. The Expert group meeting on Global Forests Financing Facilitative Network (GFFFN)**

**Joe Cobbinah** made a presentation on the meeting that took place on 12-13 Nov, 2019 at the UN office in Geneva, Switzerland. It was organized in recognition that financing remains a major challenge to achieving SFM; 80 experts from CFP, Member states, regional organization, MGs attended the discussion on the UNFF GFFFN. This mechanism helps member countries to design funding strategies, mobilise funds, build capacities to enable them achieve GFGs. Objectives and outcomes were to inform experts of progress in the development of the GFFFN and

to collect feedback. There were subjects of widespread interest such as the database on funding opportunities for SFM and a proposed Clearinghouse (CH) for financing information.

According to the report of the expert meeting, the GFFFN will facilitate fund mobilisation for sustainable forest management, become the main vehicle for fund mobilisation (for countries that need its support), develop strategies for mobilisation of funds, and initiate an online clearing house for GFFFN (supported in Phase 2 by a database on financial flows and additional searching capacities). In brief, the CH will identify funding opportunities, provide learning resources, and exchange information. It will be an online platform with basic search functions to have under Phase 2 a database and financial support. The database on funding opportunities for SFM will, when established, will alongside information and learning materials for accessing resources use a UNITE WEB.

Participating experts provided feedback on all aspects presented including suggestions that: there be collaboration with the CPF and information providers, that the CPF be more proactive in the development of the CH platform, that the database on funding sources include information on sources including private. There was specific mention of the need for the GFFFN to give support also to MGs.

### **3. Developing a MG International Day of Forests action plan**

Fredrick Buchholz made a presentation on the next IDF under the theme “Forest and Biodiversity”. Overview of the UNFF15 programme; the need for MGs to represent the civil society voice on forests; and importance of better communication. It is expected that Germany, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Ghana, Brazil might join to the side event. Overview of the UNFF15 programme; the need for MGs to represent the civil society voice on forests; and importance of better communication. It is expected that Germany, Canada, Sweden, Netherlands, Ghana, Brazil might join to the side event. He invited each Major Group to provide 2 informative facts on Forest Biodiversity and 2 statements on “why forest and biodiversity is relevant to my constituency”.

**(b) Highlights of individual MG emphasis in their contribution to the 2021-2024 4POW of the UNFF**

At the Nairobi MGI, each group working separately listed at relatively short notice a list of its MG contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF - with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration. Tabulated summaries are below and are produced here to serve as reminder for each MG as it prepares its workplan for the 2021-2024 period. Clearly each MG will need to build such proposals upon the existing workplans ending 2020 from which some elements will need to be carried forward.

**(i) Children and Youth MG** contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Needs</b>	<b>Comments</b>
No continuous youth representative in the UNFFS	Reaching out to MS, promoting advantages of such a position	Youth representation in all essential processes related to the UNFF	Advocacy by other MGs of the important role of MGCY	Enhancing intergenerational justice and institutionalizing additional capacity
Disconnection between MGCY activities and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Approaching relevant actors of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; Establishing an MGCY position towards the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Collaborate with UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and contribute forest-related perspectives	Willingness for cooperation from other actors in the field of environmental youth policy	
No awareness about cooperation potential between MGCY and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Identify synergies and activities for collaborative project implementation as best-practice examples	Joint activity implementation within the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	Seed-Fund	

**(ii) Science and Technology MG contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration**

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Needs</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Inadequate capacity among MGs in the implementation of activities and projects	Strengthen capacity of MGs in fundraising, information management, project implementation , monitoring and reporting	Improve the capacity to implement its plan activities effectively	Inclusive collaboration among MGs; Resource mobilisation to facilitate capacity/ skill enhancement	Women MG greatly feel the need for scientific data ; Specific capacity needs assessment of different MG groups to ensure tailored capacity enhancement.
Lack of adequate scientific data to achieve objectives of the UN Decade of Ecosystem restoration(ER)	Provide science based information of ER Contributing to the UN decade of ER Facilitate documentation of knowledge	To support the achievement of the pledges made with respect to the UN decade of ER	Inclusive collaboration among stakeholders;  Mobilisation of of technical, management and financial resources  Play advocacy role in getting policy makers to mainstream ER into their development plans	Mobilisation , documentation and sharing of best practices of ER
Erosion of Traditional Forest Related knowledge (TFRK) systems	To use ethically appropriate practices to document and mainstream TFRK into scientific knowledge systems	To protect TFRK for the benefit of holders and society at large.	Inclusive collaboration between scientists and holders of TFRK to mobilize resources MG: WT, Women, IP	Work with IUFRO Task Force on TFRK. Women MGs, IPLC, Local Governments and central governments



**(iii) Women MG contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration**

Problems	Action	Vision	Needs	Comments
Complete disregard of women's knowledge and rights (intellectual)				MGCY has close links with IFSA which has extensive networks, women in forestry networks and MGCY wholeheartedly welcomes this collaboration
				MG NGOs is very enthusiastic to cooperate with FLR
				WMG has strongly gone for restoration as their central focus. It would be beneficial to think beyond restoration.

But see also Women's Group achievements combined with ambitions applicable to the 4POW for 2021-2024.

**(iv) NGOs contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration**

Problems	Action	Vision	Needs	Comments
Monoculture tree plantations are considered as forests	-Input comments to the of UN Strategy for Ecosystem Restoration until April 30; request all MGs and NGOs contribute to the input -build partnerships -influence FAO definition	The UN decade on Ecosystem restoration states that changing forest ecosystems to plantations is not restoration	Mobilize networks and partners; create awareness; build partnership; approach those organizations that will give financial support for this program. Input from MG S&T, MG IP, MG Women, MGCY to spread widely	Awareness raising is needed , because there are still people that do not regard it as a problem  Mixed species plantation can be an option to solve local needs if they are planned in cooperation with local communities, farmers and business owners.
Bioenergy is considered climate neutral ( green energy) and is getting subsidies when burned in power plants	Raising awareness through SNS and conventional media, support people who are against such practices	Timber and other forest products are not used as industrial feedstock for power plants	Cooperate with MG Trade Unions, MG S&T, MG IPs, MGCY, Creating awareness amongst governments that bioenergy is not climate neutral	Co-firing wood in coal power plants is no solution as CO2 emissions increase.  Climate goals can only be reached in due time if the carbon sink in forest ecosystems is increased.
In some places, various local communities, Indigenous Peoples, women still face problems over land tenure, as their rights have not been recognized.	Support identification of land tenure problems. Facilitate capacity building and promote advocacy. Share best practices and lessons learned.	Land tenure rights are recognized. Forest owners manage them, using traditional knowledge and evidence-based approach.	Establishing partnership with growers, increased collaboration with women, farmers, IPs and other stakeholders. Facilitate collaboration with governments in this issue. Creating awareness among all stakeholders, knowledge sharing on land tenure rights.	Securing land tenure rights must be at the heart of forest ecosystem restoration. Sharing experience of local management programs in forests.

**(v) Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration**

Problems	Action	Vision	Needs	Comments
No engagement or translation of the UNSPF down to the IPs	Advocacy of land tenure, access to the decision making Approach to the government to support registration	Inclusivity, recognition of IP rights, sustainable management of landscapes	Collaborating with NGO, women, government	MG Women: we include IP women; we have the same target group.
Inadequate information in support for advocacy	Advocating for research and document traditional knowledge	A well documented data on traditional knowledge and other associated knowledge	Collaboration of NGO and academic to develop and share experience	
Lack of capacity of IP	Marked funding, information stakeholders for potential funding in relation to achieving UNFF/UNSPF	IP and local capacity development and resource mobilization	Collaboration and partnership with NGOs and donors	

**(vi) Farmers and Small-forest Landowners contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration**

Problems	Action	Vision	Needs	Comments
Enhance capacity building of IPs	Going conference where those issues are discussed		Partnership among organization in university and development partners	MG: Business, Science technology, Women, NGO (because we are working on fairness, justice, and rights)
Securing forest land tenure right	Prepare common position power, mobilize political power, media	Secure forest land tenure, improving livelihood	Collaboration government, local government, university	
Localization of GFG and SDGs and other international policy and declaration on country and regional level	Develop the regional, country and local level plan of GFGs and SDGs	Contribute to GFGs and SDGs and other international declaration	UNFF secretariat, other UN system, other NGOs and CBOs	

**(vii) Trade Unions and Workers contribution to practical implementation of GFGs and UNSPF- with emphasis on inclusive forest landscapes restoration**

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Needs</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	Organize workshop	workers changing their work style, interest in the global trends	Union leaders at the centre should be used to convene the workshops.	The major problems of afforestation programs is that they don't match species to the site, A need for scientific community to support this - UN SCT
Sensitization of union and members	Develop flyers on union issues, have public awareness campaigns	Campaigns	Working through the social networking medias	
Formalization of the activities of the informal sector of forestry	Community interaction, assist communities that have land access to seedlings	Have a massive afforestation within the communities, have social dialogues within the communities enhanced	CSOs and NGOs in collaboration with unions help in the plantation	

## **Annex 5: Towards A Common Understanding of Cross-Sectoral Collaboration for Inclusive Forest Landscapes**

### **Presentation by Major Group for Children and Youth**

#### **REASONING BEHIND THIS YEARS CENTRAL TOPIC**

- The achievement of inclusive forest landscapes through cross sectoral collaboration would allow us to achieve a number of GFG targets and SDGs.

#### **WHY CROSS SECTORAL COLLABORATION?**

MGs ARE AT THE CORE OF WHAT CHARACTERIZES GFG6

- THE MGI IS BUILDING ON THIS INHERENT CAPACITY AND ABILITY
- SYNERGIES AND OVERLAPS CAN BE IDENTIFIED IN MG WORKPLANS

#### **ENTANGILING THE CONCEPT OF INCLUSIVE FOREST LANDSCAPES**

- FORESTS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF LANDSCAPES
- HUMAN NEEDS HAVE AN IMPACT ON LANDSCAPES
- TO ENSURE PROTECTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF FORESTS WE MUST INTEGRATE HUMAN NEEDS AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS INTO LANDSCAPES

#### **INCLUSIVE FOREST LANDSCAPES**

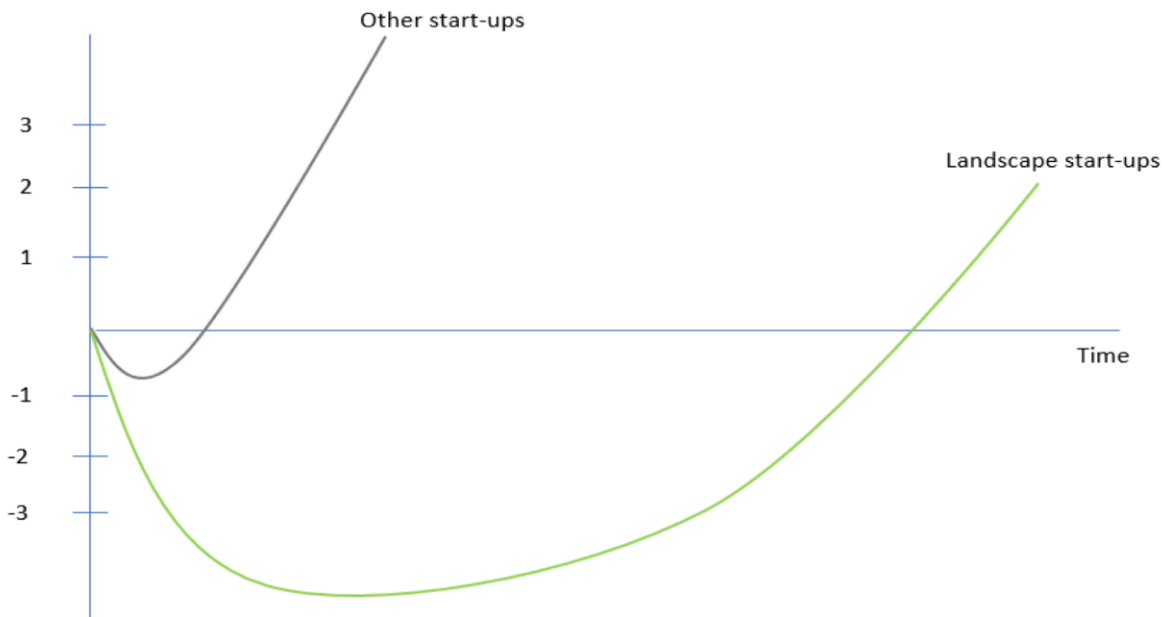
- Idea of **enhancing human wellbeing** within the context of the **carrying capacity** of the earth, and to **shift the powers in favour of marginalized people, regions and sectors**, according to which resources are being distributed.
- Acknowledges marginalized and excluded stakeholders in development processes in order to tackle inequality and create an inclusive society.
- Inclusive systems can be understood as reconciling social, environmental and economic objectives simultaneously.

#### **A LANDSCAPE APPROACH FOR INCLUSIVE FOREST LANDSCAPES**

WHAT?

- Balancing Competing land use demands
- Considering human well-being and the environment
- Creating solutions that consider livelihoods, finance, rights, restoration and progress towards climate and development goals
- Shift from handling aspects in isolation towards cross-sectoral collaboration - WHY?
- Many different uses within a landscape and we need to balance these.
- Need to balance across forestry, across agriculture, water resource management, biodiversity conservation and the needs of people.

## FINANCING INCLUSIVE FOREST LANDSCAPES



- High risk and unpredictability
  - High investments over a long period
  - No/few comparability to other existing projects
  - Often non-profit, making payment of loans difficult

## **Annex 6: Range of Perceptions by MG groups on importance of forests and on their roles and challenges in managing them**

### **1. MGCY**

- a. Forests are essential for maintaining social and natural carrying capacity that we must secure to ensure our future.
- b. We want our children to still see and experience the beauty of natural forests.

### **2. MG Workers and Trade Unions**

Fact and statement

- a. Do you know that work in the forest is the second most dangerous occupation, after active soldiering. What does that mean for biodiversity?
- b. On average a worker in the forest earns 2/3rd of a work in factories. Is that the right kind of biodiversity?
- c. To preserve the biodiversity in the forest, the workers need healthy and safe work with decent pay and education.

### **3. MG Women**

Fact

- a. Women are the main repository of indigenous knowledge on forest and biodiversity
- b. Opportunities to transfer this knowledge into economic development activities are often captured by men

Statement

- c. Women's knowledge on forests and biodiversity ensures intergenerational knowledge transfer
- d. Women's knowledge on forests and biodiversity is a bridge towards recognition of their worth and central role in preserving the quality of life and addressing climate change

### **4. MG Farmers and Small Landowners**

- a. Farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities are doing a lot of efforts in managing biodiversity. However, some activities (e.g. monocultures, infrastructural development) are adversely interfering with biodiversity
- b. Poverty levels at local setup is drivers of biodiversity loss in a specific area.
- c. We call upon the member states to recognize the traditional knowledge that exists at the local level to protect and manage biodiversity.
- d. Conserve biodiversity produce genetic diversity thus resulting increased forest productivity.
- e. We ask the UN states to add more resources to address poverty reduction programs as there is a directly relations to poverty and biodiversity

**5. MG NGOs**

- a. Since forests are ecosystems, the most efficient forest biodiversity protection can only be done in natural forests.
- b. Forest biodiversity is crucial for food sovereignty and people's health. Therefore, the governments should uphold customary land tenure rights.
- c. Using forests for bioenergy is not sustainable and climate neutral.

**6. MG Indigenous Peoples**

## Facts

- a. Approximately 350 million IPs are living in the forests
- b. Indigenous knowledge plays a critical role in sustainably managing forest and biodiversity

## Statements

- c. Our ancestral beliefs, culture, and livelihoods are depending on forests and biodiversity
- d. IPLCS conserve forest and biodiversity for future generation and world at large

**7. MG science and technology**

- a. 25% of 4 million species face extinction within the DECADES.
- b. We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life. (IPBES report, 2019)