



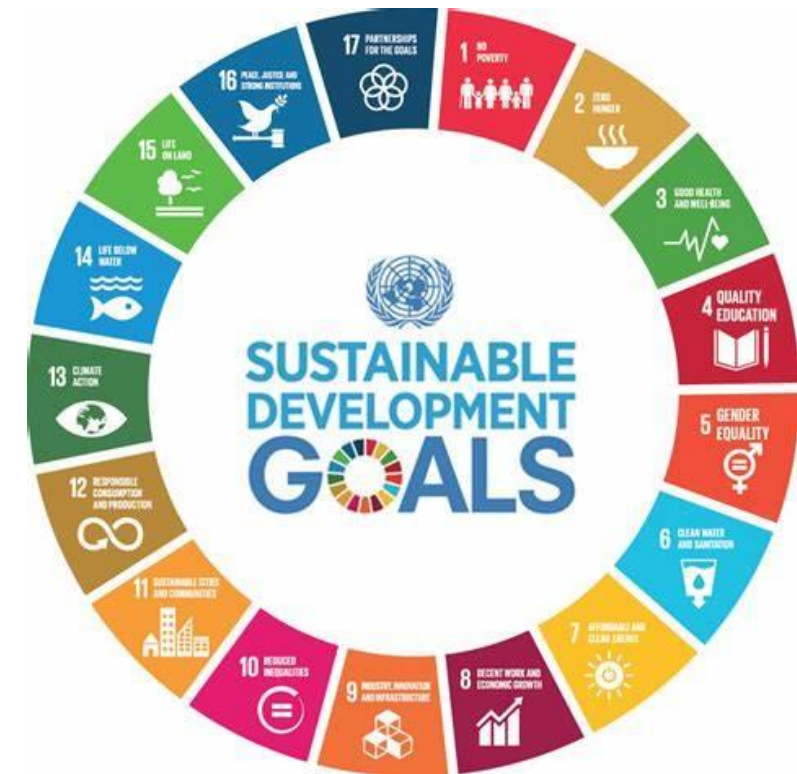
Midterm Review of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF)  
**Assessment E: Actions related to the Trust Fund for  
the UN Forum on Forests**  
(ECOSOC Res. 2022/17, Annex, item E)

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# Presentation Outline

- **Brief introduction**
- **Assessment and findings**
- **Recommendations**



## Introduction – Assessment E actions

1. Assess the impact of voluntary contributions to the UNFF trust fund on supporting the core activities of the UNFF.
2. Explore options to encourage sustained and adequate contributions to the trust fund.
3. Identify the key challenges and constraints with regard to mobilizing adequate resources for the trust fund.

## Introduction – Sources of information for assessment E

1. Review of documents/info on UN-related websites (UNFF, DESA, and others)
2. Review of documents/info provided by UNFFS and
3. Responses to consolidated survey developed by consultants to gather views from UNFF members & partners on actions A to J (Annex to res. 2022/17)

Survey included 3 Questions on assessment E

- 19 Member States, four organizations, and one Major Group responded to the questionnaire E.



# Assessment of the UNFF Trust Fund - Impact

1. **Average annual contributions to Trust Fund have been decreasing.** From 2000 to 2014, the Trust Fund received a total amount of USD 20 million. This signifies an average annual contribution of USD 1,428,571. From 2015 to 2021, the Trust Fund received a total amount of USD 7,050,457. This represents an annual average of USD 1,007,208, which is 30% lower than previous time-period.
2. Through this continued annual contribution to the Trust Fund, it was possible for the Secretariat to get **supplementary posts to fill the gaps related to the Secretariat's capacity**, and more importantly to support and provide **technical assistance to Members of the Forum** to promote SFM and implementation of the UNSPF.
3. In addition, the regular contribution to the Trust Fund has empowered the Secretariat to take care of consultancy costs, travel related to capacity development, participation of representatives and experts to meetings, staff travel, contractual services, and operating expenses.



## Assessment of the UNFF Trust Fund - Challenges

- The UNFF Secretariat depends on a **limited number of donors and financing mechanisms** and there is a need to diversify and multiply these sources of financing, both in the short and long term for specific areas of the Secretariat's work.
- Forests and forestry are not currently a priority area for most countries, and the weak global economic situation has led to a **decline in the willingness of countries** to contribute to the Trust Fund.
- **Some countries have other priorities** or prefer other mechanisms to make their contributions to international forest finance
- **Unforeseen economic situations** brought about by COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other disruptive events are also affecting availability of resources for voluntary contributions from Member States.



## Assessment of the UNFF Trust Fund – Political support

- It is encouraging to note that the human and budgetary resources needed by the UNFF Secretariat to support the Forum and its member States have been recognized and highlighted in various UN resolutions, including the Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33.
- With this recognition, hopefully, the Members States and organizations will continue to provide their political and financial support to the UNFF Secretariat through significant funding to the Trust Fund and through other mechanisms such as in-kind contributions.



# Recommendations

1. Considering the need to address key challenges related to the financial and human resources that are required to broaden the integration of forests into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is recommended that sustainable and consistent extrabudgetary funds continue to be allocated to the Trust Fund so as to provide the Secretariat with a reliable foundation for the performance of its core functions.
2. A strong and efficient Trust Fund is also helpful for taking actions to scale up the activities of the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network.





## Recommendations

3. Highlighting the critical role of healthy and productive forests at the high-level segments of the UNFF sessions could provide an option to promote the work of the Forum and raise the commitment of Members States and organizations to contribute to the Trust Fund. Ultimately, voluntary contributions help to enhance the capacity of the UNFF Secretariat, which in turn contributes to better implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests and achieving the six Global Forest Goals.
4. More solidarity and team spirit are recommended between all UNFF members to scale up ongoing activities and to improve capacity development, funding for sustainable forests management, monitoring, assessment, and reporting on progress in implementation, regional coordination, communication and strengthening stakeholder engagement





— GLOBAL —  
**FOREST**  
— GOALS —

# Thank You!

A copy of this PPT is available on the UNFF website at:  
<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/aheg-iaf-mtr/index.html>

