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Policy brief
Thematic priorities for UNFF20:
Global Forest Goals 1, 3 and 5
UN Forum on Forests Secretariat
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Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM

Key messages:

- Recent data shows that it is unlikely the world will reach GFG1 by 2030
- The world lost at least 5.4 (Mha) of forests in 2023, an increase from previous year, according some sources the figures are higher
- The main driver of deforestation is agriculture - this situation is likely to continue as forest are undervalued, and it's more profitable to convert forests to other land uses



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Global Forest Goal 1: challenges

- Competition from other land uses providing more revenues
- Climate change – forests might soon act as carbon source not a sink
- Policies and laws enacted, but often not implemented
- Multiple goals and fragmentation of forest issues at the global level = duplication of efforts, weak impact, diluted focus



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Global Forest Goal 1: suggestions for acceleration

- Recognize the true value of forests and phase out forest harming subsidies and investments (e.g.: in unsustainable agriculture)
- Address threats to forests, drivers of degradation and deforestation and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production
- Strengthen the implementation of national forest legislation



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Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests

Key messages:

- Increase of forest protected areas in all regions – one third of countries extended their protected areas and many exceeded 30%
- The area of certified forest is increasing - however, there is wide variation between regions (most forests are certified in Europe and North America)
- The positive shift in sustainable practices = more products from sustainably managed forests



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Global Forest Goal 3: challenges

- Ineffective protection and land use planning: many protected areas are threatened by agricultural expansion, or by industrial-scale resource extraction
- Lack of resources = weak capacity to enforce and implement provisions of the existing laws and regulations
- Demand for timber will quadruple over the next 30 years = more pressure on all types of forests, including in protected areas



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Global Forest Goal 3: suggestions for acceleration

- Involve civil society in planning and implementing policies and programs in support of GFG3
- Develop sustainable and long-term funding mechanisms for the protection of forests
- Expand application of forest certification, especially in the tropics
- Build green value chains to meet growing demand for forest products



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Global Forest Goal 5: Promote governance frameworks to implement SFM, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Key messages:

- Forests are increasingly integrated into broader development and/or poverty reduction strategies
- Policies and legal frameworks to promote SFM in place
- Increased efforts to reduce illegal logging and trafficking of illegal forest products: spatial monitoring systems, traceability instruments and promotion of 'deforestation-free' products



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Global Forest Goal 5: challenges

- The contribution of forests to national economies is undervalued = forestry issues are neglected in favor of other priorities such as food and energy security, social issues, etc.
- Low priority of forest issues at the national level
- Weak governance: the remoteness and vastness of forest areas in some countries makes it difficult to effectively manage forests and monitor logging activities



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Global Forest Goal 5: suggestions for acceleration

- Strengthen the institutional capacities of government entities in charge of enforcing forest legislation
- Develop and implement coherent cross-sector strategies that extend beyond the forest sector and tackle the illegal logging resulting from the expansion of agriculture, mining and infrastructure
- Implement processes for forest governance, in consultation with the forest-dependent communities and engage non-state actors in policy, land-use planning, law enforcement and forest monitoring



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Thank You!