

# FINAL REPORT



## JAMAICA

# Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

Submitted to  
United Nations Forest Forum  
May 2, 2018



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Prepared by  
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## Acronyms

FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FI	Forest Instrument
FD	Forestry Department
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoJ	Government of Jamaica
JNHT	Jamaica National Heritage Trust
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEGJC	Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
ME&R	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
MTF	Medium Term Framework
MTM	Ministry of Transport and Mining
MSJ	Meteorological Service Jamaica
NEPA	National Environment and Planning Agency
NFMCP	National Forest Management and Conservation Plan
NLA	National Land Agency
ODPEM	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
RADA	Rural Agricultural Agency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
STATIN	Statistical Institute of Jamaica
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UWI	University of the West Indies

## Glossary of Terms

**Criteria** define the essential elements against which sustainability is assessed, with due consideration paid to the productive, protective, and social roles of forests and forest ecosystems. Each criterion relates to a key element of sustainability, and may be described by one or more indicators.

**Indicators** are parameters which can be measured and correspond to a criterion. They measure and help monitor the status and changes of forests in quantitative, qualitative, and descriptive terms that reflect forest values as seen by those who defined each criterion.

**Sustainability indicators** are science-based measures that provide a consistent approach to assess, monitor, and report progress on SFM to a wide range of stakeholders and institutions, including governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, donor organizations, researchers, and the public. Sustainability indicators can be useful to identify the changes in forest management practices required to maintain and improve healthy forests.

# Executive Summary

## Background

In 1992, heads of State met at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the “Earth Summit”. At the Summit, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation, and Sustainable Development of all types of forests was adopted by more than 178 Governments. The overarching objective of these principles is to contribute to the management, and sustainable development of forests and to provide for their multiple and complementary functions and uses.

Against this background, in 2000 the UNFF was formed by the Economic and Social Council through an international arrangement (ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35) to “promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.” The role of the UNFF is to:

- facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management;
- provide for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 as well as to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive, and integrated manner,
- enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues
- foster international cooperation and
- monitor, assess and report on progress of the above functions and objectives
- strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

By 2015 the Economic and Social Council issued a new resolution<sup>1</sup> which dealt with the new international arrangements for forests. The resolution, took into consideration the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the recent direction outlined in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The Future We Want,”.

In shaping this resolution, the increasing global importance of forests was acknowledged as articulated in the recognition given to forests in the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets, many of which were linked to the sustainable forest management.

The Forum and its Member States decided to strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030 in line with the SDGs.

The resolution outlined that the main objective of the new international arrangement on forests are<sup>2</sup>:

(i) To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015 [on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2015/42 and Corr.1)] 2015/33. International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

- (ii) To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the post-2015 development agenda;
- (iii) To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest related issues at all levels;
- (iv) To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels; and
- (v) To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

These objectives would be achieved through the individual and collective action of Member States, framed within international, regional, and sub-regional organizations and processes, major groups, and other stakeholders guided by the strategic plan for the period 2017–2030 “to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components”<sup>3</sup>.

### **The Project**

These new international arrangements on forests; including the strategic plan monitoring, assessment, and reporting are of immense importance and requires effective data collection and reporting.

However, data collection, is a significant challenge and in light of this consideration; this project is intended to support Jamaica along with five other pilot countries in developing a comprehensive and efficient system for monitoring progress towards SFM.

The project includes an investigation of inventories of existing forest-related data and mapping data. Of particular importance, will be socio-economic aspects (e.g. livelihoods, food security, and poverty reduction) of forests and the financial flows for SFM. It is intended that the results of the investigation will identify deficiencies and challenges if monitoring and reporting on the forest sector in Jamaica.

The Scope of Work is as follows.

1. Prepare an analytical study on:1) the national and international reporting requirements on forests and forest related goals and targets, 2) inventory/availability of forest data (including socio-economic information).
2. In consultation with other national stakeholders propose monitoring framework for SFM, GFGs and forest related SDGs.
3. Facilitate, with the assistance of the national UNFF focal point, a national meeting/workshop on monitoring and reporting on forests.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid

## **The Conclusions and Recommendations**

### *Overview*

The conclusion and recommendations which are presented below have been informed by the project findings and presented to three stakeholder meetings. In general, the recommendations have been accepted by the stakeholders who urged greater involvement of Local Forest Management Groups in the data collection process and in monitoring and evaluation activities.

### *Conclusions*

The climate change challenge has awakened the world to the importance of the forest sector to building climate change resilience and to contributing to sustainable development. Therefore, arguably at no time in the history of environmental policy at the global level has there been such a convergence and integration of global goals and obligations manifested through the MDGs, SDGs, and UNFF among others.

The 2030 development agenda towards has now been defined, including the new Sustainable Development Goals. Forests and their role in protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and their services are essential for the post-2015 development agenda. Against this background, the reliability of the information collected in this area must continue to improve in order to contribute to shaping and informing the policy agendas and programmes locally, regionally, and globally.

In the case of Jamaica there have been improvements in the monitoring and reporting within the forest sector. Yet significant gaps remain in terms of measuring the socioeconomic impact of forest, valuation of forest resources and ecosystem services, carbon sequestration and the identification of criteria and indicators with regards to SFM. Additionally, higher levels of performance are now required from the forest sector in line with the implementation of the NFMCP 2016-2026 and the importance of the sector in building the country's resilience to climate change and in this regard, robust reliable, monitoring and reporting mechanisms are critically important.

So, while Jamaica has a platform from which to strengthen its monitoring and reporting programme it faces several challenges. These are summarised as follows:

1. the institutional capacity, including comprehensive monitoring and assessment programmes, required effective manage the sector;
2. adequacy of human, infrastructure, and financial resources;
3. absence of critical skills in resource valuation and socioeconomic impact analysis;
4. absence of agreed methodologies to determine socioeconomic impacts within the sector;
5. difficulty in monitoring the action and measures within the forest instrument;
6. the lack of agreed consistent approach to determining indicators for measuring progress in implementing SFM; and
7. problem of reporting requirements to the UNFF, other related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

### *Recommendations*

Considering those conclusions, the following are the recommendations regarding developing a monitoring framework for SFM.

1. Design a comprehensive monitoring programme for the Agency and its key reporting partners e.g. NEPA, ODPEM, MS and STATIN.
2. Design an on-line data management system which supports the reporting framework and facilitates multiple users.
3. Strengthen the Agency's capacity to measure by supporting further investment in remote sensing, ground truthing and GIS mapping.



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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Formation of UNFF**

In the late 1980s unto the 1990s around the world concern about the state of the world's forests was growing because of the alarming rates of deforestation in some countries. In 1992, heads of State met at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the "Earth Summit", in Rio de Janeiro and high on their agenda was the issue of forests and deforestation.

At the Summit, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation, and Sustainable Development of all types of forests was adopted by more than 178 Governments together with Agenda 21, which included a chapter commonly referred to as Chapter 11 on Combating Deforestation. The overarching objective of these principles is to contribute to the management, and sustainable development of forests and to provide for their multiple and complementary functions and uses.

Since that time the United Nations established first the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF 1995-1997) and later the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF 1997-2000), to implement the Forest Principles and Chapter 11 of Agenda 21. The 'bodies produced' a comprehensive set of 270 proposals for action for the promotion of the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests; and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) occurred due to an acknowledgement that the work on forest was a critical component of the sustainable development and needed some permanence.

In 2000 the UNFF was formed by the Economic and Social Council through an international arrangement (ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35) to "promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end." To this end UNFF facilitates the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests globally, regionally, and nationally. Its principal functions are to:

- facilitate implementation of forest-related agreements and foster a common understanding on sustainable forest management;
- provide for continued policy development and dialogue among Governments, international organizations, including major groups, as identified in Agenda 21 as well as to address forest issues and emerging areas of concern in a holistic, comprehensive, and integrated manner,
- enhance cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination on forest-related issues
- foster international cooperation and
- monitor, assess and report on progress of the above functions and objectives
- strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.

## 1.2 The Forest Instrument and links to SFM

The United Nations adopted the first forest instrument in 2007 is voluntary and non-binding. The FI provides countries with a framework for promoting sustainable forest management and articulates a series of agreed policies and measures at the international and national levels to strengthen forest governance, technical and institutional capacity, policy and legal frameworks, forest sector investment and stakeholder participation. The strategic pillars for the FI are as follows.

1. To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared global objectives on forests.
2. To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability.
3. To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.

The present instrument applies to all types of forests and promotes the dynamic and evolving concept of sustainable forest management, as the means to maintain and enhance the economic, social, and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations. In this regard Member states are agreed to support the achievement of 4 global objectives shown below.

**Global objective 1** Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation, and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.

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

**Global objective 3** Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

**Global objective 4** Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

There are 25 policy statements and measures outlined in the instrument and the following 11 policy statements/measures have been extracted and highlighted as important planks for achieving and evaluating the progress with respect to the implementation of sustainable forest management.

- Develop and implement policies that encourage the sustainable management of forests to provide a wide range of goods and services and that also contribute to poverty reduction and the development of rural communities.
- Further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management that are consistent with national priorities and conditions.
- Integrate national forest programmes, or other strategies for sustainable forest management, as referred to in paragraph 6 (a) above, into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and poverty-reduction strategies.
- Review and, as needed, improve forest-related legislation, strengthen forest law enforcement, and promote good governance at all levels in order to support sustainable forest management, to create an enabling environment for forest investment and to combat

and eradicate illegal practices, in accordance with national legislation, in the forest and other related sectors.

- Analyse the causes of, and address solutions to, threats to forest health and vitality from natural disasters and human activities, including threats from fire, pollution, pests, disease, and invasive alien species.
- Strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes.
- Promote the development and application of scientific and technological innovations, including those that can be used by forest owners and local and indigenous communities to advance sustainable forest management.
- Promote and strengthen public understanding of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including through public awareness programmes and education.
- Promote and encourage access to formal and informal education, extension, and training programmes on the implementation of sustainable forest management.
- Encourage the private sector, civil society organizations and forest owners to develop, promote and implement in a transparent manner voluntary instruments, such as voluntary certification systems or other appropriate mechanisms, to develop and promote forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested in accordance with domestic legislation, and to improve market transparency.
- Enhance access by households, small-scale forest owners, forest dependent local and indigenous communities, living in and outside forest areas, to forest resources and relevant markets in order to support livelihoods and income diversification from forest management, consistent with sustainable forest management.

Further, the UNFF is support of the efforts to achieve sustainable forest management; in 2004, promoted criteria and indicators for SFM in the UNFF Resolution 4/3 to provide a framework for common understanding at the global level of the seven thematic elements<sup>4</sup> of SFM. The criteria and indicators were developed from previously ongoing processes.

## **1.3 Monitoring, assessment, and reporting**

### **1.3.1 Current realities**

Members States are encouraged to report on the progress with regards to progress in the implementation of the instrument. Consequently, the issue of monitoring sustainable forest management (SFM), and specifically criteria and indicators (C&I) has been discussed globally, regionally, and nationally for several decades. Several international and regional processes and initiatives have developed C&I to assess and report on progress towards SFM.

Despite these efforts, monitoring and reporting still remains a challenge for many – mainly for developing countries. There are often deficiencies regarding to the adequacy of methodologies to conduct inventories and the socio-economic data on forests. The UNFF Secretariat has reported that while they have received significant amounts of information on the contribution of forests and SFM to livelihoods through national reports, which are rich in anecdotal information. There remains a gap with regards to systematic data on the socio-economic contribution of forests and the financial support for the implementation of SFM. Even in cases where this information has been supplied the

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<sup>4</sup> 1. Extent of Forest Resources, 2. Forest Biological Diversity, 3. Forest health and vitality, 4. Productive functions of forest resources, 5. Protective functions of forest resources, 6. Socio-economic functions of forest resources, and 7. Legal policy and institutional framework.

differences in methodologies makes and standardise reporting difficult and lacking in coherence.

Given that the socioeconomic benefits have been difficult to measure; Since the full scope of contribution of forests to society is undervalued. The consequence of undervaluation particularly for developing countries like Jamaica is that it has been difficult to make the case to adequately fund the forest sector against the background of limited resources and competition among several areas for those scarce resources. Further, the significance of sustainable forest management in terms of its contribution to achieving healthy forests, vibrant forest communities and combating climate change and the overall importance in meeting broader development goals is greatly underrated and underestimated. As a result, forests are often low on the political agenda, overlooked and conversion of forests to other land uses is often considered more profitable.

In response to these challenges many countries including Jamaica have suggested that there is a need for development of common methodologies for gathering information on the benefits from forests, socioeconomic impacts, and monitoring and reporting on SFM.

### 1.3.2 Post 2015 international arrangements for forest – emerging challenges

Against this background, in October 2015 the Economic and Social Council issued a new resolution<sup>5</sup> which dealt with the new international arrangements for forests. The resolution, took into consideration the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the recent direction outlined in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The Future We Want,” and also acknowledging the progress made by countries and stakeholders towards sustainable forest management, including the implementation of the non-legally binding forest instrument.

In shaping this resolution, the Council recognised the increasing global acknowledgement of the importance of forest as articulated in Welcoming also the recognition given to forests in the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets, many of which were linked to the sustainable forest management.

The Forum and its Member States decided to strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030 in line with the SDGs.

The resolution outlined that the main objective of the new international arrangement on forests are<sup>6</sup>:

- (i) To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;
- (ii) To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the post-2015 development agenda;
- (iii) To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest related issues at all levels;
- (iv) To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels; and

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<sup>5</sup> Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015 [on the recommendation of the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/2015/42 and Corr.1)] 2015/33. International arrangement on forests beyond 2015

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

(v) To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

These objectives would be achieved through the individual and collective action of Member States, international, regional, and sub-regional organizations and processes, major groups, and other stakeholders.

Considering, these decisions the Forum was asked to develop a strategic plan for the period 2017–2030 “to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components”<sup>7</sup>.

Consequently, in January 2017 at a Special Session of The UNFF, The Forum adopted the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF). The UNSPF (**Appendix 1**) has 6 global strategic objectives and 26 associated targets. These fully encompass and build on the 4 Global Objects in the UNFI; and are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and are outlined below and should be achieved by 2030.

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

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide.
- 1.2 The world’s forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced.
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- 1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide.

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1 -15.4 and 15.8.

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

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

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid

of relevant conventions and instruments Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things.

Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c.

**Global forest goal 3** Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased.

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased  
3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased.

Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4.

**Global forest goal 4** Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnership.

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral, and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased.

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North, and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased.

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased.

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments.

Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1-17.3, 17.6- 17.7.

**Global forest goal 5** Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increase.

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide



5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments, and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities, and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development.

Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5-16.7, 16.10 and 17.14.

**Global forest goal 6** Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.

6.1 Forest-related programmes within the United Nations system are coherent and complementary and integrate the global forest goals and targets, where appropriate.

6.2 Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels.

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified.

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened.

Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal target 17.14.

Considering the new international arrangements on forests; including the strategic plan monitoring, assessment, and reporting, always important; have grown in significance. As a result, Member States are urged to continue to monitor and assess progress towards implementing sustainable forest management, including the forest instrument and the global objectives on forests.

## 1.4 The Project

Hence, considering the challenges of reporting and against the urgent requirement of reliable, standardised data on the world's forests; this project is intended to support Jamaica along with five other pilot countries in developing a comprehensive and efficient system for monitoring progress towards SFM.

The project includes an investigation of inventories of existing forest-related data and mapping data. Of particular importance, will be socio-economic aspects (e.g. livelihoods, food security, and poverty reduction) of forests and the financial flows for SFM. It is intended that the results of the investigation will identify deficiencies and challenges if monitoring and reporting on the forest sector in Jamaica.

### 1.4.1 The Scope of Work

With regards to the project, the scope of work of the national consultant (**Appendix 2**) is as follows.

4. Prepare an analytical study on: 1) the national and international reporting requirements on forests and forest related goals and targets, 2) inventory/availability of forest data (including socio-economic information).
5. In consultation with other national stakeholders propose monitoring framework for SFM, GFGs and forest related SDGs.
6. Facilitate, with the assistance of the national UNFF focal point, a national meeting/workshop on monitoring and reporting on forests.

### 1.4.2 Approach

The preparation of this report, which is in response to the first task outlined in the Scope of Work involved several activities. The first was a review of existing data and reports prepared by the Forestry Department with regards to its international and national obligations. In this respect, there are four such: (i) The FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2015 and (ii) Voluntary National Report to 11<sup>th</sup> Session of UNFF (iv) Evaluation report NFMCP 2010 (iii) Medium Term Socioeconomic Framework Reporting.

The sources of data used to develop these reports was investigated along with any gaps in the provision of the data. In addition, interviews were conducted with the FD staff primarily responsible for the provision of data and the completion of reports. Staff from the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), The Metrological Service Jamaica and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management were also interviewed.

The role of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica with regards to contributing to data of the socioeconomic contribution of forests was reviewed.

Further, the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (MEP) in support of the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan(NFMCP) 2016-2026 was reviewed.

### 1.4.3 Organisation of the Report

The first chapter of the report outlines the context within which this study is being undertaken. Chapter 2 provides details of data submitted for international reports to the FAO and UNFF. Chapter 3 evaluates the data supplied to local reports and the final chapter discussed the conclusions and recommendations.

## **2.0 International Reporting**

### **2.1 Overview**

Globally, the extent of the world's forests continues to decline as human populations continue to grow and demand for food and land increases; for example, in 1990 the world had 4128 million ha of forest; by 2015 this area had decreased to 3 999 million ha. Yet the rate of net forest loss has been cut by over 50 percent. The reasons for this may be due to substantial changes in forest management over the past 25 years. Overall, this period has seen a series of positive developments and currently the attention paid to sustainable forest management (SFM) has never been higher and more land is designated as permanent forest, more assessment, monitoring, reporting, planning and stakeholder involvement is taking place, and the legal frameworks for SFM are being widely adopted.

Jamaica too has gone through a transition in its approach to forest management. The island was called "the land of wood and water" on its discovery by Christopher Columbus in May 1494 and by 1655 had been colonized by the English experienced a development pattern based on agriculture that resulted in significant loss of forest cover, which was accompanied by a general change in climate over several years.

Effort to manage the sector came in 1892 with the passage of legislation and the introduction of strategies of protection through the designation of forest reserves. In 1937 the Forest Law was passed and by 1942 the Forest the Branch had evolved into the Forest Department located in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Since those early years with growing experience in the management of Jamaica's forest and with the Government's recognition that the actions of the past were insufficient to address the complex, and increasing pressures related to land utilization a more strategic approach to the management of forest estates was undertaken. A Forest Action Plan was determined as the most appropriate framework through which to sustainably manage the forest sector. In 1990 the first National Forest Action Plan (NFAP) was developed.

Since, the first NFAP, then Forest Division underwent further evolution; and in 1996 with the passage of the new Forest Act, with an emphasis on reforestation, conservation, and greater community participation. By 2001 the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP) 2001-2010 was approved. The following key principles guided its development: (i) sustainability of forest development, (ii) holistic and inter-sectoral approach towards forest values and resources, (iii) consistency with national development policies and the socio-economic environment, (iv) partnership, participation, and transparency, (v) national policy commitment, (vi) international commitment, (vii) raising awareness, and (viii) a long-term iterative process.

By 2010 the FD was transformed into an Executive Agency to the strengthen institutional framework and management of forests. The Agency continues to expand the menu of approaches to forest management as evidenced by the Forest Policy 2017 and NFMCP 2016-2026 with a stated commitment to the practice of sustainable forest management.

### **2.2 Global Forest Resources Assessment Report**

The contributions of forests to the well-being of society is extraordinarily wide and in this regard, has far-reaching impact; as forests play a critical role water, energy food nexus, ecosystem services, conserving biodiversity, in combating rural poverty and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Sustainably managed forests therefore play a vital part in sustainable development.

Accordingly, it has been acknowledged that reliable and up-to-date information on the state of the world's forest resources is vital to support the policy making and decision-making in the global forest sector. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), at the request of its member countries, regularly monitors the world's forests and their management and uses through the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA).

The FRA process is coordinated by the Forestry Department at FAO headquarters in Rome together with partners in the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire. The partners are: the Central African Forests Commission, FOREST EUROPE, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Montréal Process, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe<sup>8</sup>.

The latest assessment was the 2015 for which Jamaica provided data (<http://www.fao.org/documents/>). The process by which FAO collects and categorises data is found in **BOX1** and information on its data sources are found in **BOX 2**.

The data provided in the report was analysed in order to determine the completeness of the data set and to identify areas of deficiency. The detailed analysis is found in Table 1 below. The quality/reliability/age of the data has been described based on tiers, which is fully outlined in Box 1.

The FRA Assessment questionnaire contained 21 questions. Of the 21 responses five (5) or 23.8% have been defined as Tier 3 that is highest quality. Six (6) questions (28.6%) were answered using Tier 2 data, which means that adjustment, recalculation, and reclassification of the data was required. In eight (8) cases or 38.1% there was no rating of the data available and the answer to the question could be regarded as incomplete.

The areas in which the responses were strongest was with regards to forest cover,

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<sup>8</sup> Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015, How are the world's

## BOX 1 APPROACH

When FRA began in 1948, FAO was the only organization collecting and reporting global forest resource information. Today there are many international and regional organizations involved in measuring, monitoring and reporting forest resource data, mostly using remote sensing with Box 1. little or no information other than tree cover area estimates. In 2011, six international organizations and processes came together to create the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ), representing some 100 countries and 88 percent of the world's forest area. These organizations now jointly collect data on over 60 percent of the total number of variables collected through the FRA process. These data are then shared among the CFRQ partners; as a result, data are collected once and used many times. This both reduces the reporting burden and increases data consistency across organizations. The CFRQ partnership has also helped to standardize definitions and timing of data collection.

FRA 2015 provides indicators of data quality, introducing a tier system in which most variables are labelled by countries according to a pre-established set of definitions. The main purpose of the tiers is to indicate data quality, primarily age of the data and nature of the original data source. Tier 3 is the most recent and most robust data source, Tier 2 older and less complete, and Tier 1 an expert estimate.

forest degradation, biodiversity conservation, forest management plans, and protection using remote sensing technology supported by its GIS mapping capability. Perhaps the main reason for this is that the data is under the control of the FD. That is, in the main the Agency are the generators of the data.

There were significant gaps in the areas of private ownership, employment in the sector, revenues and expenditure on forests, SFM, gross domestic product (GDP) and forecasting changes in land use.

There are several reasons for these gaps. These are summarised as follows:

- 1) Insufficient resources (human and financial) for measurement and data collection – affects timeliness of measurements and reporting.
- 2) Shortage of equipment (measuring devices, GIS infrastructure etc).
- 3) Absence of multi organisational framework and commitment to provide data.
- 4) No formal online data base to facilitate multi-agency uploading of data given cross cutting multi-sectoral nature of the forest sector.
- 5) No agreed methodology for calculation of GDP and other socio-economic data.
- 6) No agreed framework of criteria and indicators to measure SFM.

## BOX 2 Data Sources

Data collection and reporting leading up to 2015 was guided by a series of workshops and training sessions designed to maximize consistency between reports. For FRA 2015, data were also acquired through the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS), the online data collection portal of FAO. Countries were given templates with data they had submitted for FRA 2010.

Countries were requested to revise and update the former figures when new data were available and then estimate the figures for 2015. In addition to providing the data reported by countries, FAO has worked with national correspondents to provide data assembled from other sources. Most of these are sources previously provided by national governments to the United Nations, including data on population, land area and wood removals.

It is important to note that all Country Reports were independently peer-reviewed by FAO staff, partners in the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire and external experts. Peer-review comments were provided to national correspondents for inclusion in the Country Reports and, where necessary, corrections of individual Country Reports were made before the data were included in the final FRA 2015 database.

The reporting format for countries encourages them to provide data for references and calculations.

Table 1 Summary of Responses and Data Quality for Jamaica's FRA 2015

Question	Full response	Tier	Comment/Sources
1. What is the area of forest and other wooded land and how has it changed over time? <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>	Yes	Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn O. B and Camirand R., 2003. Forestry cover and deforestation in Jamaica: an analysis of forest cover and estimates over time. Jamaica. International Forestry Review, 5(4), 2003, pp. 354-363 (Table 6)</li> <li>• Annual Reports (Forestry Department)</li> <li>• 1989-1998,</li> </ul>
2. What is the area of natural and planted forest and how has it changed over time?	Yes	Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn O. B and Camirand R., 2003. Forestry cover and deforestation in Jamaica: an analysis of forest cover and estimates over time. Jamaica. International Forestry Review, 5(4), 2003, pp. 354-363 (Table 6)</li> </ul>
3. What are the stocks and growth rates of the forests and how have they changed?	Yes	Tier 2/Teir1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Camirand R. and Evelyn O.B., 2003. Forestry Department-Trees for Tomorrow Project. 2004.National Forest Inventory Report 2003, Main Report and Appendices 1 to V</li> <li>• Davis, C., Evelyn, O.B., Simpson, L.A., and Smith, I.T., 2008. Jamaica's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, 2000 – 2005, Final Report</li> </ul>
4. What is the status of forest production and how has it changed over time?	No	Tier 2/Teir1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Department. 2001. National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. Jamaica 1990-2000</li> <li>• Camirand R. and Evelyn O.B., 2003. Forestry Department-Trees for Tomorrow Project. 2004.National Forest Inventory Report 2003, Main Report, and Appendices 1 to V (Table 21)</li> <li>• FAO data</li> </ul>
5. How much forest area is managed for protection of soil and water and ecosystem services?	No	Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Department. 2001. National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. Jamaica 1990-2000</li> </ul>
6. How much forest area is protected and designated for the conservation of biodiversity and how has it changed overtime?	Yes	Tier 3/Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Department. 2001. National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. Jamaica 1990-2000</li> <li>• Camirand R. and Evelyn O.B., 2003. Forestry Department-Trees for Tomorrow Project. 2004. National Forest Inventory Report 2003, Main Report, and Appendices 1 to V (Table 21)</li> <li>• 1990 -2000</li> </ul>
7. What is the area of forest affected by woody invasive species?	No	Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FRA 2010, Table 10c</li> </ul>
8. How much forest area is damaged each year?	Yes	Tier 3/Tier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Department, Regional Reports</li> <li>• Jamaica Fire Brigade</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All-Island Jamaica sugar Cane Farmer's Association</li> <li>2000-2012</li> </ul>
9. What is the forest area with reduced canopy cover?	No	N/A	No data available
10. What forest policy and regulatory framework exists to support implementation of sustainable forest management SFM?	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Forest Act, 1996</li> <li>Forest Regulations, 2001</li> <li>Forest Policy, 2001</li> </ul>
11. Is there a national platform that promotes stakeholder participation in forest policy development?	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry Department. 2001. National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. Jamaica 1990-2000</li> <li>Forest Policy, 2001</li> </ul>
12. What is the forest area intended to be in permanent forest land use and how has it changed over time?	Yes	Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camirand R. and Evelyn O.B., 2003. Forestry Department-Trees for Tomorrow Project. 2004. National Forest Inventory Report 2003, Main Report, and Appendices 1 to V (Table 21)/Table 6</li> <li>Forestry Department. 2001. National Forest Management and Conservation Plan. 1990-2000</li> </ul>
13. How does your country measure and report progress towards SFM at the national level?	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry Department's annual reports</li> <li>Department's submission to the State of the Environment Report</li> <li>2011-2012</li> </ul>
14. What is the area of forest under a forest management plan and how is this monitored?	Yes	Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Forest Management Plans and The Blue and John Crow Mountain National Park Management Plan, Jamaica</li> <li>2011-2016</li> </ul>
15. How are stakeholders involved in the management decision making for publicly owned forests?	Yes	Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No measurable criteria</li> </ul>
16. What is the area of forest under an independently verified forest certification scheme?			Not applicable
17. How much money do governments collect from and spend on forests?	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forestry Department, Accounts Department</li> <li>2000, 2005 &amp; 2010</li> </ul>
18. Who owns and manages the forests and how has this changed?	No	Tier 2/Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camirand R. and Evelyn O.B., 2003. Forestry Department-Trees for Tomorrow Project. 2004. National Forest Inventory Report 2003, Main Report, and Appendices 1 to V (Table 21)</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1989- 1998</li> </ul>
19. How many people are directly employed in forestry?	No	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Department 173 Constant Spring Road, Employment Records -1990,2000, 2005 &amp;2010</li> </ul>
20. What is the contribution of forestry to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?	No	N/A	UNdata/EUROSTAT
21. What is forest area likely to be in the future?	No	N/A	National Works Agency, Stanley Consultants Jamalco Forestry Department

Notes: **Tier 3:** Data sources: Either recent (less than 10 years ago) National Forest Inventory or remote sensing, with ground truthing, or programme for repeated compatible NFIs **Tier 2:** Data sources: Full cover mapping / remote sensing or old NFI (more than 10 years ago) **Tier 1:** Other



## 2.3 Voluntary National Report to 11th Session of UNFF

### 2.3.1 Overview

Since UNFF 8 voluntary national reporting to the Forum has primarily focused on progress in the implementation of the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests. With regards to reporting on the Forest Instrument; the international policy dialogue through the IPF/IFF/UNFF generated approximately 500 proposals for actions and operative paragraphs of resolutions formed the overarching international political framework for the achievement of sustainable forest management and served as a basis for the negotiation, adoption, and implementation by UN Member States of the forest instrument. The UNFF as part of this data gathering exercise has provided countries with formats and guidelines that were prepared in consultation with CPF member organizations. At that stage, the information that was requested was mainly text rather than qualitative. For both the eighth and ninth sessions, countries were requested to report on their work in three different thematic areas, as well as on the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests. Given the non-obligatory nature of the format country reports tended to be open-ended, and were often lengthy and hence difficult to analyse and integrate.

Given their breadth and number, it is understandable that reporting to the UNFF typically covered a broad range of thematic issues with detailed actions and measures, which for many governments was difficult to address. As a result, there has been an uneven response from countries. For example, eighty-six countries have provided voluntary national reports during the period 2002 to 2011, ranging from a low of 14 in 2002 to a high of 54 in 2005. Although 54 countries submitted national reports, only 15 countries completed the questionnaire, but most were developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Despite the difficulties, the reports helped to fuel extensive discussions on the trends in sustainable forest management and exposed that many developing countries and countries with economies in transition lacked the adequate resources and technical guidance required for preparing the focused reports needed to effectively analyse progress in the work promoted by the Forum. Additionally, many countries, both developing and developed, felt burdened by the collective reporting requirements of multilateral environmental agreements.

Consequently, Member States mainly from developing countries, identified several challenges that need to be addressed more efficiently in order to realize the forest instrument's potential. These included:

- overcoming inadequate means of implementation, particularly financing;
- strengthening institutional capacities in the forest sector, including training forestry personnel;
- strengthening forest monitoring capabilities;
- revising and strengthening forest legislation;
- improving governance;
- addressing more effectively inter-sectoral conflicts;
- improving and diversifying economic benefits generated by forest goods and services for small forest owners and indigenous communities;
- developing accounting and valuation systems that consider forest goods and services; and
- resolving unsettled land tenure issues.

From the UNFF Secretariat vantage point the overarching challenge for improving reporting is to elicit more and better quality national reports to UNFF 10 and 11 in order to gauge more effectively progress in the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of its four global objectives on forests, with special emphasis on the review of the international arrangement on forests, including the forest instrument, and its contributions to the achievement of the SDGs. Against this background UNFF has identified the following challenges that need to be addressed.

1. Increasing public awareness at the national level among public and private sector stakeholders.
2. Building the forest instrument more effectively into national forest and relevant cross-sectoral policies, plans, strategies, and programmes.
3. Strengthening the capacity of countries in monitoring, assessment, and reporting in support of the UNFF and the forest instrument through pilot projects and capacity building exercises.
4. Preparing a more focused, streamlined architecture for national reporting.
5. Identifying and selecting the most appropriate indicators for quantifiably measuring progress in the implementation of the forest instrument and the achievement of its four global objectives on forests.
6. Ensuring that the streamlined reporting compliments country reporting requirements for other forest-related agreements and initiatives, particularly global and regional criteria, and indicators processes, without increasing country reporting burdens.
7. Encouraging a more proactive role by CPF members, regional and sub regional organizations in supporting countries in the preparation of their national reports.

Jamaica is currently one of six countries taking part in a pilot project and the following section of the report describes the countries experiences in completing the voluntary national report to the 11<sup>th</sup> session which is a revised format intended to simplify the reporting requirement and minimize any areas of overlap.

### 2.3.2 Review of Jamaica's report and identification of gaps

The questionnaire is divided in two sections. Part 1 relates mainly to progress on the FI and Part 2 focuses on the SFM and the contribution of forests to MDGs. The questionnaire is administered every three years.

Part one of the questionnaire contains 18 questions – the majority of which were framed in ways that necessitated qualitative responses supported and verified by documents. Some questions required information regarding the effectiveness of programmes. For example - to what extent have actions such as the Forest Policy or NFP been effective in the implementation of the FI. In general, there appears to be no globally agreed criteria on effectiveness that were measurably. As a result Jamaica's responses were based on information extracted from reports coupled with expert judgement. While there is nothing inherently wrong with this it does not provide a framework for measuring and monitoring areas of interest. To a large extent then the information remains anecdotal and may continue to pose challenges to standardising and synthesizing data at the local, region and global levels.

The answers to questions regarding financing whether in support of the forestry sector through ecosystem services or domestic or project funding did not receive fulsome answers. This indicates that help is required to build capacity on valuation tools and well as fund raising capabilities.

With regards to the questions related to socio-economic issues like eradicating poverty and hunger, contributing to employment and livelihoods, fuel wood and food security, while answers were provided there was no supporting documentation and this strongly suggests that there are opportunities to strengthen this area of reporting. The same is true for questions related to contributions to achieving the MDGs and no doubt the same difficulties will be experienced in measuring, monitoring, and reporting on contributions to SDG. It appears that this area could benefit from more clearly defined indicators and criteria, which would help the Agency to develop its monitoring and evaluation programme.

Measuring the impact and progression of SFM is at best a challenging task. Questions 1,3, 7,9,11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 of the UNFF questionnaire are linked to SFM. Jamaica responded to all the questions; but, it was evident from the responses that criteria and indicators to measure performance in SFM have not yet been fully developed and that to do so would require some agreement on what is entailed in SFM in the Jamaican context.

Fortunately, even though globally, SFM means different things to different people there has been some progress which could form the basis of strengthening Jamaica's efforts on monitoring and reporting on SFM. The United Nations have defined it as "a dynamic and evolving concept, [that] is intended to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations"<sup>9</sup>. Against that background, over the past decade at the international level and in support of the monitoring and reporting process for the SDGs indicators for SFM have been developed. In an attempt at building congruence in the effort criteria and indicators have categorised in seven thematic areas as follows.

- Extent of forest resources
- Biodiversity
- Forest health and vitality
- Productive functions of forest resources
- Protective functions of forest resources
- Socioeconomic functions
- Policy, legal and institutional framework

In both the data provided for FAO and UNFF Jamaica does have some information which aligns to these areas. Nevertheless, more criteria indicators will need to be developed and the resources put in place, to measure, monitor and report on these. There is much that can be garnered from other countries to help in this process.

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<sup>9</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/62/98 of 31 January 2008 ([www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/62/98](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/62/98)).

Part II of the UNFF's questionnaire sought to determine the country's contribution to the MDGs. No doubt future questionnaires will focus on the SDGs. The country responded to the questions but did not provide sufficient data to support the responses, which is a deficiency that will need to be addressed in the future. The development of SFM criteria and indicators would contribute significantly to addressing the issue.

## 3.0 National Reporting

The review of the inventory of available forest data to satisfy national reporting requirements were evaluated through arguably the two most important reports of the forestry sector at the National level. These are the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan and the Medium Term Socioeconomic Framework Report.

### 3.1 National Forest Management and Conservation Plan

The development of a forest action plan was determined to be the most appropriate framework through which to sustainably manage the forest sector and the Forest Act, 1996 enshrined the requirement for the Conservator of Forests to prepare a National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP) so critical was it viewed for the management of Jamaica's forest sector. The first such plan was completed in March 2001 and spanned the ten-year period 2001-2010. A new plan for 2016-2026 has been approved by the GoJ. The section below will review the lessons learnt from an evaluation of the NFMCP 2001-2010 with respect to the use and availability of monitoring and evaluation data. The subsequent section will provide an outline of the monitoring and evaluation plan for the NFMCP 2016-2026.

#### 3.1.1 Review NFMCP 2001-2010

In 2015, a gap assessment on the accomplishment of the 2001 Plan<sup>10</sup> was undertaken with the view of building on the lessons learnt. The execution of the plan required a high degree on interagency collaboration, which in some cases were not provided to the extent needed. Therefore, the execution of the plan lacked financial and human resources in many key areas. As a result, the ability to monitor and report was also impaired and was identified as a significant gap. Despite these constraints, the gap assessment found that during the 2001 to 2015 period the Forestry Department and its partners were successful in building the capacity of the Agency by strengthening its monitoring framework, improving information systems and biophysical inventory that informs its forest management decisions, establishing, and upgrading nursery facilities, re-establishing the Forest Research Branch and investing in the training of community forest specialists. The table below provides a summary.

In general, the report found some weakness in data availability and suggested that this was due to the absence of a consistent monitoring approach and absence of a comprehensive monitoring plan. The report noted that there were variations in collection frequencies and that important information was absent regarding issues like the success of reforestation (survival), results of timber harvest, and monitoring of climate change adaptation measures. With respect to matters related to forest inventory, there were commendable efforts with respect in remote sensing of forest resources, which produced estimates of change in forest cover over time. Nevertheless, there were gaps in respect of important forest types for example mangroves, swamps, and areas critical to biodiversity.

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<sup>10</sup> Forestry Department National Forest Management and Conservation Plan 2001 Gap Summary, April 2015

Table 2 Summary Gap Assessment NFMCP 2001-2010

	Strategy Objective	Number of Actions	Number Met	Number Partially Met	Number with Gaps	% fully met	% Gaps
A	Build FD	17	5	6	6	29.4	35.3
B	Private Forests and Participation	3	1	2	0	33.3	0
C	Public Awareness	12	10	2	0	83.3	0
D	Forest Management Plans	27	5	6	16	18.5	59.3
E	Restore Forest Cover	14	2	1	11	14.3	78.6
F	CC Adaptation	12	0	6	6	0.0	50.0
G	Forest Management	16	5	8	3	31.3	19.00
H	Forest Benefits	6	0	0	6	0.0	100

**Key:**

	70% or more fully or partially met
	50% or more fully or partially met
	Less than 50% fully or partially met

A significant gap identified in the report was the lack of a comprehensive approach to inventory of forest resources. The writers saw the continuous updating of forest inventory data as critical to the FD's ability to monitor change.

The report also alluded to the absence of sufficient funding to support the implementation of forest management plans. In addition, avenues to garner additional revenues to the sector have not been well defined. Further, understanding forests benefits, the values of forest land (including timber and non-timber goods and services), the economic contribution of forests to the well-being and livelihoods of forest communities; while important to FD goals were not adequately quantified or described. That is, gaps remain in describing socioeconomic conditions; that is trends of economic contributions, community impacts/earnings, public benefits, and motivations for participating in conservation and restoration. These gaps in information along with absence of resource valuation tools and expertise make it difficult to evaluate the contribution of the forest sector to the economy and to develop a case and as incentives for protection of forest lands as well as expanding economic incentives for conservation and restoration.

The following areas were found to be deficient in data.

Forest Inventory/Boundary Surveys

- Biodiversity no baseline established
- Partial biophysical data - analysis to establish baseline incomplete
- Boundary surveys incomplete lack surveyors, equipment, and financing

## Socioeconomic Assessment

- Data on livelihoods insufficient
- Limited data on timber harvesting and other non-timber resource extraction
- Data on services inadequate

## Climate change

- No comprehensive programme on carbon sequestration

### 3.1.2 NFMCP 2016-2026

The Monitoring and evaluation Plan for the NFMCP is now completed. The NFMCP 2016-2026 is the overarching plan for the forest sector in Jamaica and its implementation over the next 10 years will depend on adequate financing, coordination and collaboration amongst the stakeholders, availability of techniques and technologies and ongoing awareness, education, and capacity strengthening.

The Logic Model which has been used to develop the M&E Plan postulates that NFMCP stakeholders will collaborate to implement a set of strategic actions across ... strategic pillars and ... strategic objectives to address priority issues facing the forest sector in Jamaica. If these priority issues, are not addressed, various existing pressures and future threats human, biological and environmental, socio-economic threats will continue to devalue the forests. These priority issues include:

- the scope (reach) of the existing policy, legislative, regulatory, and institutional frameworks, the extent to which forestry issues are mainstreamed in other sectors;
- the need to improve coordination and foster forest research and the need for information on climate resilient species and habitats;
- the need to protect the biodiversity of the forest ecosystems and closed broadleaf forests and other high-risk forest types;
- the need to improve stakeholders' capacity to address deforestation and degradation and adopt climate resilient, sustainable forest management (SFM) practices, tools, and methodologies to improve and restore forest health and vitality;
- the need for understanding and appreciation of the value of the forest and its contribution to social and economic growth and development;
- the need to strengthen the scientific knowledge that informs the actions of policy-makers, practitioners, and other stakeholders;
- the need to increase benefits from forests to forest communities;
- the need to increase capacity to inform forest management and conservation decisions; and
- the need to improve attitudes and behaviours of the public towards forest resources.

In the long-term, the successful implementation of the NFMCP is expected to result in the sustainable management, protection, conservation, restoration and utilization of Jamaica's forest resources to enhance social and economic development and build climate resilience. Against this background the monitoring and evaluation plan will be of critical importance to chart the performance in terms of execution of the NFMCP.

Monitoring involves the collection, collation, and analysis of data about project activities. The M&E Plan will have impact / outcome level indicators, which are aligned with the plan's goal, strategic objectives, and intermediate and immediate results.

To make the ME&R strategy operational the following will be required:

Step 1 – Refining and finalising indicators in consultation with the technical teams and sector stakeholders.

Step 2 – Agreeing on definitions for each performance measure and the level disaggregates to be used.

Step 3 – Determining the sector wide data sources and collection methods for each indicator.

Step 4 – Establishing the baseline and project annual and life of project targets.

Step 5 – Establishing data collection system and processes (including assigning roles and responsibilities and the means for data verification).

Step 6 – Implementing ME&R system and make necessary adjustments.

In terms of evaluation indicator-level data will be analysed and used to prepare annual progress reports, as well as *ad hoc* performance updates. Indicator data will also inform any planned mid-term or end of strategy assessments of the NFMCP. In addition to annual reporting requirements, sector level reporting will be carried out against Medium Term Socioeconomic Framework.

While the plan is not yet finalized, it offers an opportunity to address many of the gaps that have been discussed in previous sections of the report. It could be the platform from which institutional strengthening and capacity building takes place in a coherent fashion to meet the data needs of local, regional, and global partners.

## **3.2 Medium Term Socio Economic Framework**

Jamaica Vision 2030 is the country's first long-term strategic development plan and is being implemented through a series of three –year Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Frameworks (MTFs)<sup>11</sup>, which is directly linked to the plan. The MTF guides the implementation of Jamaica Vision 2030 through the identification of the priority outcomes, strategies, and actions for each three-year interval from 2009 to 2030. The Table below outlines the national goal that links the forest sector to the national plan.

Vision 2030; Jamaica's national development plan; considering deteriorating air and water quality; loss of biodiversity; watershed degradation; net loss of forest cover; and increasing incidence of forest fires being experienced within the country; recognises that effective management of ecosystems such as terrestrial forests and wetland forests are essential for sustainable economic development. And in this respect, acknowledges the role of the forest sector in ensuring the integrity of the nation's ecosystem services.

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<sup>11</sup> GOJ Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework 2015-2018, Planning Institute of Jamaica



Table 3 Jamaica Vision 2030 National Goal 4 and related outcomes.

National Goal 4	National Outcomes
Jamaica has a healthy natural environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13 -Sustainable management and use of environmental and natural resources</li> <li>• 14- Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change</li> <li>• 15- Sustainable urban and rural development</li> </ul>

The 2016 NFMCP is expected to contribute to the goals of the 2015-2018 MTF -and National Outcome # 13 – Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources and National Outcome # 14 – Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change.

In terms of Outcome #13, the priorities are related to improving the state of the natural environment, thereby contributing to reduced vulnerabilities, and advancing socioeconomic development. The NFMCP is linked to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) # 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15; that is to:

- ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; and
- protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

In the case of National Outcome # 14 – Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change the NFMCP is aligned to SDGs Goals # 13 and 15 to:

- take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; and
- protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss.

The Agency will have the responsibility of reporting on these elements of the MTF and will need to strengthen their monitoring capabilities with respect to areas of socioeconomic impact and services to the environment. While they are presently providing reports based on the limited data.; there is a need here to strengthen the reporting capacity. This will require building institutional capacity and capabilities of with the FD and its key partners and the needs in this case are aligned with those identified to support monitoring and reporting on the NFMCP.

## 4.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The report provided a situational analysis of Jamaica's monitoring and reporting efforts within the context of its obligations to the UNFF and other multilateral organisations as well as its national reporting responsibilities. In this regard, the analysis has largely focused on the FD as the main organisation in the country with responsibility for the forest sector. Much effort has been on describing and evaluating the status of its monitoring and reporting within the FD. However, notwithstanding that approach; the investigation has found that the challenges faced by the FD are mirrored by the Agency's key partners in the forest sector who are listed below.

- National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)
- National Land Agency (NLA)
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM)
- Meteorological Service Jamaica (MSJ)
- Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC)
- Ministry of Transport and Mining (MTM)
- University of the West Indies Mona– Department of Life Sciences
- University of the West Indies Mona– Centre for Marine Sciences
- Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT)
- Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)
- Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)

However, given the FD's coordinating role in the forest sector its challenges and potential solutions are given the highest priority. Any positive changes within the Agency's monitoring and reporting programmes will be of value to and support other organisations who rely heavily on the FD for reporting to multilateral organisations regarding the country's obligations to MEAs.

The conclusion and recommendations which are presented below have been informed by the project findings and presented to three stakeholder meetings. In general, the recommendations have been accepted by the stakeholders who urged greater involvement of Local Forest Management Groups in the data collection process and in monitoring and evaluation activities.

The following sections of the report outlines the conclusions and recommendations.

### 4.1 Conclusions

The climate change challenge has awakened the world to the importance of the forest sector to building climate change resilience and to contributing to sustainable development. Therefore, arguably at no time in the history of environmental policy at the global level has there been such a convergence and integration of global goals and obligations manifested through the MDGs, SDGs, and UNFF among others.

The 2030 development agenda towards has now been defined, including the new Sustainable Development Goals. Forests and their role in protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems and their services are essential for the post-2015 development agenda. Against this background, the reliability

of the information collected in this area must continue to improve in order to contribute to shaping and informing the policy agendas and programmes locally, regionally, and globally.

In the case of Jamaica there have been improvements in the monitoring and reporting within the forest sector. Yet significant gaps remain in terms of measuring the socioeconomic impact of forest, valuation of forest resources and ecosystem services, carbon sequestration and the identification of criteria and indicators with regards to SFM. Additionally, higher levels of performance are now required from the forest sector in line with the implementation of the NFMCP 2016-2026 and the importance of the sector in building the country's resilience to climate change and in this regard, robust reliable, monitoring and reporting mechanisms are critically important.

So, while Jamaica has a platform from which to strengthen its monitoring and reporting programme it faces several challenges. These are summarised as follows:

1. the institutional capacity, including comprehensive monitoring and assessment programmes, required to effectively manage the sector;
2. adequacy of human, infrastructure, and financial resources;
3. absence of critical skills in resource valuation and socioeconomic impact analysis;
4. absence of agreed methodologies to determine socioeconomic impacts within the sector;
5. difficulty in monitoring the action and measures within the forest instrument;
6. the lack of agreed consistent approach to determining indicators for measuring progress in implementing SFM; and
7. problem of reporting requirements to the UNFF, other related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).

Despite, these challenges the country is well poised to embrace any opportunities, which may arise to address these challenges because of a gradually changing mind set and an improving absorptive capacity.

## **4.2 Recommendations**

Over the past twenty-five years, since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED); internationally, several different processes and initiatives have developed criteria and indicators (C&I) as a framework for SFM. C&I provide a framework that characterizes the essential components of SFM, and recognise forests as ecosystems that provide a wide range of environmental, economic, and social benefits to society and have emerged as a powerful tool in promoting sustainable forest management (SFM).

To a large degree these C&I are all encompassing as SFM spreads its influence in all aspects of forest management; that is forest inventory, forest policy and programmes, forest financing and sustainability indicators.

In light of this reality and centred on the Agency's reporting requirements to UNFF, FAO, NFMCP 2016-2026, MFT and the reporting demands, which will arise as part of Jamaica UNREDD+ preparedness the following actions are recommended.

1. Design a comprehensive monitoring programme for the Agency and its key reporting partners e.g. NEPA, ODPEM, MS and STATIN.

2. Design an on-line data management system which supports the reporting framework and facilitates multiple users.
3. Strengthen the Agency's capacity to measure by supporting further investment in remote sensing, ground truthing and GIS mapping.
4. Strengthen the Agency's capabilities in resource valuation, carbon sequestration, and SFM monitoring.
5. Support a special project to develop appropriate and transferable methodologies for determining socioeconomic impact of the forest sector involving key local entities e.g. UWI Department of Economic, Statin, RADA, WRA and PIOJ at a minimum. And implement incrementally through a pilot project.
6. Consider further, streamlining and where applicable integrating the reporting obligations to FAO and UNFF.

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## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix 1 – United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2013

United Nations

E /2017/10-E /CN.18/SS/2017/2



**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General  
8 February 2017

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### Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its 2017 special session

New York, 20 January 2017

#### **I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention**

#### **Draft resolution for adoption by the Council**

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020**

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Recalling* its resolution 2015/33 of 22 July 2015, in which it decided that the United Nations Forum on Forests should develop a concise strategic plan for the period 2017-2030 to serve as a strategic framework to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components, and that it should consider proposals on the replacement of the reference to the Millennium Development Goals

in paragraph 1 (b) of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests<sup>1</sup> with an appropriate reference to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and on the strategic plan for the period 2017-2030,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution [70/199](#) of 22 December 2015, in which the Assembly renamed the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as the United Nations forest instrument,

1. *Approves* the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 contained in annex I to the present resolution and recommends to the General

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution [62/98](#), annex.

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Assembly its adoption prior to the twelfth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

*Also approves* the quadrennial programme of work of the Forum for the period 2017-2020 contained in annex II to the present resolution;

2. *Recommends* that the General Assembly amend the reference to the Millennium Development Goals in paragraph 1 (b) of the United Nations forest instrument to read: “To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals”.

## **Annex I United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Vision and mission**

1. Forests are among the world’s most productive land-based ecosystems and are essential to life on earth. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 provides a global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests, and to halt deforestation and forest degradation. The strategic plan also provides a framework for forest-related contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>12</sup> the Paris Agreement<sup>13</sup> adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>14</sup> the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>15</sup> the United Nations Convention to

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<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

<sup>13</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21, annex.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.



Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,<sup>16</sup> the United Nations forest instrument<sup>17</sup> and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals.

2. The strategic plan serves as a reference framework for the forest-related work of the United Nations system and for the fostering of enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among United Nations bodies and partners towards the vision and mission set out below. It also serves as a framework to enhance the coherence of, guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components.

#### **Shared United Nations vision**

3. The shared United Nations vision is of world in which all types of forests and trees outside forests are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development

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and provide economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits for present and future generations.

#### **Shared United Nations mission**

4. The shared United Nations mission is to promote sustainable forest management and the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by strengthening cooperation, coordination, coherence, synergies and political commitment and action at all levels.

### **B. Importance of forests to people and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

5. Forests cover 30 per cent of the Earth's land area, or nearly 4 billion hectares, and are essential to human well-being, sustainable development and the health of the planet.<sup>18</sup> An estimated 1.6 billion people, or 25 per cent of the global population, depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation.
6. Forests provide essential ecosystem services, such as timber, food, fuel, fodder, non-wood products and shelter, as well as contribute to soil and water conservation and clean air. Forests prevent land degradation and desertification and reduce the risk of floods, landslides, avalanches, droughts, dust-storms, sandstorms and other natural disasters. Forests are home to an estimated 80 per cent of all terrestrial species. Forests contribute

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

<sup>17</sup> The United Nations forest instrument was adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests and the General Assembly in 2007. It sets out four shared global objectives on forests and 44 national and international policies, measures and actions to implement sustainable forest management and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

<sup>18</sup> For a glossary of forest-related definitions, see the terms and definitions for the most recent Global Forest Resources Assessment of FAO. Available from [www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf](http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf).

substantially to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to the conservation of biodiversity.

7. When sustainably managed, all types of forests are healthy, productive, resilient and renewable ecosystems, providing essential goods and services to people worldwide. In many regions, forests also have important cultural and spiritual value. As set out in the United Nations forest instrument, “Sustainable forest management, as a dynamic and evolving concept, is intended to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations”.
8. The sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 15 (“Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss”).
9. In recognition of the extraordinary importance of forests to people, the General

Assembly, in its resolution [67/200](#), proclaimed 21 March as the International Day of Forests, which is celebrated around the world each year to raise awareness and promote action on forest issues.

### C. Trends and challenges

10. Despite the crucial contribution of forests to life on earth and human wellbeing, deforestation and forest degradation continue in many regions, often in

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response to the demand for wood, food, fuel and fibre. Many drivers of deforestation lie outside the forest sector and are rooted in wider social and economic issues, including challenges related to reducing poverty, urban development and policies that favour land uses that produce higher and more rapid financial returns, such as agriculture, energy, mining and transportation.

11. Forests are also at risk from illegal or unsustainable logging, unmanaged fires, pollution, dust-storms, sandstorms and wind-storms, disease, pests, invasive alien species, fragmentation and the impact of climate change, including severe weather events, all of which threaten the health of forests and their ability to function as productive and resilient ecosystems.

12. Continued rapid population growth, as well as rising per capita income, is accelerating the global demand for and consumption of forest products and services and putting pressure on forests. With the world population projected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, meeting future demand for forest products and services depends on urgent action and cross-sectoral policy coordination at all levels to secure sustainable forest management, including forest conservation, restoration and expansion.

13. At the global level, there is a need to reduce fragmentation and enhance coordination among the many international organizations, institutions and instruments addressing forest issues.

14. At the national, local and regional levels, cross-sectoral coordination on forests can be weak, and forest authorities and stakeholders may not be full partners in land use planning and development decisions.

15. The effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and, in particular, the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition. Implementation of sustainable forest management is also critically dependent upon good governance at all levels.

#### **D. Opportunities for enhanced and value-added action on sustainable forest management**

16. The launch of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors at all levels, within and beyond the United Nations system, to safeguard the world's forests and their multiple values, functions and benefits, now and in the future.

17. The strategic plan is aimed at building on the momentum provided by the 2015 global milestones represented by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda<sup>8</sup> and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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<sup>8</sup> See General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

18. The United Nations system can contribute to these initiatives and achieve the vision and mission for forests by advancing a set of global goals and targets in support of the sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside forests.

#### **E. International arrangement on forests**

19. The international arrangement on forests is composed of the United Nations Forum on Forests, a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, and the 197 States members thereof, the secretariat of the Forum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network and the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests. The Forum is the United Nations body mandated to address forest-related issues in an integrated and holistic manner and oversees implementation of the strategic plan and the United Nations forest instrument, as well as operation of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network.

20. The work of the Forum is supported by its secretariat, the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is a voluntary partnership chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and comprised of 14 international organizations with significant programmes on forests.<sup>19</sup> The functions of the Forum, its secretariat and the Collaborative Partnership are contained in Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33.

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<sup>19</sup> For a list of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, see the website of the Partnership ([www.cpfweb.org](http://www.cpfweb.org)).

21. The international arrangement on forests involves as partners a variety of international, regional, sub regional and non-governmental organizations and processes with forest-related programmes and recognizes the important role of major groups and other relevant stakeholders at all levels in promoting and achieving sustainable forest management worldwide.
22. The objectives of the international arrangement on forests are to:
  - (a) Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument;
  - (b) Enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
  - (c) Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest related issues at all levels;
  - (d) Foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation, at all levels;
  - (e) Support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations forest instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

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## II. Global forest goals and targets

23. At the heart of the strategic plan are six global forest goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. These goals and targets, set out below, fully encompass and build on the solid foundation provided by the four global objectives on forests included in the United Nations forest instrument.

24. The global forest goals and targets are voluntary and universal. They support the objectives of the international arrangement on forests and are aimed at contributing to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,<sup>20</sup> the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals.

25. The vision, principles and commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide the context for the global forest goals and targets, which are interconnected and integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable forest management and sustainable development.

26. The global forest goals and targets are intended to stimulate and provide a framework for voluntary actions, contributions and enhanced cooperation by countries and international, regional, sub regional and non-governmental partners and stakeholders. They also provide a reference for

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<sup>20</sup> United Nations Environment Programme, document [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27](#), annex, decision X/2, annex.

<sup>11</sup> Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

enhanced coherence and collaboration on forests within the United Nations system and among member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as among other forest-related organizations and processes.

27. The global goals and targets encompass a wide variety of thematic areas in regard to which voluntary actions, contributions and cooperation are needed to advance their achievement. These thematic areas reflect and encompass the 44 policies, measures and actions set out in the United Nations forest instrument. A non-exhaustive list of indicative thematic areas for action is contained in the appendix to the present document. Indicative thematic areas may correspond to more than one goal.

### **Global forest goal 1**

**Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change**

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide<sup>11</sup>
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

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1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1-15.4 and 15.8, as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15

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

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

Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c, as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 4, 14 and 18

**Global forest goal 3                      Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests**

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased 3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4, as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 7, 11, 12 and 16

**Global forest goal 4                      Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships**

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1-17.3, 17.6-17.7 and 17.16-17.19, as well as Aichi Biodiversity target 19

**Global forest goal 5                      Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- 5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased
- 5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide
- 5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution [61/295](#), annex.

- 5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5-16.7, 16.10 and 17.14, as well as Aichi Biodiversity targets 2 and 3

### **Global forest goal 6**

**Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders**

- 6.1 Forest-related programmes within the United Nations system are coherent and complementary and integrate the global forest goals and targets, where appropriate
- 6.2 Forest-related programmes across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are coherent and complementary and together encompass the multiple contributions of forests and the forest sector to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- 6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels
- 6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified
- 6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, Sustainable Development Goal target 17.14

### **III. Implementation framework**

28. The United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 provides a reference for ambitious and transformational actions by all actors, at all levels, to achieve its global forest goals and targets. An overview of roles and responsibilities and means of implementation is outlined below.

#### **A. Roles and responsibilities**                      **1. Members of the Forum**

29. The individual and collective actions and commitments of members of the Forum are decisive for the successful implementation of the strategic plan and achievement of its global forest goals and targets.

30. Members may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets, taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions.

31. Members may include in their voluntary national contributions, as appropriate, the forest-related contributions they intend to make regarding other international forest-related commitments and goals, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and actions to address climate change under the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

32. Members may, on a voluntary basis, communicate their progress on the voluntary national contributions to the United Nations Forum on Forests at regular intervals determined by the Forum, in accordance with paragraph 67 of the strategic plan for forests. In order to avoid any additional reporting burden, such voluntary communications on their voluntary national contributions may be part of their voluntary reporting on the strategic plan and the United Nations forest instrument.

33. Members of the Forum, as members of the governing bodies of forest-related international, regional and sub regional organizations and processes, as appropriate, are encouraged to promote the integration of the global forest goals and targets into the strategies and programmes of these organizations, processes and instruments, consistent with their mandates and priorities.

#### **2. United Nations Forum on Forests and its secretariat**

34. As part of the United Nations system and the international arrangement on forests, the Forum, in carrying out its core functions as defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, should be guided by the strategic plan for forests. The Forum's quadrennial programmes of work are to reflect its contribution to the global forest goals and targets for each quadrennium.

35. The Forum is the responsible intergovernmental body for follow up and review of the implementation of the strategic plan, including through providing guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and ensuring the smooth interplay between its odd- and even-year sessions.



36. The Forum secretariat services and supports the Forum in all matters related to the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work and the strategic plan.

37. The Forum should structure its annual sessions and enhance its intersessional activities to maximize the impact and relevance of its work under the quadrennial programmes of work, including by fostering cross-sectoral exchanges to enhance synergies inside and outside the United Nations.

### **3. Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its member organizations**

38. Member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests play an important role in implementing the strategic plan and are encouraged to integrate relevant global forest goals and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes, where appropriate and consistent with their respective mandates.

39. The Partnership is invited to support the Forum and its members in advancing the global forest goals and targets, including through cooperation and partnership among its members, implementing a joint workplan with the Partnership which is aligned with the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work and identifying collective actions by all or subsets of the Partnership's members, as well as associated resource needs.

40. Members of the Forum are encouraged to support the Partnership workplan as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence among member organizations of the Partnership. Members of the Forum are also encouraged to provide voluntary financial contributions to support the activities of the Partnership and its member organizations.

### **4. United Nations system**

41. Several United Nations bodies, organizations and specialized agencies not participating in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests address issues that are relevant to forests, such as eradication of poverty in its all forms, gender equality and the empowerment of women, labour standards, small and medium-sized enterprises, scientific and technical cooperation, disaster risk reduction, ecotourism and issues related to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These bodies, organizations and specialized agencies, within the scope of their mandates, are invited to use the strategic plan as a reference, with a view to building synergies between the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan and their respective policies and programmes, including their contributions to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. Close cooperation with the secretariats of, and the parties to, the Rio conventions,<sup>21</sup> and mutually supportive implementation of their forest-related objectives, is important to achieve the global forest goals and targets.

43. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination is also invited to promote the use of the strategic plan as a reference for forest-related work within the United Nations system, where appropriate.

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<sup>21</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

## **5. Other intergovernmental partners and stakeholders at the international level**

44. In addition to under the multilateral environmental agreements that are represented in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, forest-related activities are undertaken under a number of other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat,<sup>22</sup> the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora<sup>23</sup> and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage,<sup>24</sup> and can make important contributions to the global forest goals and targets. The secretariats of and parties to these agreements are invited to seek opportunities to contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan, where appropriate and consistent with their mandates.

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## **6. Regional and sub regional organizations and processes**

45. Regional bodies, notably the United Nations regional economic commissions and the FAO regional forestry commissions, and other regional and sub regional bodies and processes provide a crucial bridge between international policies and national actions and are important partners in efforts to implement the strategic plan and achieve its global forest goals and targets.

46. The Forum works with regional and sub regional bodies and processes to identify ways to contribute to the global forest goals and targets, including by encouraging them to exchange information, enhance cooperation, raise awareness, strengthen stakeholder engagement and build capacity to scale up best practices within and across regions.

47. Regional and sub regional bodies and processes, including those within the United Nations system, as well as the criteria and indicator processes, are encouraged to build and strengthen synergies between the strategic plan and their policies and programmes, including in the context of their contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. Members are invited to consider strengthening regional and sub regional forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to advance the strategic plan.

## **7. Major groups and other stakeholders**

49. The effective implementation of sustainable forest management depends on the contributions of all relevant stakeholders, including forest owners, indigenous peoples, local communities, local authorities, the private sector (including small, medium and large forest-based enterprises), non-governmental organizations, women, children, youth, and scientific, academic and philanthropic organizations at all levels.

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<sup>22</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 996, No. 14583.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 993, No. 14537.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1037, No. 15511.

50. The Forum endeavours to work with major groups and other relevant stakeholders to identify ways to enhance their contributions to the achievement of the global forest goals and targets at all levels and their interactions with the Forum and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including through networks, advisory groups and other mechanisms, to raise awareness, foster information exchange and dissemination and facilitate coordinated inputs.

51. Major groups and other relevant stakeholders such as private philanthropic organizations, educational and academic entities, volunteer groups and others, are encouraged to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms at all levels for interaction and participation in the Forum and other forest-related United Nations bodies.

## Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference

Terms of reference for national consultant

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat

### 1. Background

Monitoring sustainable forest management (SFM), and specifically criteria and indicators (C&I) has been a topic of discussion at the international, regional and national levels since the early 1990s. Several international and regional processes and initiatives have developed C&I to assess and report on progress towards SFM.

The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) has been a long-time supporter and promoter of criteria and indicators for SFM; UNFF Resolution 4/3 in 2004 led to a common understanding at the global level of the seven thematic elements of SFM, which were drawn from prior criteria and indicators processes, and which offered the reference framework for SFM. This framework has guided many countries as they sought to adopt national level C&I for monitoring and assessing progress towards SFM.

However, monitoring and reporting is a challenge for many countries, especially for developing countries which often lack the capacities (both human and financial) and adequate methodologies to conduct inventories. Most countries have good bio-physical data and indicators for “traditional forestry”, the socio-economic data on forests, however, is still missing.

The UNFF, at its Special Session on 20 January 2017, adopted the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and the Forum’s 4POW 2017-2020. At the heart of the UNSPF are 6 Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030. Among them is GFG2: “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people”

The UNFF Secretariat has received a wealth of information on the contribution of forests and SFM to livelihoods submitted through national reports. Countries have provided multiple examples which clearly demonstrated the direct contribution of forests to combating hunger and/or poverty reduction. Unfortunately this information was entirely anecdotal, with no systematic data on socio-economic aspects of forests and/or financial flows to support implementation of SFM. Some countries have provided estimations of socio-economic benefits; however, since the approaches and methodologies varied they could not be compared and/or presented in a coherent manner. Many reports, including from countries that are included in this project, pointed out the need for development of common methodologies for gathering information on benefits from forests (other than timber) and coherent data on financing of SFM. The fact there is little or no systematic socio-economic data on forests results in a situation where the contribution of forests to GDP/national economies is based mainly on timber. Since the full scope of contribution of forests to society and the planet is undervalued, and the socioeconomic benefits are particularly difficult to measure, the role of sustainable forest management in meeting broader development goals is greatly underestimated. This has

a number of consequences, among them that forests are often low on the political agenda, overlooked and that deforestation continues still at a rather alarming rate, as conversion of forests to other land uses is considered more profitable.

## **1. Project Objective**

This project will support and assist selected countries in developing a comprehensive and efficient system for monitoring progress towards SFM. This will be achieved through a step-by-step approach, which will include conducting inventories of existing forest-related data, mapping data gaps, addressing these gaps and selecting appropriate indicators.

Particular attention will be paid to socio-economic aspects (e.g. livelihoods, food security, and poverty reduction) of forests and financial flows for SFM. The socio-economic benefits of forests are particularly important to societies in the selected developing countries, yet these are the areas where methodology is missing and data is either very weak or not existing.

The expected accomplishments (EA) and activities (A) of the project that will be addressed under this assignment are:

**EA1:** Enhanced capacity of target countries to develop and test monitoring frameworks to track progress towards forest related sustainable development goals, the Global Objectives on Forests and financial flows that impact forests

### **EA 2**

Increased capacity of target countries to use forest monitoring data for evidence based policy making, reporting, and analysis of the contribution of forest goods and services to society and economy in their respective countries

**A1.1** Mapping existing national forest related-databases and identifying potential data gaps and tools to address these gaps - this will include not only “classic forest inventories” but also financial data/flows for forests and contribution of forests to food security and poverty eradication

**A1.2** Developing the monitoring framework for international forest-related goals and targets (serving the UN Forest Instrument, GFGs, SDGs and FRA2020) in selected countries.

**A1.3** 6 national workshops (1 per country) to review available forest data in the target countries, attended by a range group of stakeholders from relevant sectors (agriculture, water, energy, finance, nature conservation). The workshops would review the reports by national consultants identifying available forest-related data and identifying data gaps.

## **2. The role of National Consultant**

The UNFF Secretariat seeks the services of a national consultant to facilitate the development of a monitoring system to measure progress towards sustainable forest management, implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument and in particular Global Forest Goals and targets as well as forest related Sustainable Development Goals.

The specific responsibilities/tasks of the national consultant are to:

- Prepare an analytical study on: 1) the national and international reporting requirements on forests and forest related goals and targets, 2) inventory/availability of forest data (including socio-economic information),
- In consultation with other national stakeholders propose monitoring framework for SFM, GFGs and forest related SDGs
- Facilitate, with the assistance of the national UNFF focal point, a national meeting/workshop on monitoring and reporting on forests.

### **1. Duration and Remuneration**

The duration of the contract is 6 to 8 weeks, from..... to... The recommended remuneration will be in accordance with relevant UNDP country office salary scales and payable upon satisfactory submission of the analytical study and satisfactory completion of the assignment.

### **8. Competencies and Qualifications**

The consultant shall have the following competencies and qualifications:

- At least 10 years of experience in sustainable forest management and specifically with monitoring, assessment and reporting;
- Good knowledge of international forest related agreements and processes
- Have demonstrated technical/scientific expertise related to statistics and forest inventories
- Excellent policy analytical, technical and drafting skills;
- Possess thorough knowledge on the UNFF, Rio Conventions and protocols, and other forest related agreements and/or processes as well as national forestry and forest-related programmes and institutional arrangements in the country.
- Have an advanced university degree in forest management, economics, social, environmental studies, natural sciences, development studies, or any related discipline;
- Ability to prepare and present the reports in English.
- Be free from any interest that might cause him/her to act in other than an impartial and non-discriminatory manner.