



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Ref.: SCBD/SPS/CSU/CG/CS/LJ/85986

October 11, 2016

Dear Mr. Sobral Filho,

Thank you for your letter of 28 July 2016 (UNFF-16-MSF-L-154), which makes reference to the letter from the Co-Chairs of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group (AHEG), inviting views on the initial proposals on: (i) options and building blocks for the 2017-2030 Strategic Plan of the International Arrangement on Forests and (ii) the quadrennial programme of work for the period 2017-2020.

While I apologize for going beyond the designated deadline of 31 August 2016, I am pleased to enclose herewith the views of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on these initial proposals, for consideration of the AHEG Co-Chairs.

I thank you for this opportunity and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

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CBD Secretariat's views on the building blocks/ options for the United Nations Strategic plan for Forests 2017-2030 and 4POW

Page 1/ introduction. Suggestion to state the purpose of the Strategic Plan, drawing on Resolution 2015/33 paragraphs 38 and 39 (Section XI). The normative basis for the Strategic Plan, related to the GOFs and FI, should be mentioned. As a UN system wide work plan on SFM the forest-related goals and targets of other existing UN intergovernmental processes, such as the Aichi Targets, should be reflected.

Page 2/ section A. The importance of ecological functioning of forest systems and their benefits to people and the planet can be strengthened. Suggest a new bullet "As biologically diverse systems, forests represent some of the richest biological areas on Earth, offering a variety of habitats for plants, animals and micro-organisms. The interactions in biologically diverse forest ecosystems allow organisms to adapt to continually changing environmental conditions and to maintain ecosystem functions that are critical to human wellbeing." The last bullets on the role of SFM and trees outside forests in reducing impacts to primary forests, ecosystem functioning or carbon storage could be heightened.

Page 3/ B. Contribution to the 2030 Agenda. Suggest a new bullet "Forest biodiversity is interlinked to socio-economic factors, providing an array of goods and services that range from timber and non-timber forest resources to mitigating climate change and genetic resources. At the same time, forests provide livelihoods for people worldwide and play important economic, social, and cultural roles in the lives of many indigenous communities. Therefore, forests and forest biological diversity are innately linked to ecosystem and human well-being, constituting a fundamental aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

An addition bullet could underline the water-related benefits of forest ecosystem restoration to cities. For example, "The contributions that forest ecosystems provide to planning and supporting sustainable cities, by supporting the natural resources on which they rely, such as a reliable water supply, and by providing cost-effective natural infrastructure against natural disasters, is essential to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Governance related aspects could also be considered. For example: "The role of forest policies and legislation in view of sustainable public and private procurement policies can be a positive driver of good governance and also contribute to sustainable consumption and production practices and targets of the 2030 Agenda. "

Page 4/ Trends and Challenges. This section should shape the rationale for the Strategic Plan, to answer why a coordinated, UN system wide work plan on SFM is needed.

On the fourth point, suggestion to revise "In addition, many forests are being degraded due to illegal logging, fire, disease, invasive tree species and insects, and forest fragmentation – all of which threaten



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forest health and vitality and the ecological functioning of forest systems which enable a productive forest sector.”

On the sixth point- suggestion to revise the final part of the sentence to state “.....protect and restore the ecological functioning of forest systems as without this the future supply of forest products and services can be jeopardized.”

Page 4/ C. Opportunities for enhanced action. On the first point, suggestion to underscore the opportunity to further enhance collective efforts through other existing UN wide strategic plans, goals and targets to safeguard the world’s forests and their benefits, such as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Page 5/ D. Value added of the IAF. On the first points, consideration to include at the end of the bullet “....commitments, goals and targets, such as the forest- related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

Page 5/ A. Vision for 2030. Suggestion to building on options 4 and 2, and to include the notion of good governance, participation and stewardship.

Page 6 B. Mission of the IAF. Support option 6, as it shapes the context of the work of the IAF.

Page 7. Strategic approach/ global goals/ targets /objectives. Support Option 1 with a deeper focus on the environmental and social benefits of forests.

Page 12. IV. Implementation framework. Suggestion to include under the list of bullets an action item on the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity targets.

Page 12. Actions to achieve a strategic approach/ global goals/ targets /objectives. Support suggestion to develop a matrix.

Page 19. First bullet, suggest to revise text to state “CPF member organizations will advise and assist the Forum to build synergies between the 4POWs and existing forest-related targets agreed in other processes, through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, and inform the Forum of the priorities of CPF member organizations.”

Page 21. C.2 2nd bullet, potential links to the biodiversity window of the GEF could also be leveraged, as well as new resources from the GCF to assist Member States that have articulated ecosystem based mitigation in their NDCs, with an explicit reference to their NBSAPs.

Page 24, 6th bullet under progress in implementing the UNFI, as this work would be done with CPF collaboration, suggestion to include after the text: including progress towards the GOFs and the forest related SDG and targets, *“including how implementation of the forest related Aichi Targets have contributed to the state of implementation of the UNFI”*, beginning in 2021.

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