

**Twentieth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests  
5–9 May 2025**

**Agenda item:**     **3 (b) (i):** *Contributions of the CPF, its member organizations & the UN system to achieving the thematic priorities; progress on the workplan of the Partnership.*

**Date, time, location:**     Monday, 5 May 2025, 15:00 – 18:00 (EDT), Trusteeship Council Chamber in the Conference Building

**Delivery by:**       Mr Zhimin WU, CPF Chair

**Joint statement of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

Mr Chair,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

- The world is facing a multitude of challenges, and forests offer solutions.
- At this session, the UNFF will review progress towards Global Forest Goals 1, 3 and 5, as established in the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030. Please allow me to share the CPF’s work to support action towards these goals.
- Target 1.1 of Global Forest Goal 1 aims to increase global forest area by 3 percent by 2030. But 10 million hectares are lost to deforestation annually, 35 million hectares of forest are degraded by pests and diseases, and up to 70 million hectares are degraded by wildfires.
- By one estimate, achieving Target 1.1 will require 200 million hectares of new forests. Encouragingly, the annual deforestation rate declined from 16 million hectares in the 1990s to 10 million hectares between 2015 and 2020, with encouraging signals of reductions in all African subregions.
- Member States are showing strong political intent. For example, implementation of two recent UN General Assembly resolutions could help reverse deforestation, land degradation and biodiversity loss. Restoration is gathering momentum under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Bonn Challenge, with pledges of 210 million hectares by 61 countries.

- Nevertheless, more effort is needed by all stakeholders to scale up and accelerate proven forest solutions.
- CPF members are supporting countries to halt and reverse deforestation through coordinated policy advice and technical assistance and by promoting the science–policy interface, access to finance, capacity building, and monitoring.
- On **Global Forest Goal 3**, 18 percent of the world’s forest area, or 730 million ha, was in legally established protected areas in 2020.
- In line with Target 3 of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, more needs to be done to protect critically important primary forests and ensure their conservation and sustainable use. Cognizant of the changing climate and shifting ecosystems, flexibility and forward-looking approaches will be key to ensuring the resilience of forest ecosystems and the communities they support in the long run.
- The CPF is working to support countries towards this end, including through the Joint Initiative on primary forests, the aim of which is to produce better data on the status of, and trends in, primary forests to inform policies, decision-making and investment and to elevate their importance in the global dialogue.
- **Target 3.3** of Global Forest Goal 3 is to significantly increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests. Projected increases in demand for wood – by as much as 49 percent between 2020 and 2050 – and non-wood forest products mean that a concerted effort is needed to increase the proportion of legal and sustainable forest products and to build related value chains as part of a shift to a bioeconomy.
- The aim of the CPF’s Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World Joint Initiative is to mainstream inclusive sustainable wood value chains as instruments for delivering the Global Forest Goals and contributing to livelihoods, carbon neutrality and sustainable and resilient ecosystems.
- On **Global Forest Goal 5**, strong cross-sectoral policy coordination and alignment at the national level, supported by robust forest monitoring, reporting and enforcement, are crucial for delivering sustainable forest management (SFM).
- The development of policies and frameworks to support and promote SFM has been an important factor in reducing deforestation. There are positive signs that countries are leveraging SFM as a key strategy for delivering on related commitments under multilateral environmental agreements such as nationally determined contributions, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and regulation of the international trade in timber.

- Areas of future focus include the development of subnational policies and instruments geared towards implementation and further enhancing traceability for the monitoring and tracking of wood flows.
- The CPF Joint Initiative on Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting, including the development and refinement of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators, is supporting countries in this effort by reducing the reporting burden and identifying key indicators of SFM.
- Looking to 2030, increasing pressures on forests mean that trade-offs must be managed adeptly and synergies maximized. We need to:
  - First, **ensure policy consistency and coherence**. The strategic inclusion of forest-related commitments and actions into national plans under multilateral environmental agreements and as an intrinsic asset for development trajectories will increase visibility and unlock opportunities, for example through nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, national biodiversity strategies and action plans aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and national Land Degradation Neutrality targets.
  - Second, **strengthen data and evidence**. Transparent, accessible forest data, coupled with robust science and policy analysis, are needed to support countries in scaling up solutions.
  - Third, **enhance efficiency in delivery**. Streamlined processes and effective coordination and cooperation are required to deliver impact, maximize returns on investment, and ensure tangible progress.
  - Fourth, **promote robust governance**. Sustained political commitment and stable regulatory and policy frameworks are essential for obtaining sufficient investment and action and for facilitating access to climate finance, aligned with national priorities and involving deployment of the private sector, where appropriate.
  - Finally, **scale up action by addressing the fragmentation of finance for forests and by strengthening partnerships**. The fragmentation of funding flows, pace of approvals and mechanisms of disbursement need to be addressed for more rapid deployment to enable rapid responses and address imminent threats such as forest fires.
- The CPF has an important role to play in assisting UNFF Member States to achieve their forest goals and targets by mobilizing scientific, technical, political and social support. We are aware that the timeliness, adequacy and relevance of this support are key. The CPF will continue to deploy its efforts in a coordinated manner at the global level, such as at the 30th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the

Presidency of which has brought nature to the fore, and at the national level, to avoid duplication and to adequately support Member State priorities.

- The new **CPF Workplan for 2025–2028** incorporates key findings from the comprehensive assessment of the CPF's work undertaken in 2023 as part of the Mid-term Review of the International Arrangement on Forests. It focuses on addressing gaps and accelerating progress towards the Global Forest Goals and is aligned with the UNFF's quadrennial workplan.
- UNFF Members were briefed last April on the work of the CPF to address guidance from UNFF19's ECOSOC Resolution 2024/15. This briefing can be viewed on the [CPF website](#).
- We look forward to working with you, the UNFF Member States, and to your further guidance.

Thank you.