

## I. Introduction

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- In 2015, based on recommendations by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) at its 11th session, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted Resolution 2015/33 to strengthen the functioning of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF), including calling for the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the period 2017-2030. The purpose of the Strategic Plan (*insert full title once agreed*) is to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the IAF and its components in advancing the vision, mission and objectives of the IAF. The Strategic Plan will also guide UN System wide work on SFM.

### Objectives of the IAF

1. To promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, in particular the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument;
2. To enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
3. To enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels;
4. To foster international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels;
5. To support efforts to strengthen forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the UN Forest Instrument, in order to achieve sustainable forest management.

- Today, the IAF is composed of the UNFF and its 197 Member States, the UNFF Secretariat, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN), and the UNFF Trust Fund. **The CPF is comprised of the executive heads or their designees of 14 international organizations with significant forest-related mandates which are working in association to promote the implementation of SFM.**<sup>2</sup> The IAF involves as partners interested international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, Major Groups based on those as identified in Agenda 21<sup>3</sup> and other stakeholders.
- Objectives 1 and 5 of the IAF focus on implementation of the UN Forest Instrument which was first adopted by the UNFF and the UN General Assembly in 2007. The UNFI sets out four shared Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and 44 national and international policies, measures and actions to implement SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

<sup>2</sup> The Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the World Bank.


<sup>3</sup> The nine Major Groups identified in Agenda 21 are: business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous people and their communities, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, scientific and technological communities, women, and workers and trade unions.

# Summary of Comments on FAO\_comments\_IAF\_SP.PDF

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We suggest to use the language of the CPF Policy Document: "The Partnership is comprised of fourteen international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests."

It is true the E 2000/35 invited the Executive heads to for a partnership but the CPF itself is better be seen as the organizations. The language in UNFF Resolution 1/3 also refers to the organizations.


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### Contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda: <sup>7</sup>


- Forests and tree-based systems support agricultural production by protecting soil and water, maintaining soil fertility, regulating micro-climates and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.
- Forested catchments supply 75% of all the freshwater for farms, industry and homes.
- Foods from forests – leaves, seeds, nuts, fruits, mushrooms, honey, insects and wild animals – provide nutrition and health to millions of people who depend on forests for subsistence.
- Forests provide the raw material for a broad variety of everyday uses, including paper, packaging and construction materials -- all of which are widely recyclable.
- Forest products contribute significantly to the shelter of at least 1.3 billion people.
- Wood is an important source of renewable energy providing over 9% of the total global primary energy supply and 27% of the primary energy supply in Africa. More than 2 billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and/or heating.
- Forests control floods, landslides, droughts and dust storms, significantly reduce risks of disaster, and are a key factor in achieving the global goal of a land degradation-neutral world.
- Forests sequester more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem. Sustainable management and use of forest products present a highly effective and cost-competitive natural carbon capture and storage system.
- Forests are rich in biodiversity and home to 80% of all <sup>2</sup>terrestrial animals, plants and insects 
- Forests have important cultural and spiritual values for people in many regions of the world.
- Trees outside forests cover 284 million hectares worldwide and provide critical supplies of wood and non-wood products to many local communities.

### B. Trends and challenges


- Despite the crucial contribution of forests to life on earth, deforestation continues in many regions of the world.
- Although the rate of deforestation is slowing in some countries, over 6 million hectares of natural forest -- an area the size of Switzerland and Rwanda combined -- are lost each year, often as an unplanned response to demands for food, fuel and fibre.
- The most important challenge is to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation, including <sup>4</sup>economic development, shifting agriculture, conversion to other land use, climate change  <sup>3</sup> population growth and poverty. These drivers are often outside the forest sector, and are rooted in wider social and economic issues and policies that favour sectors and land uses which are easier to

<sup>7</sup> The following figures and statements are extracted from various UN and other international organizations documents and publications.


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Minor point but insect are also part of Animalia or the Animal Kingdom.


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 Number: 3 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:32:18 AM  
We suggest to add an adjective to economic development, e.g. "unsustainable" as economic development is not necessarily a driver for deforestation. We suggest to drop the word "often" or re-phrase the sentence, because the identified drivers are all from outside the sector.

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finance and which produce higher and more rapid financial returns, such as agriculture, energy and transportation.

- In addition, many forests are being degraded due to illegal logging, fire, disease, <sup>2</sup>invasive insects and fragmentation -- all of which threaten forest health and vitality and the ability of forests to function as productive ecosystems. 
- The sustainable management of all renewable and non-renewable natural resources, including forests and trees outside forests, is crucial to social and economic development. The demand for forest goods and services continues to increase due to rapid population growth and increasing per capita income and consumption in many countries.
- With world population projected to reach 9 billion by 2050, future demand for forest products and services could outstrip supply unless action is taken urgently to sustainably manage, protect and restore forests everywhere. Annual demand for wood alone is expected to triple by 2050.
- Achieving SFM, in particular in developing countries as well as in countries with economies in transition, depends on significantly new and additional financial resources from all sources, as well as good governance at all levels.

### C. Opportunities for enhanced action

- The launch of the Strategic Plan comes at a time of unprecedented opportunity for strengthened and decisive action by all actors at all levels to safeguard the world's forests and their multiple benefits.
- Actions to improve productivity of existing agricultural land and restoration of degraded landscapes hold significant potential to reduce the conversion of forests to other land uses.
- SDG 15 of the 2030 Agenda calls for sustainably managing forests and includes targets 15.2 and 15.b which focus on SFM and related forest financing, and targets 15.1 and 6.6 which include forests among other important ecosystems. Forests and forest-based industries also contribute to the achievement of many other SDGs<sup>8</sup>.
- The landmark Paris Agreement of 2015 “aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty” and opens the door to looking at forest benefits holistically in the climate context, building on existing REDD+ initiatives under the UNFCCC<sup>9</sup>. Forests are expected to feature in many of the Parties’ intended “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) to the aim of the Agreement. In this regard, broader recognition of the values of forests both in carbon pricing and as carbon sinks is important.
- <sup>4</sup>Also significant are the positive responses of countries to the 6th replenishment of the <sup>3</sup>Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategy for SFM for the period 2014-2018 and the 

<sup>8</sup> An illustrative diagram on potential contributions of forest-related actions towards achieving the SDGs is included as an Annex.


<sup>9</sup> The Paris Agreement is a protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). REDD+ adds “forest conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks” to REDD.

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Insects don't have to be invasive to contribute to the degradation. Like diseases, under certain condition native insects can cause considerable damage and degradation (e.g. during gradation periods).

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Please note the different font size here.

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<sup>1</sup>likelihood of future replenishments. The quadrennial GEF replenishment cycle represents an important opportunity to increase resources for forests, including supporting the IAF and in particular implementation of the Strategic Plan, the UNFI and the GFFFN.

- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) became fully operational in 2015 and promises to be the single largest global financing source for climate mitigation and adaptation measures, including as related to forests. The potential to mobilise GCF resources to <sup>3</sup>support the GFFFN activities is an opportunity to be further explored.
- The GFFFN offers a unique and innovative mechanism to catalyze and facilitate financing for SFM by assisting Member States to develop financing strategies, programmes and projects to enhance their access to resources available in forest funding mechanisms and to increase investment opportunities for forests.

#### D. Value-added of the IAF

- The strengthened IAF has the potential to advance concerted global actions on SFM while promoting implementation of other international forest-related commitments.
- The IAF encourages and benefits from the participation and contributions of a wide variety of stakeholders and civil society representatives at international, regional and sub-regional levels.
- The Forum, with its universal membership, is the only global intergovernmental body addressing forest-related issues in an integrated and holistic manner. In this regard, the Forum can play an important niche role in catalyzing actions and resources for SFM, and coherence and synergies across global forest-related policies, programs and UN organizations, as well as integrated implementation of the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.
- Through the CPF, the IAF provides a unique opportunity for CPF member organizations, as key IAF partners, to play a major role in ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan and in particular the UNFI and the GFFFN activities.
- The Strategic Plan will help guide the UN system and the work of the IAF in realizing its full potential to add value to existing forest initiatives through the work of the Forum, Secretariat and CPF; the meaningful engagement of stakeholders; and the commitments and initiatives of Member States, both as members of the Forum and as members of the governing bodies of forest-related organizations at the international, regional and sub-regional levels.


## II. IAF vision and mission statements- Options

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### A. A Vision for 2030 - options

- **Option 1:** A world where forests everywhere are sustainably managed, contribute to sustainable development and benefit all.
- **Option 2:** A world where forests are <sup>5</sup>protected and sustainably managed, providing economic, social and environmental benefits for all.
- **Option 3:** A world where forests are protected, sustainably used and restored and their services


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This seems to suggest that the GCF resources would be used for the GFFFN itself, contrary to what the bullet below says, i.e. that the GFFFN would help channel resources (probably also from the GCF) to countries to support their actions.

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 Number: 4 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 5:50:57 AM

We would like to note that protection is included in the sustainable management concept but the current formulation creates concerns about this. Although this is not a drafting exercise, we would see lots of merit in having 1 and 2 combined: "

A world where forests everywhere are sustainably managed and provide economic, social and environmental benefits for all.

For the same reason we have several reservations over Option 3 and suggest to drop it.

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are recognized and valued by all.

- **Option 4:** A world where forests are healthy, secure and productive.

## B. Mission statement options

The mission of the IAF is to: 

- **Option 1:** Promote implementation of SFM and enhance the contribution of forests and forest goods and services to the 2030 Agenda.
- **Option 2:** Protect and expand earth's forests and promote equitable sustainable forest-based development.
- **Option 3:** Promote policy dialogue and encourage intersectoral and inter-agency collaboration for the achievement of the sustainable management of all types of forests.
- **Option 4:** Halt deforestation, in cooperation with relevant sectors, and prevent forest degradation, and strengthen long-term political commitment towards those objectives.
- **Option 5:** Enhance cooperation, coordination and political commitment at all levels in order to promote the implementation of SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to sustainable development and the well-being of all/people everywhere/present and future generations.
- **Option 6:** Provide a coherent, effective, transparent and participatory global framework for enhanced policy development, policy implementation, policy coordination and political commitment to halt deforestation and forest degradation, achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, for the benefit of present and future generations.

## III. Strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets – Options

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- The “strategic approach/global goals/ objectives/ targets”<sup>10</sup> set out below are aligned with the five objectives of the IAF, incorporate the four GOFs and the forest-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda, in particular the SDGs, and take into account the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs), provisions of the Paris Agreement, the GEF SFM Strategy and other significant forest-related developments<sup>11</sup>.
- The “strategic approach/global goals /objectives/ targets” are global in nature and provide a framework for voluntary actions and contributions by Member States and partners at regional, subregional, national and local levels.
- The targets are to the extent possible defined in a precise, evaluable, attainable and motivating nature. This allows Member States, international organizations, regional and subregional partners, major groups and other stakeholders to voluntarily inform the UNFF on their voluntary planned contributions to the targets' attainment.

<sup>10</sup>The phrase “Strategic approach/global goals/ objectives/ targets” is used throughout the text to indicate alternatives and as a placeholder for whatever approach is finally agreed.

<sup>11</sup> E/2015/33 para 39

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Again, we understand this is not a drafting exercise, however that the combination of 1 and 5 would represent the right mix of key elements from both the political and technical/practical domains and could therefore work as a comprehensive mission statement.

## A. Options for strategic approach/ global goals/ objectives/ targets

### **Option 1: 6 global goals linked to the 5 IAF Objectives and encompassing the 4 GOFs<sup>12</sup>:**

1. Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation. (GOF1) or Promote the implementation of SFM, halt deforestation, restore degraded areas and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. (SDG15.2)
2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people. (GOF2)
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. (GOF3)
4. Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM (GOF 4) and foster N-S, S-S and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships. (IAF Objective 4)
5. Promote sustainable governance frameworks to implement the UNFI and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda. (IAF Objectives 2 & 5)
6. Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues. (IAF Objective 3)


### **Option 2: <sup>1</sup> GOFs and 2 cross-cutting strategies (CCSs) that apply to all GOFs and link to IAF Objectives 2-5<sup>13</sup>**

1. GOF 1 (or replace GOF 1 with SDG15.2)
2. GOF 2
3. GOF 3
4. GOF 4
5. CCS 1: Strengthen the legal, policy and institutional framework to implement the UNFI, achieve SFM and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda. (Covers scientific and technical cooperation, cross-sectoral cooperation/achievement of SDGs, and governance (IAF objective 2, 4 and 5))
6. CCS 2: Ensure the operational effectiveness of the IAF in advancing its mission and objectives (operational strategy)


<sup>12</sup> Option 1 draws on the 6 goals set out in Annex III of the Tokyo Expert Panel Moderator's Summary (March 2016).

<sup>13</sup> Option 2 draws on the proposal in the Background Paper on Elements for the Preparation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2030 (January 2016).

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We would like to note that this option puts a very strong focus on the UNFI and IAF and as such may work against the concept of the SP being of the UN system. This observation may even be considered in relation to Option 1 which could also be made a bit more inclusive.

## B. Options for global targets/deliverables<sup>14</sup>

**Option 1: Replicate SDG 15.2 and 15.b and focus SDG 15.1 and 6.6 and other relevant SDG targets on forests<sup>15</sup>. For example:**

SDG 15.2 and 15.b:

- SDG 15.2: By 2020 promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally. (Supports GOF 1 & 3. Contributes/linked to SDG 6.6, 12.2, 15.3; ABT 5, 7, 14, 15; GEF SFM Objectives 2 & 3; provisions of Paris Agreement )
- SDG 15.b: Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance SFM and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation. (Supports GOF4. Contributes/linked to SDG 15.a, 17.2, 17.3; ABT 20)

SDG 15.1 and 6.6 modified to focus only on forests:

- SDG 15.1: By 2020 ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest ecosystems, in line with obligations under international agreements. (Supports GOF 1. Contributes/links to ABT 5, 11, 15)
- SDG 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore forest ecosystems. (Supports GOF 1 & 3. Contributes/links to ABT 14, provisions of Paris Agreement))

Examples/options of how SDG targets could be translated into forest-related targets:<sup>1</sup>



- SDG 1.4: By 2030, ensure all men and women have equal rights to forest<sup>17</sup> economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over forest land and resources. (Supports IAF Objective 5. Contributes/links to SDG 5.a)
- SDG 2.4: By 2030 implement resilient agricultural practices that help maintain forest ecosystems. (Supports IAF Objective 2)
- SDG 4.4: By 2030 substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship in the forest sector. (Supports GOF2)
- SDG 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale forest-based enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets. (Supports GOF2. Contributes/links to SDG 8.3)

<sup>14</sup>Targets/deliverables would be associated with specific global goals/objectives/strategic approach.

<sup>15</sup>A number of SDG targets are written or expressed as objectives or actions rather than targets because they have no target date and/or use elastic language (e.g. promote) rather than action verbs (establish, halt, restore ensure).

<sup>16</sup>A number of the examples/options of modified SDG targets are similar to actions contained in the UNFI.

<sup>17</sup>Underlined words indicate how the target has been adapted or disaggregated to focus on forests.

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Understanding that these are examples only we would like to note that some important elements are still missing including the targets related to water and energy. Adding those would increase the comprehensiveness of the list.

- SDG 16.10: Ensure public access to forest-related information, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)
- SDG 17.6: Enhance N-S, S-S and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to forest-related science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 17.7, 17.9; ABT 19; GEF SFM Objective 4)
- SDG 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, and dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound forest-related technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed. (Supports IAF Objective 4, SDG 17.9, GEF SFM Objective 4)
- SDG 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for SFM. (Supports IAF Objective 3, 4, 5. Contributes/links to SDG 17.13, GEF SFM Objective 4)
- SDG 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society forest partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of existing partnerships. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 17.16)
- SDG 17.19: By 2030 build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on SFM and support capacity building in developing countries to monitor, assess and report on forests. (Supports IAF Objective 4. Contributes/links to SDG 17.18)
- Adopt cross-sectoral approaches and foster collaboration to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in a coherent and coordinated way. (UNFF11 Ministerial Declaration para 14.e) (This also supports IAF Objective 4, 5. Contributes/links to GEF SFM Objective 5)
- ABT 3: By 2020, eliminate, phase out or reform incentives and subsidies harmful to forests and develop and apply positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable management of forests. (Supports IAF Objective 5, all GOFs)


**Option 2: Identify quantifiable time-bound global targets/deliverables for the GOFs, forest-related SDGs and other commitments. For example:**

By 2030:


- The Earth's forest cover is increased by X%. (Supports GOF 1, SDG 15.2 and related commitments<sup>18</sup>)
- 150 million hectares of forest land are restored worldwide. (Supports GOF 1, SDG 15.1 and related commitments)
- Reduce the area of forests affected by fire by X%. (Supports GOF 1, SDG 15.1 and related commitments)
- 2 the world's carbon stocks are increased by X%. (Supports GOF 1, ABT 15, Paris Agreement)

<sup>18</sup>Related commitments are those listed for topically similar targets/deliverables under option 1.

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It would be useful to specify that this is meant in the context of forest biomass.

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- The share of the world's population that rely on unsustainably produced forest biomass for cooking and heating is halved. (Supports GOF 3, SDG 7)
- Reduce the extreme poverty of forest-dependent people and local communities by X%. (Supports GOF 2, SDG 1)
- X% of the world's timber-producing forests are under sustainable management. (Supports GOF 1 & 3, SDG 15.2 and related commitments)
- X% of high value conservation forests are effectively protected, including Y% of coastal forests. (Supports GOF 3, SDG 14.5 and related commitments)
- Forest-related ODA is increased X% and investment in SFM and forest-based industries is increased by Y% globally. (Supports GOF 4, SDG 15.b and related commitments)
- Illegal logging is reduced by X% worldwide. (Supports IAF Objective 5, SDG 16.3, 16.5)
- X% of countries include forests/forest sector in their national development plans and poverty reduction strategies. (Supports IAF Objective 5, SDG 15.9 and related commitments).


***The above options could also include operational targets/deliverables related to the IAF itself. For example:***

By 2020:


- **1**gnificantly enhance coherence, cooperation and synergies among global forest-related organizations and processes, including through a strengthened CPF.
- **3**gnificantly increase the resources [of the UNFF Trust Fund] **4**y X %  **2** fund:
  - Activities of the GFFFN to enhance capacity of countries to access to funding for forests,
  - Increased participation of Member States in the work of the IAF, including the Forum's sessions and intersessional activities,
  - Enhanced contribution and involvement of regional and sub-regional organizations and processes, and major groups and other stakeholders in the work of the IAF and the Forum,
  - Preparation of a quadrennial global report on the state of implementation of the UNFI in cooperation with CPF member organizations.
- Increase the number of countries implementing the UNFI and the number of countries reporting to the UNFF on their progress in this regard.
- Fully operationalize the GFFFN, including through joint initiatives with the GEF and GCF to enhance access by countries to forest-related financing.
- **5**gnificantly increase public awareness of the importance of forests to people and the planet and the contributions of the IAF and UNFI.

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"Significantly" is a relative category and as such difficult to measure.

 Number: 2 Author: Csoka Subject: Sticky Note Date: 30/08/2016 6:25:37 AM  
There may not be need for using a relative and absolute category to describe the same target, the % should be more appropriate.


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- (i) Strengthen, through enhanced bilateral, regional and international cooperation, the capacity of countries to combat effectively illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources;
- (j) Strengthen the capacity of countries to address forest-related illegal practices, including wildlife poaching, in accordance with domestic legislation, through enhanced public awareness, education, institutional capacity-building, technological transfer and technical cooperation, law enforcement and information networks;
- (k) Enhance and facilitate access to and transfer of appropriate, environmentally sound and innovative technologies and corresponding know-how relevant to sustainable forest management and to efficient value-added processing of forest products, in particular to developing countries, for the benefit of local and indigenous communities;
- (l) Strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing among countries and the use of best practices in sustainable forest management, including through freeware-based information and communications technology;
- (m) Strengthen national and local capacity in keeping with their conditions for the development and adaptation of forest-related technologies, including technologies for the use of fuelwood;
- (n) Promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions and processes;
- (o) Enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, particularly the capacity of research organizations to generate and have access to forest-related data and information, and promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues, and disseminate research results;
- (p) Strengthen forestry research and development in all regions, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence, as well as through global, regional and subregional networks;
- (q) Strengthen cooperation and partnerships at the regional and subregional levels to promote sustainable forest management;
- (r) As members of the governing bodies of the organizations that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Partnership are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates, taking into account relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests;
- (s) Support the efforts of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to develop and implement joint initiatives.

## **B. Roles and responsibilities**

- The Strategic Plan will be implemented by the UN wide system, including the IAF, with the support of government and non-government partners at all levels.

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In this section we feel some structural changes would help strengthening the feeling of ownership for the SP. In our understanding the key role is with member states while the UN system entities and CPF members (including those who are not part of the UN) have a supportive role. The discussion below could follow this sequence. One possible sequence could be: Member States, UNFF (or vice versa), CPF, UN system entities.

We also suggest to harmonize the text in that regard that no conflicting or apparently conflicting messages are sent in the sections (like in the chapeau for B and B2).

- CPF members will advise and assist the Forum to build synergies between the 4POWs and the forest-related actions and priorities of CPF member organizations which are implementing agencies and institutions.
- Member States, as members of the governing bodies of CPF member organizations, will promote the integration of the Strategic Plan into the strategies and programs of CPF member organizations, consistent with their mandates, and consider dedicated funding for CPF activities as an essential strategy for improving cooperation, synergies and coherence in support of the Strategic Plan.

## B.5 Regional/subregional partners

- Regional and subregional bodies are the nexus between global forest policies and national actions and have an important role to play in advancing implementation of the Strategic Plan, UNFI and forest related aspects of the 2030 Agenda.
- The Forum and Secretariat will work with the UN regional economic commissions,  **AO forestry**  **commissions**, regional development banks and other relevant regional and subregional bodies to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates.
- Specific actions and options to enhance engagement of regional and subregional bodies in the work of the IAF are as follows<sup>23</sup>:
- Regional/subregional partners are encouraged to develop or strengthen programmes on SFM, including facilitating the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and relevant aspects of the 2030 agenda, and provide coordinated inputs and recommendations to sessions of the Forum.
- Member States may consider establishing or strengthening regional and subregional processes or platforms for forest policy development, dialogue and coordination to promote SFM.


## B.6 Major Groups and other stakeholders

- Implementation of the Strategic Plan, including its “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/ targets” can be fully achieved with the help of a wide range of non-State actors.
- The Forum will explore innovative mechanisms for greater engagement of private sector companies, major environmental NGOs, philanthropic organizations, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders in the work of the IAF, including in Forum sessions and intersessional work. Examples of specific actions and options include:<sup>24</sup>
  - Creating joint initiatives or networks to support implementation of specific aspects of the Strategic Plan in line with the expertise of individual stakeholder groups.

<sup>23</sup> This section will be reviewed based on the outcome of the expert meeting to be convened on this matter in Sept. 2016.

<sup>24</sup> This section will be reviewed based on the outcome of the expert meeting to be convened on this matter in Sept. 2016

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FAO regional forestry commissions.

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In this context we would like to recall the the Report of the 23rd Session of COFO where the Committee invited UNFF to "a) consider the potential offered by the FAO Regional Forestry Commissions for enhancing regional/sub-regional involvement, including through using the Commissions for regional dialogues related to the UNFF, noting that the respective roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined in collaboration with other relevant regional forest-related bodies and processes."

This invitation would allow for a more pro-active approach than the one presented in the last two bullets of this section.

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facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms, including the GEF and Green Climate Fund (GCF), consistent with their mandates.<sup>29</sup>

2. Assisting countries in designing programmes and project proposals for submission to the GEF, GCF and as appropriate other forest financing institutions.<sup>30</sup>
  3. Serving as a clearing house on existing, new and emerging financing opportunities and as a tool for sharing lessons learned and best practices from successful projects, building on the CPF online Sourcebook for Forest Financing.<sup>31</sup>
  4. Advising countries on enabling environments to attract public and private sector investment in SFM.<sup>32</sup>
- The Forum will review these priorities in 2020 and make adjustments as needed based on experience gained and external developments.
  - This review by the Forum will also include the review of sufficiency of resources for the operation of the GFFFN, and related decision on provision of resources, as appropriate.
  - In managing the GFFFN, the Forum Secretariat will ensure that special consideration is given to the special needs and circumstances of Africa, LDCs, SIDs, and low-, medium-, and high-forest cover developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in gaining access to funds.<sup>33</sup>
  - The Secretariat will also strengthen its collaboration with the GEF and GCF secretariats and, as appropriate, other financing institutions, to support eligible countries in accessing funding for SFM.<sup>34</sup>
  - The Forum will, during its even year sessions, monitor and assess the work and performance of the GFFFN, including the availability and sufficiency of UNFF Trust Fund resources for its operation, and makes decisions to further increase the effectiveness, efficiency and resources of GFFFN.<sup>35</sup>
  - To assist the Forum in its assessment, the Secretariat will identify a set of quantifiable outputs or indicators to evaluate the performance of the GFFFN, including indicators on the availability and sufficiency of Trust Fund resources for the operation of the GFFFN.<sup>36</sup>

## C.2. GEF, GCF and other Forest Funding Institution

- Member States, taking into account the cross-sectoral nature of SFM, should seek to make full use of the potential of the GEF resources, and invite the GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on

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<sup>29</sup> E/2015/33 para 13.b

<sup>30</sup> AHEG 1 proposal

<sup>31</sup> E/2015/33 para 13.c

<sup>32</sup> Facilitative Process function

<sup>33</sup> E/2015/33 para 13.d

<sup>34</sup> E/2015/33 para 14.f

<sup>35</sup> E/2015/33 para 6.f.iii & iv, 14.a

<sup>36</sup> Examples: Number of countries assisted, number of financing strategies put in place, value of funds accessed.

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This section, contrary to its title, talks about Member States, so the title may need to be slightly modified to reflect this.



- The framework encompasses review mechanisms and processes on the implementation carried out by the UN system-wide partners.
- The results of these reviews and assessments will inform the Forum’s deliberations and will be taken into account in the Forum’s 4POWs and resolutions.

## A. Evaluating progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan

- In 2024 and 2030, the Forum will conduct mid-term and final reviews of the effectiveness of the IAF in achieving its objectives and may make recommendations to ECOSOC on the future course of the IAF.<sup>42</sup>
- As part of these reviews, the Forum will evaluate progress in implementing the Strategic Plan, in particular the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets”, associated actions and resources.
- The progress evaluations will:
  - Be based on a set of global forest indicators drawn from the SDG global indicator framework and take into account the results of voluntary national reporting on the UNFI and progress in implementing the Forum’s resolutions and decisions.
  - **1** Include an independent assessment of the views and inputs of CPF members and regional, sub-regional and non-governmental partners.  **2**
  - Include assessing the sufficiency of resources, identifying future resource needs and deciding on the relevant funding sources.
- The Forum may update the Strategic Plan based on the 2024 review of the IAF.

## B. Progress in implementation of the UNFI **3**


- Because the “strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets” encompass the 4 GOFs and 44 actions set out in the UNFI, the implementation and review of the Strategic Plan and UNFI are closely interlinked.
- The Forum will establish a cycle and format for voluntary national reporting at UNFF12 in 2017, taking into account the review cycle of the global FRAs coordinated by FAO, and the SDG review cycle at the global level.
- The Forum may adjust the reporting cycle and/or format as needed over the life of the Strategic Plan to take into account relevant developments.
- Member States will monitor and assess progress towards implementing the UNFI and, beginning in 2018, will submit on a voluntary basis national progress reports to even-year sessions of the Forum.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> E/2015/33 para 41

<sup>43</sup> E/2015/33 para 16.a

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 Number: 2      Author: Csoka      Subject: Sticky Note      Date: 30/08/2016 9:50:33 AM

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While there is a provision, and rightly so, on how the different entities would contribute to the review this does not necessarily cover the UN system, so it would be useful to define a mechanism by which the SP implementation by the UN system could be monitored.

 Number: 3      Author: Csoka      Subject: Sticky Note      Date: 30/08/2016 11:42:16 AM

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Related to this section we would like to recall the invitation of COFO23 where member States recommended a closer collaboration in the area of monitoring progress and suggested concrete measures in this regard:

"25. The Committee invited the UNFF to:

consider SOFO, FRA and other major knowledge and analytical products of FAO and those of the CPF as major inputs for its review sessions."

We believe that this invitation could be more strongly reflected in the SP.