

Explanatory notes for voluntary national reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests

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I. Introduction

The notes below are aimed at helping countries to prepare their country reports for submission to the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2025. The notes explain the purpose of country reports and how the information contained therein will be used. They should be read in conjunction with the format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions.

II. Purpose and use of country reports

What is the purpose of country reports?

1. The General Assembly adopted the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in 2017. The strategic plan provides a global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. Country reports are a vital source of information for assessing progress towards implementation of the strategic plan.
2. The strategic plan contains six global forest goals and 26 associated targets, to be achieved by 2030. The global forest goals and their associated targets are at the heart of the strategic plan and are aimed at contributing to progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
3. Information submitted in the country reports will be used in the preparation of a Global Forest Goals Report, to be developed in close consultation with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, within existing resources, for release in 2026.

Will country reports themselves be in the public domain?

4. Yes, country reports will be published on the website of the Forum.

What happened to previous country reports submitted to the Forum?

5. The first round of national reporting on progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan was conducted in 2019 and 2020. Fifty-two member States submitted comprehensive reports on their actions taken to advance the achievement of the global forest goals, including detailed descriptions thereof. The reports submitted, combined with biophysical data from the Global Forest Resources Assessment carried out in 2020, made it possible to conduct a first assessment of progress towards achieving the global forest goals and produce the flagship publication entitled *The Global Forest Goals Report 2021*. It was the first flagship publication produced by the secretariat of the Forum of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The report contained an overview of progress towards achieving the goals and associated targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. It provided a summary of the actions taken and challenges encountered by member States in their efforts to achieve the goals and highlighted the areas in which progress had been made, as well as those in which more action was required. In addition, it served to illustrate the ways in which progress towards the global forest goals had contributed to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and included several success stories to illustrate best practices and innovative ideas.

How are the country reports structured?

6. The amended reporting format for the 2025 reporting cycle to the Forum consists of the following sections:

- I. Progress towards global forest goals and targets
- II. Voluntary national contributions
- III. Other questions
- IV. Success stories

7. The format contains mainly open-ended questions to allow respondents to provide detailed information on the actions undertaken towards each of the goals and targets, voluntary national contributions and success stories, within a given word limit. Countries are also asked to describe the main challenges faced in achieving each of the goals. In addition, closed-ended questions, including yes/no and multiple-choice questions, will be used to gather information in a more structured way and capture measurable outcomes, where possible.

8. It is recognized that a single action (e.g. a new forest law) may address or contribute to the achievement of several goals and targets. In such cases, countries should include the action in the section for the target to which the action primarily contributes and specify the additional targets addressed by the action as part of their answer. A text box, *Also contributes to these GFG targets*, has been included under each action for this purpose and to facilitate the aggregation of country responses.

How will information from country reports be analysed?

9. The country reports will provide the main source of information for assessing progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals, together with information from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other sources (see sect. II). The analysis of reports will be mainly qualitative, drawing on the descriptions of the actions, voluntary national contributions and success stories under each global forest goal and the associated targets. Some quantitative analysis will be conducted based on the answers to the closed-ended questions; however most of the numerical data used in the Global Forest Goals Report publication will be drawn from the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 and other sources (see sect. IV).

What about targets that cannot be achieved by actions at the national level?

10. Both target 6.1 (on forest-related programmes within the United Nations system) and target 6.2 (on forest-related programmes of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests) are targets that cannot be achieved at the national level. Accordingly, there are no questions on those targets in the national reporting format, and such information will be requested from relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership.

How much detail is required in country reports?

11. For several targets, the request is to provide a brief description of up to three actions per target, with a maximum of 150 words for each action. Weblinks may be included to refer readers to more information.

Is it possible for voluntary national contributions to be included in country reports?

12. Yes. Countries which have announced voluntary national contributions aimed at making progress towards achieving the targets should report the progress to date in the relevant section.

Why is there a question on gender equality under section III: Other questions?

13. The aim of Sustainable Development Goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Target 5.5 is to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life and target 5.a is to undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

14. *The State of the World's Forests 2018: Forest Pathways to Sustainable Development*¹ presents evidence that forests and trees can make significant contributions to the above targets but also highlights important data gaps. Responses to question 7 (a) will help in developing a more comprehensive understanding of actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector.

Why is there a question on the International Day of Forests under section III: Other questions?

15. In 2012, the General Assembly designated 21 March as the International Day of Forests to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests (see resolution 67/200). Responses to this question will provide information on how the International Day of Forests is celebrated around the world.

How will the success stories be used?

16. Responses to the section on success stories will be used to illustrate the most impactful actions aimed at addressing particular global forest goals. Examples of success stories will be used to help make the next Global Forest Goals Report more interesting to readers. In addition, success stories will be available on the web page containing the country reports.

Why is 2020 the "baseline" year?

17. The 2020 baseline is consistent with the latest Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment process and the previous Forum reporting cycle. Country reports should therefore be focused on actions taken since 1 January 2020.

III. Online reporting

Why are countries requested to submit their national reports online?

18. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the Forum secretariat to explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the reporting cycle in 2025. The Forum secretariat conducted an extensive review and assessment of several online tools and selected a suitable online platform, fulfilling all technical requirements.

19. The online reporting method has numerous advantages over traditional data collection and/or reporting, namely, through emails with Microsoft Word file attachments, as it facilitates data entry and analysis, contributing to greater accuracy and efficacy. The online tool will facilitate collaboration between national focal

¹ Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/28896bfc-567c-4e4e-a1b2-d28e78867028>.

points and other national experts on a single report to further minimize the reporting burden. It will also help improve the quality of data collected.

How will countries gain access to the national reporting platform?

20. National focal points will receive from the Forum secretariat an email with their personalized link to the online platform, which they should use to compile the national report for their country. The link will have a built-in “save and resume” feature, allowing respondents to return to the report at any time up until the deadline for submission. Member states should ensure that the name and contact information of their Forum national focal points is up to date, so that they may be reached in a timely manner. More detailed instructions for the online reporting are provided directly on the platform.

Can countries still submit their national reports by sending them to the Forum secretariat as a Microsoft Word document?

21. Yes. Countries are encouraged to send their reports through the online platform; however, its use is optional and sending a national report in Microsoft Word format will remain an option for those countries that do not feel ready to start using the online reporting tool.

IV. Information from other sources

What other sources will be used?

22. Country reports will be the main source of information for assessing progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals. The Forum will supplement information received from countries with quantitative FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment data and information from other Collaborative Partnership Forum members and sources, including:

(a) Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

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

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

(d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);

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

23. Country reports do not need to repeat data that have already been supplied to the above sources.

What is the relationship between Forum country reports and the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025?

24. Some global forest goal targets are qualitative, and the assessment of progress will rely upon qualitative information provided in the country reports. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 will be the main source of quantitative data on progress towards the global forest goals and targets. It has been designed by FAO in

collaboration with the collaborative forest resources questionnaire partners² and other experts to respond to the latest information needs, including those relating to reporting on the global forest goals.³ All data published in the Global Forest Resources Assessment country and territory reports are endorsed by the authorities responsible for forests in the country or territory to which they refer. In cases where reports were not received, FAO publishes desk studies which are based on previous reports and other available data.

25. The reporting format for Forum country reports requests only information that has not already been provided to international databases such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025.

26. To achieve consistency between the two reporting processes, it is important that national correspondents preparing country reports coordinate with the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 national correspondent for their country. Contact details for Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 national correspondents can be obtained by emailing the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 secretariat at fra@fao.org.

What is the relationship with the Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators?

27. The global forest goals contribute to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals. The vision, principles and commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide the context for the global forest goals.⁴

28. Sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests is vital to integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Several Sustainable Development Goal targets contain explicit references to forests, namely:

(a) Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes;

(b) Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements;

(c) Target 15.2: 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;

(d) Target 15.b: 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.

29. At present, there are only two Sustainable Development Goal indicators that would be helpful in assessing progress towards the global forest goals, namely,

² The collaborative forest resources questionnaire partners are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Forest Europe, the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Montreal Process and the Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa.

³ See <http://www.fao.org/3/I8699EN/i8699en.pdf>.

⁴ While most of these goals and targets are to be achieved by 2030, some were to be achieved by 2020.

indicator 15.1.1 (increase forest area as a proportion of total land area) and indicator 15.2.1 (progress towards sustainable forest management). As explained in section IV, certain other Sustainable Development Goal indicators have the potential to provide information, but only if data relating to forests are disaggregated.

What is the relationship with the global core set of forest-related indicators?

30. Country reports do not need to provide input for the global core set of forest-related indicators. The global core set of forest-related indicators is aligned with the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management,⁵ and the aim is that the global core set should address topics identified by high-level forums in an efficient manner that avoids duplicate reporting.⁶ The Forum has invited members of the Forum and the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to make use of the global core set of forest-related indicators.

V. Assessing progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals

31. This section sets out how information from country reports and other sources will be used to assess progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals and their targets.

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 change⁷

Target 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

32. FAO will use numerical information (Unit: 1,000 hectares) from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting tables 1a (Extent of forest and other wooded land), 1b (Forest characteristics), 1c (Specific forest categories) and 1d (Annual forest expansion, deforestation and net change) to provide a global overview in quantitative terms.

33. Country reports will provide information about challenges and actions taken at the national and subnational levels to promote an increase in forest area. For example, countries may explain how changes in forest area have been influenced by actions that have been taken in response to target 1.1, they may highlight challenges, such as natural disasters, or they may note the impact of any methodological changes to their figures for forest area.

Target 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

34. The *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020* revealed that the total carbon stock in forests decreased from 668 gigatons in 1990 to 662 gigatons in 2020. Carbon density increased slightly over the same period, from 159 tons to 163 tons per ha.

⁵ In accordance with the United Nations forest instrument, these elements are: (a) extent of forest resources; (b) forest biological diversity; (c) forest health and vitality; (d) productive functions of forest resources; (e) protective functions of forest resources; (f) socioeconomic functions of forests; and (g) legal, policy and institutional framework.

⁶ The most recent list of global core set forest-related indicators is contained in annex II to [E/CN.18/2018/4](#).

⁷ Global forest goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goal targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8.

Most forest carbon is found in the living biomass (44 per cent) and soil organic matter (45 per cent), with the remainder in dead wood and litter. The Forum will use numerical information from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting table 2d (carbon stock) and reporting table 1a to calculate total forest carbon stocks and their changes.

35. Country reports will provide information on challenges, including methodological issues, and actions taken to maintain or enhance carbon stocks.

Target 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

36. Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1 will provide an overview on the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests. This indicator measures progress towards sustainable forest management through five subindicators⁸ and, to aid interpretation, a dashboard of traffic lights is used, with green, yellow and red indicating the direction and rate of change in each of the subindicators at the global and regional levels. The subindicators are: annual net rate of change in forest area; above-ground biomass stock in forests; proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas; proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan; and forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme.

37. The Forum will use numerical information (Unit: 1,000 hectares) from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting tables 1a (Extent of forest and other wooded land), 1b (Forest characteristics), 1c (Specific forest categories) and 1d (Annual forest expansion, deforestation and net change) to provide a global overview in quantitative terms for deforestation, afforestation and reforestation. It will not be possible to provide a global overview of progress on the restoration of degraded forests in quantitative terms, as there is no internationally agreed definition of degraded forest and no consensus on measurement methods. Reporting table 5c (Degraded forest) of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 does not require data input, although it does request information on any national definitions of “degraded forest” and on how these data are being collected.

38. Country reports will provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. Countries may refer to, and provide, national definitions when describing progress in the restoration of degraded forests.

Target 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

39. Country reports will be the main source of information on the challenges faced and actions taken by countries at the national level to strengthen the resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change.

40. Another potential indicator of progress is the number of countries that have developed national disaster risk reduction strategies that include forest-related measures.⁹

⁸ See <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/1521/en/>.

⁹ See FAO, *The State of the World's Forests 2018: Forest Pathways to Sustainable Development* (see footnote 1).

Global forest goal 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people¹⁰

Target 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

41. There is no internationally agreed definition of “forest-dependent people”. However, *The State of the World’s Forests 2018* contains an analysis to quantify the contribution of forests towards Sustainable Development Goal target 1.1 (By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day). *The State of the World’s Forests 2022*¹¹ contained new figures from a study that combined data on tree cover and human population density to map the spatial relationship between people and forests on a global scale. The study revealed that an estimated 4.17 billion people – 95 per cent of all people outside urban areas – live within 5 km of a forest, and 3.27 billion live within 1 km.

42. Country reports will provide information on challenges and actions taken to eradicate extreme poverty¹² for all forest-dependent people. They may refer to, and provide, relevant national definitions of forest-dependent people and related data on poverty reduction.

Target 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

43. At present, it is not possible to assess progress towards this target in quantitative terms, as no credible statistical information is available on access by small-scale forest enterprises to financial services, or their integration into value chains and markets. While Sustainable Development Goal indicators 9.3.1 (Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added) and 9.3.2 (Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit) are potentially relevant, neither relate specifically to forest enterprises and they are both still tier 3 indicators.¹³

44. Country reports will provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to increase access by small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and the integration of small-scale forest enterprises into value chains and markets.

Target 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

45. Food security is a multidimensional concept, with four dimensions referring to food availability, access to food, food utilization and stability.¹⁴ Challenges remain in collecting a robust set of data sets at the global level for metrics that provide quantitative information on the contribution of forests and trees for some dimensions of food security, such as food availability and stability. Although Sustainable Development Goal indicator 2.3.2 (average income of small-scale food producers, by

¹⁰ Global forest goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, inter alia, 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.

¹¹ Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/4c8bd12f-d6b8-4755-a82f-1284c41bf012>.

¹² The World Bank Group currently defines “extreme poverty” as people living on less than \$2.15 a day (2017 purchasing parity power prices). See <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/746163-what-is-the-2-15-poverty-line-and-based-on-this>.

¹³ Tier 3 means that no internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>.

¹⁴ See www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update/what-is-food-security.

sex and Indigenous status) refers to the average income of small-scale food producers employed in the farming, pastoral and forestry sectors, it is currently a tier 3 indicator and does not provide disaggregated forest-related data.

46. Country reports will provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to increase the contribution of forests and trees to food security. This may include references to data that are available at the national level on the contribution of forests and trees to food security.

Target 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

47. This target has social, economic and environmental dimensions. To assess progress towards target 2.4 in quantitative terms, it is proposed that the following data series be used:

- Socioeconomic: changes in employment in the forest sector. FAO, in *The State of the World's Forests 2022*, estimated the combined direct contribution of the formal and informal forest sector to employment in 2017–2019 at 33.3 million jobs. This comprises about 1 per cent of total employment globally for all economic activities. In 2017–2019, most people in all regions (comprising 58 per cent of total forest-sector employment) were employed in the manufacture of wood and wood products. Data providers for this indicator include FAO and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The ILO updated information on employment in the forest sector will be provided in the context of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025.
- Economic: changes in value added by the forest sector and its contribution to the global economy. In *The State of the World's Forests 2022*, it is stated that, the total contribution of the (formal) forest sector to the global economy increased by 17 per cent (nominal) between 2011 and 2015. It directly contributed more than \$663 billion to world gross domestic product (GDP) in 2015. Furthermore, as explained in *State of the World's Forests 2014: Enhancing the Socioeconomic Benefits from Forests*,¹⁵ consumption benefits relating to energy, shelter, food security and health are recognized as more significant than monetary income from the sector, but it is difficult to obtain the relevant data on these other economic benefits.
- Environmental: Targets 2.5 and 3.1 already relate to biodiversity, climate change and conservation. To avoid overlap, it is proposed that the environmental dimension for target 2.4 be assessed by reference to targets 2.5 and 3.1, together with information from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting table 3a (Designated management objective) on the proportions of forests managed for soil and water conservation as a designated management objective and as a primary management objective.

48. Country reports will provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to increase the contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic (including the informal sector) and environmental development, among other things. To consider “other things” that may be relevant in this context, country correspondents may wish to refer to the list of national policies and measures contained in paragraph 6 of the United Nations forest instrument (General Assembly resolution 62/98, annex).

¹⁵ Available at <https://www.fao.org/fsnforum/resources/fao-flagships/state-worlds-forests-2014-sofo>.

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 forests¹⁶

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

49. The Forum will use numerical information (Unit: 1,000 hectares) from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting table 3a (Designated management objective) on the proportions of forests managed for conservation of biodiversity as a designated management objective and as a primary management objective and from reporting table 3b (Forest area within legally established protected areas and forest area with long-term forest management plan) to provide a global overview.

50. Country reports will provide information about the challenges faced and actions taken to increase the area of forests designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures.

Target 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

51. The Forum will use numerical information (Unit: 1,000 hectares) from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting table 3b (Forest area within legally established protected areas and forest area with long-term forest management plan) to provide a global overview.

52. Country reports will provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to increase the area of forests under long-term forest management plans.

Target 3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

53. Country reports will provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests. While many forests are sustainably managed without certification, country reports may also refer to the proportion of forest products from certified forests (including forests certified under internationally and/or nationally approved schemes).

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 partnerships¹⁷

Target 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

54. According to *The State of the World's Forests 2022*, the climate finance flows to forestry almost doubled between 2015 and 2019 but domestic public expenditure on forestry far exceeds it, even in some low-income countries. According to the public data from the OECD Development Assistance Committee, forestry official development assistance (ODA) reached \$1,726.3 million in 2022. The amount of

¹⁶ Global forest goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goal targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4.

¹⁷ Global forest goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, inter alia, 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.

ODA has increased in the past two decades; however, the proportion of forestry ODA as a share of total ODA has remained relatively consistent, at approximately 0.5 per cent from 2000 to 2022. It is more difficult to obtain comprehensive information at the global level on other sources of finance for sustainable forest management; however, every effort will be made to draw upon the information that is available. Analysis of responses in country reports to questions under target 4.1 will provide information on the sources of increased finance for sustainable forest management.

55. Country reports will also provide information on the challenges faced and actions taken to mobilize significant resources to finance sustainable forest management. Responses to additional questions under goal 4 can be used for any clarification that is considered necessary.¹⁸ If there is a decrease in financial resources for sustainable forest management, this can be noted in the section on challenges in the response to questions under target 4.1.

Target 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

56. The sources of information are the same as for target 4.1.

Target 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

57. This target relates to the second part of the goal, namely, to strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships. Analysis of responses in country reports to target 4.3 will provide information on the numbers of countries engaged in different types of international cooperation and partnerships to promote sustainable forest management.

58. Country reports will also provide further information on the challenges faced and actions taken to enhance and increase North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector.

Target 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

59. Analysis of responses to questions related to target 4.4 will provide information on the number of countries that have developed or implemented forest financing strategies and the sources of financing to which they have had access.

60. Country reports will also provide further information on challenges faced in mobilizing funds and on other actions taken to increase access to financing from all sources.

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

61. This target also relates to the second part of the goal, namely, strengthened scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships. Country reports will provide

¹⁸ For example, clarifications on the scale of any increase in financial resources; whether the country is a donor or recipient of official development assistance; the nature of any REDD+ benefits; funding for sustainable forest management that is subsumed within more general funding for conservation measures.

information on the challenges faced and actions taken to improve the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information.

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 Development¹⁹

Target 5.1 The number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

62. Analysis of responses to questions on target 5.1 will provide information on the number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies.

Target 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

63. Analysis of responses to questions on target 5.2 will provide information on the number of countries that have taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources and on the type of action taken. (This may include steps that are being taken to continue action that was initiated before 2020.) In addition, information from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting table 6a (Policies, legislation and national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy) may provide information on the existence of a traceability system for wood products.

64. Given that the target relates to enhancing forest law enforcement and governance and reducing illegal logging and associated trade, for some countries, the actions they report may be part of a wider regional initiative.²⁰

Target 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

65. Analysis of responses to questions on target 5.3 will provide information on the number of countries that have mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies. These could include, for example, mechanisms to achieve coherence between national and subnational policies and programmes as well across ministries, departments and authorities at the national level.

66. The second part of this target relates to stakeholder engagement. Information from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 reporting table 6a (Policies, legislation and national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy) will provide a global overview of the number of countries with a national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy.

¹⁹ Global forest goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.c, 15.9, 16.3, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.10 and 17.14.

²⁰ This would include, for example, action by European Union member States in relation to the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Action Plan.

67. Analysis of responses in this section will also provide information on the types of mechanisms that countries have in place to involve stakeholders, including local communities and Indigenous Peoples, in sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation.

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

68. Analysis of responses to questions on target 5.4 will provide information on the number of countries that have mechanisms in place to integrate forests into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development.

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 stakeholders²¹

69. Targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in the reporting format, as they address actions taken by the international community, not those taken at the national level. Information on progress towards these targets will be requested from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

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

70. Country reports will provide information about challenges faced and actions taken to enhance cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation.

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

71. Analysis of responses to questions on target 6.4 will provide information on challenges faced and actions taken to promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management, which could include, for example, publications, media campaigns, educational programmes or motivational events.

72. In addition, the responses to questions on target 6.4 will provide information on the number of countries in which there are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, the types of indicators and the purposes for which they are used.

Target 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

73. Analysis of responses to questions on target 6.5 will provide information on the number of countries in which the Government has taken action to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan, which may include, for example, actions to strengthen stakeholder engagement, capacity-building, partnerships and devolve public forest management rights.

²¹ Global forest goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, inter alia, Sustainable Development Goal target 17.14.

VI. Explanation of terms used in the reporting format

What are “major groups”?

74. Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, formalized nine sectors of society as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in United Nations activities related to sustainable development. These are called “major groups” and are: women; children and youth; Indigenous Peoples; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and trade unions; business and industry; scientific and technological community; and farmers.

Terms and definitions used in the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025

75. To provide continuity and consistency of data over time, several forest-related terms have been carefully defined for the purposes of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025. These are contained in FAO Forest Resources Assessment working paper No. 194, entitled “Terms and definitions”.²² These definitions should also be used when filling out the country reports.

What does “significantly” mean in the context of the global forest goals and targets?

76. Several of the global forest goals and targets use the word “significantly” (e.g. “significantly increase” or “significantly enhance”). The relevant Oxford Dictionary definition of “significantly” in this context is “in a sufficiently great or important way as to be worthy of attention”.

What is the “informal economy”?

77. The informal economy can be broadly defined as economic activity not subject to government regulation, monitoring or taxation.

What does “mobilize” mean, as used in global forest goal 4?

78. In this context, “mobilize” means securing financial resources and using them to finance sustainable forest management.

What is meant by North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation?

79. The “North” means developed countries and the “South” means developing countries. For example, North-South cooperation refers to the exchange of expertise between one or more developed countries and one or more developing countries, and South-South cooperation means cooperation between two or more developing countries. Triangular cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country or countries or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.²³

What is a public-private partnership?

80. This term can be used in different ways, but one definition of a public-private partnership is “a long-term contract between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public asset or service, in which the private party bears significant

²² Available at <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/43aca42c-3ead-4747-9a48-0b20ae248a5e>.

²³ For more detail, see the framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation contained in the note by the Secretary-General [SSC/17/3](#).

risk and management responsibility, and remuneration is linked to performance”. Public-private partnerships typically do not include service contracts or turnkey construction contracts, which are categorized as public procurement projects, or the privatization of utilities where there is a limited ongoing role for the public sector.²⁴

What about other terms?

81. As explained above, there are some terms, such as “forest degradation” and “forest-dependent people”, that do not have an internationally accepted definition. In such cases, country reports may refer to, and provide, relevant national definitions.

²⁴ Based on information at <https://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/overview/what-are-public-private-partnerships>.