

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories

To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)

5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

Nigeria

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

Name: : AIWUYO CHRISTOPHER OYANOOGHAFO

Title: : MR

Address: : House 2 C16, Brick City Phase 2

Organization: : Federal Department of Forestry, Federal Ministry of Environment

Telephone: : +2348036669678

Email: : aiwuyoc@yahoo.com

3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:

(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report: (up to five)

Institution Name:

Federal Department of Forestry

Email address:

Address:

393/394 Augustus Aikhomu Way, Utako District, Abuja

Institution Name:

Email address:

Address:

Institution Name:

Email address:

Address:

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated 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 change

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

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

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

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

Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Review of National Forest Policy

Brief description of the action:

Nigeria revised its National Forest Policy in 2020 to strengthen forest governance, restore degraded lands, and increase forest cover to 25% by 2030. The policy promotes sustainable forest management, afforestation, and reforestation through community participation and institutional reform.

Main results achieved for the action:

Incorporated the principles of sustainable forest management to balance conservation, economic use and community benefits.
Improved forest governance, transparency, and benefit-sharing mechanisms to empower communities and curb illegal logging.
Positioned forests as carbon sinks to support Nigeria's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and REDD+ Strategy.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
3.1
4.1
5.1
6.1

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

PBAT (President Bola Ahmed Tinubu) Green Heroes Project

Brief description of the action:

The PBAT (President Bola Ahmed Tinubu) Green Heroes Project is an afforestation initiative focused on creating jobs, promoting environmental sustainability, and combating climate change in Nigeria. It aims to restore degraded lands, enhance forest cover, and improve ecosystem resilience through various activities like tree planting and sustainable land management practices.

Main results achieved for the action:

Net increase in forest cover and carbon sink potential by planting trees on 240 hectares of degraded land.
Progress toward Nigeria's climate and forest landscape restoration targets.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

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

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Operationalisation of Nigeria's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)

Brief description of the action:

In 2021, Nigeria operationalised its National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) to support the accurate tracking of forest carbon stocks, deforestation, and forest degradation. The NFMS integrates satellite-based land use monitoring, ground-based forest inventory, and institutional reporting platforms. It supports REDD+, sustainable forest management, and climate transparency under the Paris Agreement.

Main results achieved for the action:

Improved data sharing among national and subnational actors for emissions reporting.

Enhanced national capacity for Tier 2 carbon stock estimation using forest inventory and remote sensing.

Data from NFMS is now feeding into the GHG Inventory, FREL/FRL, and Biennial Transparency Reports.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
2.2
2.4
3.1
3.2
3.3
4.1
4.4
5.1
5.2
5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

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

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forest Landscape Restoration through the Great Green Wall (GGW)

Brief description of the action:

Under the GGW initiative, Nigeria has implemented large-scale forest landscape restoration in its northern drylands through tree planting, shelterbelt construction, sand dune stabilization, and agroforestry. These efforts contribute to afforestation, halt land degradation, and support climate adaptation.

Main results achieved for the action:

14,000+ hectares restored across 11 frontline states.

Over 15 million trees planted, improving forest cover and livelihoods.

Improved resilience to desertification and enhanced biodiversity in restored zones.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

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

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Climate-Resilient Tree Planting under the Great Green Wall

Brief description of the action:

Nigeria's Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative includes targeted planting of climate-resilient tree species in desertification-prone areas of the Sahel. Species selected are drought-tolerant and native, supporting long-term forest health and soil stabilization under increasingly variable climatic conditions.

Main results achieved for the action:

Over 15 million climate-resilient trees have been planted across degraded areas in 11 frontline states.

Enhanced forest regeneration and reduced wind/sand erosion in vulnerable ecosystems.

Communities trained in dryland forest management and restoration techniques.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://ggwnigeria.gov.ng/>

Action (short title):

PBAT (President Bola Ahmed Tinubu) Green Heroes Project

Brief description of the action:

The PBAT (President Bola Ahmed Tinubu) Green Heroes Project is an afforestation initiative focused on creating jobs, promoting environmental sustainability, and combating climate change in Nigeria. It aims to restore degraded lands, enhance forest cover, and improve ecosystem resilience through various activities like tree planting and sustainable land management practices.

Main results achieved for the action:

Trees planted under the PBAT program will enhance microclimate stability, reduce erosion, and support nature-based adaptation strategies.

Enhanced resilience of forest landscapes to climate extremes.

Community capacity strengthened in disaster risk reduction via ecosystem management.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Despite progress, Nigeria faces several persistent challenges in achieving Global Forest Goal 1, which aims to reverse forest loss through sustainable forest management, afforestation, and climate action:

Nigeria has one of the highest deforestation rates globally, driven by agricultural expansion, fuelwood harvesting, infrastructure development, and unregulated logging.

Inadequate enforcement of forest regulations, limited institutional capacity, and overlapping mandates among federal, state, and local agencies hinder effective forest management.

Limited public and donor financing for large-scale forest restoration, REDD+ implementation, and sustainable forest enterprises constrain the scope and sustainability of forest initiatives.

In many forest-dependent communities, there is inadequate support for alternative livelihoods, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and long-term engagement in forest protection.

While the National Forest Monitoring System has improved, gaps remain in regular, high-quality data collection on forest change, carbon stocks, and degradation trends.

Increasing temperature extremes, erratic rainfall, and desertification—especially in northern Nigeria—undermine forest regeneration efforts and natural resilience.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

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

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

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

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

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

Target 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, 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 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community-Based REDD+ Livelihood Projects in Cross River

Brief description of the action:

Through UN-REDD and national REDD+ programs, over 300 households in Cross River State (e.g., Iko Esai) were supported with agroforestry, cassava-processing mills, beehives, cocoa/nontimber forest planting, and sustainable forest management plans.

Main results achieved for the action:

Household incomes increased by at least 10%, with time saved (e.g., cassava processing dropped from 6 days to a few hours).

Diversified and sustainable income sources reduced pressure on forests.

Forest protection bylaws adopted, curbing deforestation and boosting local empowerment.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.un-redd.org/news/community-based-redd-projects-iko-esai-nigeria>

Action (short title):

Empowering Rural Women through the Shea Tree Value Chain

Brief description of the action:

Since 2021, initiatives in parts of Nigeria have focused on leveraging the shea Butter tree value chain to improve the livelihoods of forest-dependent women. NGOs, cooperatives, and private sector actors have supported shea parkland restoration, organic certification, training in improved shea butter processing, and access to markets. The initiative integrates agroforestry, forest conservation, and gender empowerment.

Main results achieved for the action:

Formation of women-led cooperatives trained in organic shea processing and marketing.

Enhanced income for over 200 women through value addition and access to national and international markets.

Conservation of thousands of shea trees and surrounding parklands, reducing deforestation.

Fuel-efficient stoves introduced to reduce wood harvesting for shea processing.

Strengthened collaboration among government, civil society, and traditional leaders to protect shea landscapes.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

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

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Wholesale MSME Lending via Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN)

Brief description of the action:

The Development Bank of Nigeria (DBN) operates as a wholesale financier, partnering with microfinance banks and other intermediaries to channel affordable funds to MSMEs—including forest-based businesses—enabling access to working capital and asset finance.

Main results achieved for the action:

Disbursed over ₦1 trillion to ~495,000 MSMEs since inception; ₦787 billion in 2023 alone.

Enhanced flow of credit to rural and underserved enterprises, including small-scale forest product ventures.

Catalyzed partnerships and technical assistance between financial institutions and value-chain actors.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.devbankng.com/newsletter>

Action (short title):

PBAT Green Heroes Project

Brief description of the action:

PBAT supports economic empowerment through the establishment of fruit orchards, beekeeping, and fish farming units, helping communities form cooperatives that can access markets and financial support.

Main results achieved for the action:

Creation of community-based micro-enterprises around non-timber forest products.

Integration of local producers into market value chains for honey, fruits, and fish.

Foundations laid for microcredit access via organized cooperatives.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.3
2.4
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

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

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

PBAT Green Heroes Project

Brief description of the action:

The PBAT Green Heroes Project, a major national initiative under the Federal Government of Nigeria, has commenced large-scale planting of economically and nutritionally valuable tree species, including cashew, mango, moringa, and locust bean, across all six geopolitical zones. Implemented by the Federal Department of Forestry and supported by the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW), the project aims to enhance food security, restore degraded lands, and create green jobs in line with the National Forest Policy (2020) and Nigeria's climate and biodiversity commitments.

Main results achieved for the action:

Increased access to tree-based foods for participating households.

Improved household nutrition and food availability, especially in arid zones.

Dual-purpose land use for ecological and nutritional resilience.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4

2.1

2.2

2.4

2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

15.2

15.b

Weblink:

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

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

PBAT Green Heroes Project

Brief description of the action:

Through the development of forest plantations and fruit orchards, the PBAT program contributes to climate regulation, carbon sequestration, and economic value generation.

Main results achieved for the action:

Rehabilitated 240 ha of land with multi-functional tree species.

Increased biodiversity, soil retention, and water regulation.

Expanded forest-based economic activities, including value-added processing.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Target 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

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

PBAT Green Heroes Project

Brief description of the action:

The afforestation project prioritizes the use of native and climate-resilient species to restore degraded land and enhance ecosystem connectivity.

Main results achieved for the action:

Restored ecological functions on 240 hectares of previously degraded land.

Enhanced biodiversity habitat and forest connectivity.

Improved forest resilience to drought, floods, and other climate threats.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.4
2.1
2.2
2.3
2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Achieving Global Forest Goal 2 in Nigeria by enhancing forest-based economic, social, and environmental benefits faces several interconnected challenges. First, the widespread poverty and limited livelihood options among forest-dependent communities lead to unsustainable exploitation of forest resources, such as illegal logging, fuelwood harvesting, and bush burning. This undermines both biodiversity and long-term forest productivity. Second, the limited access to finance, markets, and capacity building for small-scale forest enterprises hinders their ability to grow, integrate into value chains, or adopt sustainable practices. Women and youth are particularly disadvantaged due to a lack of training, collateral, and market access. Finally, the weak enforcement of forest governance frameworks and inadequate implementation of policies—despite the 2020 revision of Nigeria's National Forest Policy—constrain efforts to sustainably manage forests and support forest-based livelihoods.

In addition, land tenure insecurity and conflicting land use pressures (e.g., agriculture, infrastructure) create barriers to long-term investment in sustainable forest enterprises. The lack of clear rights and benefit-sharing arrangements discourages community engagement in conservation and afforestation.

Finally, climate change impacts, including erratic rainfall and desertification in northern Nigeria, exacerbate forest degradation and reduce the resilience of ecosystems that communities depend on for food, fuel, and income.

Addressing these challenges requires coordinated policy implementation, increased investment in forest-based value chains, improved land tenure systems, and targeted support for community-based forest management and climate-resilient livelihood options.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

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

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

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

Target 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, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Conversion of 10 Forest Reserves to National Parks

Brief description of the action:

In 2022, the Federal Government of Nigeria, through the National Park Service and with approval from the President, initiated the conversion of 10 forest reserves into national parks across various ecological zones. The move aimed to strengthen the conservation status of ecologically critical forests, enhance biodiversity protection, and promote ecotourism and sustainable livelihoods.

Main results achieved for the action:

Expanded Nigeria's national park system from 7 to 17 parks, significantly increasing the forest area under IUCN Category II protection.

Laid groundwork for ecotourism, green jobs, and community engagement in forest protection.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.5
3.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Establishment and Co-management of Kainji Lake National Park Expansion Project

Brief description of the action:

In October 2023, the Nigeria National Park Service partnered with the West African Conservation Network for a co-management initiative to restore and secure Kainji Lake National Park ($\approx 5,341 \text{ km}^2$) and its adjacent reserves, enhancing protected-area management and biodiversity.

Main results achieved for the action:

Co-management agreement signed, with planning underway for zones mapping, demarcation, anti-poaching patrols, and ecosystem restoration strategies.

Strengthened protection of wildlife and habitats through improved governance and community inclusion.

Serves as a model for expanding IUCN Category II protected forests in Nigeria

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.5
3.2
4.5
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.westafricanconservation.org/wacn-kainji-lake-national-park-project/>

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

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Community-Based Participatory Sustainable Forest Management Action in Nigeria

Brief description of the action:

Cross River State has developed and begun implementing long-term forest management plans, including community-based forestry zones and conservation sites—e.g., delineation of 30 ha of mangrove under CEPF support in Odukpani (2021–22).

Main results achieved for the action:

30 ha of mangrove legally designated as community-conserved, with management plans and by-laws.

Expanded cross-state uptake of management plans for sustainable forestry and REDD+ readiness.

Enhanced stakeholder capacity in management, land-use planning, and biodiversity protection.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.5
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/final-report-112437.pdf>

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

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Nigeria Timber Legality Standard (NTLS) – 2023

Brief description of the action:

In 2023, the Federal Ministry of Environment released the Nigeria Timber Legality Standard (NTLS) to define legal timber sourcing requirements and promote sustainable forest management. It aims to eliminate illegal logging and enhance Nigeria's trade credibility.

Main results achieved for the action:

Standard officially adopted for domestic and export timber regulation.

Used by forest authorities to guide licensing and inspection.

Supports traceability and accountability in forest product supply chains.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.4
3.2
4.1
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
15.b

Weblink:

<https://t.co/n9WXWNGX9m>

Action (short title):

Policy Guideline on the Export of Processed Wood and Charcoal (2023)

Brief description of the action:

In response to unsustainable and often illegal exploitation, the Federal Government issued a policy guideline in 2023 that restricts raw wood exports and encourages the processing of timber and charcoal from verified legal sources before export.

Main results achieved for the action:

Shift toward export of value-added forest products.

Increased compliance with sustainable sourcing and chain-of-custody protocols.

Supports climate mitigation by curbing deforestation-driven charcoal trade.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.4

3.2

6.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://t.co/1CFiJQSLPr>

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Achieving Global Forest Goal 3 in Nigeria, which aims to expand protected forest areas, implement long-term management plans, and increase sustainably sourced forest products, faces several significant challenges.

First is the inadequate funding and capacity for forest management across federal and state levels hinders the implementation of long-term forest management plans and enforcement in protected areas. Many forest reserves lack updated inventories, infrastructure, or dedicated personnel.

Secondly, the weak enforcement of forest laws contributes to ongoing illegal logging, encroachment, and forest degradation. Although standards like the Nigeria Timber Legality Standard (2023) exist, compliance remains low due to insufficient monitoring, corruption, and porous borders.

Thirdly, overlapping mandates and poor coordination among institutions (e.g., forestry, environment, agriculture) lead to policy conflicts and fragmented implementation, especially between federal and state authorities.

Additionally, land tenure insecurity and the absence of clearly defined rights in many forest-dependent communities discourage sustainable forest use and investment in long-term management.

There is also low adoption of sustainable certification systems and weak market incentives for legal and sustainably sourced timber, limiting progress under Target 3.3.

Finally, community involvement in forest governance remains limited, despite growing emphasis on participatory approaches. Many community forests lack legal recognition, management support, or benefit-sharing mechanisms.

Addressing these challenges will require stronger institutional coordination, increased funding, improved monitoring, and greater engagement of local communities in forest protection and benefit sharing.

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

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

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

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

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

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

Target 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, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Establishment of Nigeria's Climate Change Fund (2021)

Brief description of the action:

Under the Climate Change Act (2021), the government established a dedicated National Climate Change Fund to mobilize resources, including public, private, and international finance, for climate-related actions such as reforestation, ecosystem restoration, and forestry innovation. The fund was reactivated in 2025.

Main results achieved for the action:

The Fund will mobilize domestic and international climate finance from multilateral institutions, donor agencies, and private investors to support Nigeria's green transition.

It is expected to promote sustainable finance instruments, including carbon credit-backed investments, sustainability-linked loans, and climate risk insurance.

The Fund will encourage blended finance structures to leverage public-private partnerships for sustainable forest and land-use management.

Note: While the Nigeria Climate Change Fund was established under the Climate Change Act (2021), it was reactivated in April 2025. As such, these results reflect projected outcomes, pending full operationalization and disbursement activities beginning later in 2025.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.2

4.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Other, please specify: 15.a

Weblink:

<https://finance.gov.ng/fgn-moves-to-activate-climate-change-fund-aligns-finance-with-green-agenda/>

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

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes

22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)

Public domestic funding

Private domestic funding

Public international funding, including official development assistance

Private international funding

Blended financing

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

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

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Launch of Nigerian Climate Investment Platform (NCIP)

Brief description of the action:

The Federal Government of Nigeria through the collaborative efforts of the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), has launched the Nigerian Climate Investment Platform (NCIP), a bold new initiative aimed at mobilising up to \$500 million to fund climate-resilient infrastructure, adaptation, and innovation projects across the country.

Main results achieved for the action:

Structure established to channel both domestic and international capital toward sustainable forestry, climate resilience, and landscape restoration.

NSIA pursuing accreditation with GCF, indicating readiness to act as a direct access point for forest investments.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1
4.3
4.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: 15.a

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Expansion of green finance in Nigeria

Brief description of the action:

In November 2024, the Bank of Industry (BOI) secured a €100 million green credit line from the French Development Agency (AFD), supported by a €2.5 million GCF grant for technical assistance and capacity building in climate-aligned lending

The credit facility will focus on financing investments that contribute to climate change mitigation or adaptation, specifically projects focused on renewable energy, low-carbon and efficient energy generation, climate-smart agriculture technologies, clean urban transportation, and others.

Main results achieved for the action:

Expanded green finance products supporting climate-smart agriculture, energy transition, and forest-based businesses.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1
4.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

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

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Enhancing forest monitoring through global collaboration: A south-south knowledge exchange

Brief description of the action:

In November 2024, Nigeria participated in the South–South Knowledge Exchange hosted by FAO in Rome, engaging with countries like Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia and others on innovative forest monitoring technologies and national forest monitoring systems (NFMS). The Nigerian delegation included government and technical experts.

Main results achieved for the action:

Strengthened regional collaboration and exchange on NFMS, REDD+ MRV, and satellite-based forest monitoring (SEPAL, GEDI, GEE).

Enhanced technical capacity for forest data integration and open-source innovation in forest information systems.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.5
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.b

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Participation in AFF Regional Forest & Ecosystem Services Workshop (Nairobi, July 2023)

Brief description of the action:

Nigeria participated in a 5-day regional workshop (3-7 July 2023) organized by the African Forest Forum (AFF) in Nairobi, Kenya. The session brought together ~70 forestry stakeholders, including Nigeria who shared experiences on forest and tree-based ecosystem services, climate adaptation, and socio-ecological resilience.

Main results achieved for the action:

Nigerian delegates gained insights on ecosystem services valuation, remote sensing for climate adaptation, and participatory forest management.

Established knowledge-sharing links with counterparts from 14 African countries, including Kenya, Ethiopia, Benin, and Burkina Faso, enhancing cross-border collaboration.

Identified emerging opportunities for joint research, technical cooperation, and policy alignment on sustainable forest management.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.5
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

JICA Remote Sensing & Forest Value Chain Training (Sept–Nov 2024)

Brief description of the action:

In September–November 2024, Nigerian forestry officials and researchers attended a JICA training program in Japan, focused on remote sensing of forest resources and the sustainable use of forest and natural resources with emphasis on local value chains. The training covered GIS applications for forest management, carbon mapping, sustainable forestry practices, and value chain strengthening

Main results achieved for the action:

Participants from Nigeria gained advanced skills in satellite imagery analysis for forest cover monitoring, biomass estimation, and ecosystem management.

Training included modules on developing sustainable forest value chains, supporting participants in building market-linked forest enterprises.

Graduates are expected to lead upgrades to Nigeria's NFMS and implement more efficient monitoring and forest resource planning.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.4
3.2
4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2
15.b

Weblink:

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

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

**27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)**

Governments
Intergovernmental organizations and/or processes
Non-governmental organizations

**28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

North-South
South-South

**29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

Science
Technology
Innovation

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

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

**32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding
Private domestic funding
Public international funding, including official development assistance
Private international funding
Blended financing

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

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

Yes

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

Since 2020, Nigeria has made notable progress in strengthening the collection, availability, and accessibility of forest-related information. These improvements are driven by enhanced institutional capacity, international collaboration, and technological integration.

The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has been upgraded to incorporate satellite-based tools (e.g., FAO's SEPAL platform and Google Earth Engine) for near-real-time monitoring of forest cover, deforestation, and land-use change. The National Forest Inventory (NFI) has also been modernized, with updated forest carbon stock assessments, biomass mapping, and expansion of ground-truth data collection, particularly in REDD+ priority states.

Additionally, Nigeria has improved inter-agency data coordination through platforms like the REDD+ Secretariat and MRV Technical Working Group, fostering multisectoral integration and knowledge sharing.

Multidisciplinary assessments have expanded to include biodiversity surveys, climate vulnerability studies, and socioeconomic data on forest-dependent communities, supporting integrated landscape approaches and forest governance reforms.

These improvements have enhanced Nigeria's capacity to meet reporting obligations under the UNFCCC, UNFF, and other multilateral environmental agreements, while enabling evidence-based decision-making and attracting climate finance.

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

Yes

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

2022

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Nigeria faces several challenges in mobilizing financial resources and enhancing cooperation to support sustainable forest management.

Although forestry is recognized in national policies, public funding for forest programmes remains low compared to competing priorities like infrastructure, health, and education. This constrains implementation of large-scale afforestation, forest monitoring, and community forestry initiatives.

The forest sector lacks structured incentives to attract private capital. Challenges include weak value chain development, unclear land tenure, and limited access to finance for forest-dependent communities and small enterprises.

Institutional overlap and poor inter-agency coordination limit the effective use of forest-related funding and data. This also affects the harmonization of efforts between federal, state, and local levels.

While Nigeria has secured some funding through REDD+, GCF, and bilateral projects, access to international financing is hampered by inadequate project pipelines, limited accredited entities, and insufficient readiness support.

Although progress has been made, gaps remain in the consistent collection, analysis, and dissemination of forest data, particularly at the subnational level. This affects the country's ability to meet transparency, MRV, and reporting standards under international frameworks.

Limited technical expertise and institutional capacity, especially at the state and community levels, undermine the ability to plan, implement, and monitor sustainable forest management interventions.

Addressing these challenges will require sustained investment, capacity building, and stronger cross-sectoral partnerships.

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

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

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

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

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

Target 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 targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

38. In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes

**39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)**

National sustainable development plans

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

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Establishment of the Nigerian Forest Security Service (NFSS) – 2021/2024

Brief description of the action:

Nigeria formalized the Nigerian Hunter & Forest Security Service (NHFSS) in 2021, renaming it NFSS in 2024. This paramilitary body integrates traditional forest guards into a national force to combat illegal logging, poaching, and forest-related insecurity.

Main results achieved for the action:

NFSS now has almost 50,000 operatives, with a growing reach in forest reserves.

Supported successful operations against criminals, insurgents, and illegal loggers, especially in conflict-affected regions.

Enhanced community-trusted enforcement network contributing to improved forest governance.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4

3.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://nhfss.org.ng/>

Action (short title):

National Strategy to Combat Wildlife & Forest Crime (2022–26)

Brief description of the action:

Launched in 2022, this multi-agency strategy addresses illegal logging, rosewood trafficking, and wildlife crime. It enhances legal frameworks, strengthens enforcement capabilities, and improves international cooperation and traceability.

Main results achieved for the action:

After the 2020 rosewood export ban, no trade was detected in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, indicating enforcement gains.

Increased inter-agency coordination (eg. NESREA, police, customs), and mapping of illegal logging syndicates and routes.

Significantly improved corporate and environmental accountability through legally mandated traceability measures.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

https://www.unodc.org/conig/uploads/documents/National_Strategy_to_Combat_Wildlife_and_Forest_Crime_in_Nigeria_2022-2026.pdf

Action (short title):

Forestry Inter-Ministerial Joint Task Force (FIM-JTF) – 2023

Brief description of the action:

The Federal Ministry of Environment launched a Joint Task Force (FIM-JTF) in January 2023 to coordinate federal and state agencies in combating forest crimes and enforcing timber regulations.

Main results achieved for the action:

Operational guidelines and whistleblower systems have been implemented to facilitate reporting and action.

Improved cross-sector cooperation and regular enforcement operations targeting illegal logging activities.

Supports stricter compliance with the Nigeria Timber Legality Standard and elevated forest governance practices.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

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

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation

Improved enforcement of existing legislation

Export controls

Bilateral agreements between exporting and importing countries

Other, please specify: Development and implementation of the Nigeria Timber Legality Standard (NTLS), and establishment of specialized forest security task forces (e.g., NFSS, Joint Task Force on Illegal Logging)

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

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Stakeholders' Workshop on Forest Reserves & Protected Areas

Brief description of the action:

Co-hosted by the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Federal Ministry of Environment, and UNEP-WCMC in Abuja, this workshop assessed conservation status, integrated GIS mapping, and aligned efforts toward the global 30×30 target.

Main results achieved for the action:

Initiated a comprehensive inventory of forest reserves and protected areas across 36 states.

Defined roles and collaboration protocols between federal, state governments, and communities.

Laid groundwork for another update of Nigeria's data on ProtectedPlanet.net.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.1
4.5
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://ncfnigeria.org/advancing-nigerias-biodiversity-conservation-insights-from-the-stakeholders-workshop-on-forest-reserves-and-protected-areas>

Action (short title):

Bilateral Cooperation Framework with Cameroon (2024)

Brief description of the action:

Nigeria signed a bilateral cooperation agreement with Cameroon under the Federal Ministry of Environment to jointly conserve transboundary forest and wildlife landscapes.

Main results achieved for the action:

Established joint action plans and monitoring systems for species and ecosystem corridors.

Enhanced collaboration among environmental agencies and local stakeholders.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

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

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

Nigeria has established several mechanisms to ensure stakeholder involvement in the formulation, planning, and implementation of forest-related policies and programmes at both national and subnational levels. One key mechanism is the multi-stakeholder REDD+ platform, which brings together representatives from government ministries, civil society, academia, private sector, and indigenous/local communities to guide REDD+ strategy development, safeguard implementation, and benefit-sharing frameworks.

In addition, the National Forest Policy (2020) revision process was undertaken through broad stakeholder consultations across zones, incorporating the views of state forestry departments, NGOs, traditional rulers, and women's groups. This participatory approach is mirrored in state-level forestry policy updates, especially in Cross River, Nasarawa, and Edo States.

Institutionally, the National Council on Environment (NCE) serves as the highest platform for coordination among federal and state authorities, where forest-related policies are reviewed and harmonized annually. They also operate to ensure community participation in forest governance, including oversight of forest reserves and afforestation projects.

These mechanisms aim to ensure inclusivity, local ownership, policy coherence, and recognition of customary rights, in line with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Target 5.3 of the Global Forest Goals.

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

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

One major challenge is the lack of institutional coordination between federal, state, and local authorities, leading to fragmented forest governance. Responsibilities for land use, forest conservation, agriculture, and infrastructure development are often poorly aligned, resulting in conflicting policies and weak enforcement of forest protection laws.

Another key issue is the limited capacity and funding of forest authorities, especially at the state level, where most forest reserves are located. Many forestry departments lack adequate personnel, equipment, and training to implement and monitor forest-related programs effectively.

Stakeholder engagement, particularly with indigenous peoples and local communities, remains inconsistent. While participatory mechanisms exist, their implementation is uneven across regions, and traditional land tenure systems are often not formally recognized in land use planning processes, increasing the risk of displacement or forest loss.

Additionally, illegal logging and encroachment continue due to weak law enforcement and insufficient penalties, undermining governance reforms. Corruption and vested interests in the timber trade also hinder the full implementation of forest laws and policies.

Finally, the integration of forest-related concerns into broader development and land-use planning is still evolving. While progress has been made through environmental impact assessments and REDD+ readiness efforts, forests are not yet fully mainstreamed into national infrastructure and agricultural expansion plans.

These systemic and institutional gaps must be addressed to improve policy coherence, strengthen legal frameworks, and promote inclusive, accountable forest governance in Nigeria.

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

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

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

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

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

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

Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a

maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Strategy to Combat Wildlife & Forest Crime – 2022

Brief description of the action:

The Nigerian government, with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), launched the National Strategy to Combat Wildlife and Forest Crime (2022-2026). This strategy, launched in April 2022, aims to significantly reduce wildlife crime in Nigeria by 2026 by enhancing institutional capabilities, strengthening the legal framework, increasing collaboration, and raising awareness.

Main results achieved for the action:

Enhanced coordination across enforcement bodies; training workshops on intelligence-sharing; initiation of financial investigations and joint operations targeting illegal logging and trafficking.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

https://www.unodc.org/conig/uploads/documents/National_Strategy_to_Combat_Wildlife_and_Forest_Crime_in_Nigeria_2022-2026.pdf

Action (short title):

National Taskforce on EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) Compliance – 2023

Brief description of the action:

In June 2023, Nigeria's Ministry of Agriculture established a multi-ministerial taskforce to ensure compliance with the EU Deforestation Regulation. It brings together officials from agriculture, forestry, customs, environment, and private-sector representatives to coordinate land-use mapping, due diligence, and traceability systems for forest-risk commodities.

Main results achieved for the action:

Developed a central traceability database; aligned forest monitoring with export regulations and private-sector supply chains; enhanced inter-sector communication across relevant ministries.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

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

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Climate change

Biodiversity

Energy

Rural development

Land use

Other, please specify: Law enforcement, Finance and Planning

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

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Nigeria Timber Legality Standard (NTLS) & NFMS Alignment (2023)

Brief description of the action:

The 2023 NTLS provides clear definitions of legal and sustainable forest products, integrated with Nigeria's National Forest Monitoring System and forest management guidelines.

Main results achieved for the action:

Introduced measurable criteria for legality and sustainability in timber production.

Linked NTLS with NFMS and carbon accounting frameworks, enhancing reporting transparency.

Promoted a unified understanding of SFM across institutions through consistent indicators for legality and sustainable sourcing.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.3

4.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

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

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)

National or subnational

Regional or international (for instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests)

53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)

To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management

To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders

To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):
FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, UNFF, ITTO, and UNFCCC REDD+

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

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

REDD+ Safeguards Information System Stakeholder Engagement

Brief description of the action:

Nigeria convened a multi-stakeholder Safeguards Working Group as part of its REDD+ Safeguards Information System. Participants include indigenous communities, women's groups, civil society, academia, and private sector representatives.

Main results achieved for the action:

Broader awareness of safeguards such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and benefit-sharing protocols.

Stakeholder consultations ensure transparency and inclusivity in REDD+ decision-making.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1

5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:**Action (short title):****Brief description of the action:**

During the 2020 reform of Nigeria's National Forest Policy, the Federal Ministry of Environment held several stakeholder consultation workshops involving various sectors, NGOs, academia, the private sector, women, youth, and traditional rulers.

Main results achieved for the action:

Policy incorporates social equity provisions and recognizes customary land rights.

Enhanced legitimacy and ownership among stakeholders across forest-dependent communities.

Specific target language added for participatory forest governance.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

5.1

5.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

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

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

Since 2020, major groups and other relevant stakeholders in Nigeria have been actively involved in the revision of the National Forest Policy and the establishment of the National Safeguards Working Group.

During the review of Nigeria's National Forest Policy in 2020, a series of inclusive consultations were held across the six geopolitical zones. These consultations engaged stakeholders including civil society organizations, academia, youth and women's groups, traditional institutions, private sector actors, and forest-dependent communities. Their inputs were incorporated into the revised policy, which now places stronger emphasis on participatory forest governance, community rights, equity, and sustainable livelihoods.

In parallel, the National Safeguards Working Group was established under the REDD+ mechanism to guide the development and implementation of Nigeria's Safeguards Information System. This multi-stakeholder platform includes representatives from government, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, and community-based organizations. The group has played a central role in ensuring that environmental and social safeguards are respected, particularly around benefit sharing, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and grievance redress mechanisms.

Together, these platforms have strengthened transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in Nigeria's forest sector. They reflect Nigeria's commitment to the principles of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and have contributed significantly to building ownership and trust among key actors, while aligning national actions with Global Forest Goals and relevant SDGs.

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Nigeria faces several challenges in achieving Goal 6, which seeks to enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence, and synergies on forest-related issues across all levels.

First, institutional fragmentation and weak cross-sectoral coordination hinder integrated forest governance. Although forests are relevant to sectors such as agriculture, climate change, biodiversity, and rural development, policies and actions are often implemented in silos, leading to duplication, inefficiencies, and sometimes conflicting land-use decisions.

Second, there is limited awareness and understanding of the concept and principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) among key actors, including local authorities and some stakeholders. This constrains the uptake and use of SFM indicators, tools, and best practices at the national and subnational levels.

Third, while some platforms for stakeholder engagement exist (e.g., the National Safeguards Working Group), their reach and functionality are still evolving. Participation by women, indigenous peoples, youth, and marginalized forest-dependent communities remains inconsistent, especially in decision-making spaces.

Additionally, data gaps and weak information-sharing mechanisms limit coordinated planning and the ability to measure progress effectively. Scientific research, monitoring, and evidence-based policymaking are underfunded and not fully integrated across institutions.

Lastly, limited technical and financial resources restrict Nigeria's ability to engage more fully in international forest-related processes, such as South-South and triangular cooperation. These challenges collectively impede Nigeria's capacity to fully align national actions with the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and to deliver on the interconnected targets of Goal 6. Addressing them requires stronger political will, institutional reform, and sustained investment.

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area			X			
1.2 Carbon stock			X			
1.3 Implementation of SFM			X			
1.4 Resilience and adaptation			X			
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people			X			
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises			X			
2.3 Food security			X			
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development			X			
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation			X			
3.1 Protected areas			X			
3.2 Long-term forest management plans			X			
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests			X			
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM			X			
4.2 Increased forest related financing			X			
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships			X			
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing			X			
4.5 Forest-related information			X			
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies			X			
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance			X			
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes			X			
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning			X			
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation			X			
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets			X			
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders			X			

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

No

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

Progress to date:

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector: (Select all that apply)

Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources

Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels

Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

Other, please specify: Capacity building, livelihood support, and inclusion in afforestation programs

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

Since 2020, Nigeria has integrated gender equality into several forest and environment-related programs and policies. Notably, the National Forest Policy 2020 explicitly promotes the inclusion of women in forest governance and resource management. In practice, women have been actively engaged in community forest management committees, REDD+ consultations, and benefit-sharing arrangements.

The PBAT Green Heroes Project, launched in 2024, specifically targets the recruitment and training of women (alongside youth) in afforestation activities, silviculture, sustainable land management, and green job creation. This not only supports environmental goals but also strengthens women's economic empowerment.

In the REDD+ framework, the National Safeguards Working Group includes women's groups and advocates for gender-responsive safeguards, ensuring women's voices are heard in the planning and implementation of forest-related initiatives.

Additionally, NGOs and donor-supported projects have provided training in forest-based value chains—such as shea, bamboo, and non-timber forest products—directed at improving women's access to forest-derived income and enhancing their role in forest decision-making processes.

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests? (Select all that apply)

Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)

Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

Other, please specify: Tree-planting campaigns

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

Each International Day of Forests, the Federal Ministry of Environment, State Forestry Departments, NGOs (like the Nigerian Conservation Foundation), and civil society organize tree-planting ceremonies held in schools, communities, and urban green spaces, often accompanied by drama and art presentations to highlight the value of forests.

These events are supported by educational workshops in schools and universities, training teachers on climate–forest linkages. National and local media outlets provide coverage in newspapers, radio, and TV. On social media, coordinated campaigns featuring #InternationalDayofForests, #PlantATree, and #ForestsForPeople engage diverse audiences.

Additionally, municipal authorities host urban clean-up and plantation drives in city parks, reinforcing civic responsibility. These combined efforts foster public awareness, community participation, and support for sustainable forest management across Nigeria.

Weblink:

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

PBAT Green Heroes Afforestation Initiative

Brief description:

Launched in 2024 under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration, this flagship project engages 3,000 youth and women in large-scale tree planting and forest restoration.

Main results achieved:

240 hectares of degraded land rehabilitated through forest plantations and fruit orchards.

Creation of green jobs, enhanced ecosystem services, and community awareness on climate-resilient forest stewardship.

GFG targets addressed:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
4.2
5.2

Weblink:

Please review your responses. Click on the blue button below to download a PDF copy of your report.

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