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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
للأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

AFRICAN FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION

Dakar, Senegal, 19 - 23 June 2018

THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

I. BACKGROUND

1. FAO's *International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition* held in Rome in 2013 raised awareness and recognition of forests' contribution to food security and nutrition. The main outcomes of this conference and the recommendations of the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2014, highlighted the importance of developing capacity and of mainstreaming cross-sectoral forestry and food security policies and programmes.

2. In response to these recommendations, and in light of the increasing recognition of the role of forests in food security and nutrition, the 41st Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2014 requested the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)¹ to conduct a study on "Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition"².

3. The HLPE was created as part of the 2009 reform of the international governance of food security to advise the CFS to keep it up to date with worldwide knowledge and abreast of emerging trends in food security. The HLPE facilitates more informed policy debates and improve the quality, effectiveness and coherence of food security and nutrition policies from local to international levels.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/about-the-hlpe/en/>

² CFS41 report, para 41.d "... requested the HLPE to undertake a study on "Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock" to be presented to CFS Plenary in 2016 and a study on "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" to be presented to CFS Plenary in 2017".

4. The HLPE report on “Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition” has been officially launched on 27 June 2017 as a major contribution to the 44th Session of the CFS in October 2017.

5. The Summary and Recommendations of the HLPE report as well as the CFS Recommendations are attached as Annex for consideration by the Commission.

II. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. In view of the importance of sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition as highlighted by the HLPE report and CFS Recommendations, the Commission may wish to:

- a) Recognize that the sustainable management of forests is essential for achieving SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.
- b) Invite countries to consider the recommendations of the HLPE and initiate appropriate actions.
- c) Request FAO to:
 - support countries in enhancing the contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition;
 - identify, document and disseminate best practices regarding food security and nutrition mainstreaming in forestry;
 - develop guidelines for mainstreaming food security and nutrition objectives in forest policies and in forest management practices.



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High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

Extract from the Report¹

Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition

Summary and Recommendations

In October 2014, at its 41st session, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) requested the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) to prepare a study on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition (FSN) to inform the debates at the 44th CFS Plenary Session of October 2017. The key issue here is the multiple contributions of forests and trees to FSN² in its four dimensions and how they can be optimized, at different spatial and temporal scales, in a context of increasing and competing demands on land, forests and trees (including for wood, food, energy and ecosystem services), as well as of climate change.

This report is an evidence-based, comprehensive analysis of the diverse, direct and indirect, contributions of forests and trees to FSN. Chapter 1 examines the linkages between forests and FSN and proposes, for the purpose of this report, a conceptual framework and a forest typology grounded on management criteria. Chapter 2 provides an in-depth analysis of the channels through which forests and trees contribute to FSN. Chapter 3 reviews the state of the world's forests and identifies challenges and opportunities for forestry in relation to FSN. Chapter 4 is solution-oriented and discusses how to optimize the contributions of forests and trees to FSN in a sustainable manner.

¹ HLPE, 2017. Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome 2017. Full report forthcoming at www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe.

² Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. In 2009, the World Summit on Food Security stated that the “four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization, and stability”. *Availability* is the supply of food through production, distribution and exchange; *access* is the affordability and allocation of food, as well as the preferences of individuals and households requirements of each member of the household; *utilization* is the metabolism of food by individuals; and *stability* is the ability to obtain food over time.

SUMMARY

FORESTS, TREES AND FSN: SCOPE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

1. There are numerous definitions of forests reflecting both the diversity of forest ecosystems in the world and the diversity of human perceptions and uses of forests. The term “forest” is used to describe a broad range of ecosystems from scattered trees in dry landscapes to dense, close canopy old growth forests in high rainfall areas. A forest can be an administrative unit, a type of land cover or a type of land use. Land cover refers to the physical appearance of land, while land use refers to its utilization by humans for different purposes (including production, conservation, cultural or religious value). The FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) has contributed to harmonize, for statistical purposes at the global level, the approaches used to define and categorize forests. The FRA uses a definition of forests that includes minimum thresholds for: the height of trees (5m), the canopy cover (10 percent) and the area (0.5 ha).
2. The FRA definition covers very different types of forests. In addition, there are various types of landscapes incorporating trees. Given this diversity and the purpose of this report, a typology of forests and landscapes with trees, building on the FRA statistical categories, is proposed. This typology uses FRA data and is grounded on the degree of management, as this is the criterion that most influences the various contributions of forests to FSN and that can be more easily influenced by policies. This typology distinguishes three broad categories that are considered as forests according to the FRA definition (primary [or old growth] forests, secondary forests, plantation forests); a fourth one gathering other wooded lands that are not classified as agricultural land and with a canopy cover of 5 to 10 percent; and a fifth one called “trees outside forests”. Delimitations among these types are not always clear cut as they exist on a continuum of management intensity along the forest transition curve.³
3. The category “trees outside forests” gathers the considerable diversity of agriculture systems with trees. It includes in particular agricultural tree plantations such as palm oil, olive trees and orchards (fruit and nut trees), as well as very diverse agroforestry systems and mosaic landscapes where forest patches are too small to be considered as forests for statistical purposes. The term “agroforestry” refers to systems and technologies where trees are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals, in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence. In spite of their diversity, all these systems share the common characteristic of trees being closely linked to agriculture and food production activities.
4. Any people who rely to some extent on forests and trees for their livelihood can be considered forest-dependent. When including: indigenous peoples that mainly depend on forests for their subsistence, rural dwellers living in or at the margins of forests, smallholder farmers who grow trees or manage forest patches and employees in formal or informal forest-based enterprises, from 1 to 1.7 billion people can be considered as forest-dependent.
5. In this report, forestry is considered in a very broad sense, encompassing all decisions related to forest management, in any type of system or landscape that includes trees, including three broad types of decisions: those related to the presence or absence of trees in a certain area, to the types of forests and trees, to the way they are managed. The purpose of sustainable forest management (SFM), as defined by the United Nation General Assembly is to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations. SFM is rooted in two main premises: first that ecosystems have the potential to renew themselves, and second that economic activities and social perceptions or values that define human interaction with the environment are choices that can be changed or modified to ensure the long-term productivity and health of the ecosystem.

³ The forest transition curve, from natural forests to agriculture and reforestation illustrates the evolution of forests, through a continuum of management intensity across the different forest types. This curve can not only illustrate the evolution of forests in time but also describes spatial variations across contemporary landscapes.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS AND TREES TO FSN

6. Forests and trees contribute to FSN through four main channels: direct provision of food; provision of energy, especially for cooking; income generation and employment; and provision of ecosystem services that are essential for FSN, human health and well-being.
7. *Direct provision of food:* Although forest foods have been estimated to represent only 0.6 percent of global food energy supply, they make a considerable contribution to dietary quality and diversity and play a critical role for the FSN of forest-dependent communities. Forest foods, by reaching local, national and even international markets, also contribute to diverse and balanced diets for people living far from forests. Forests and trees are also used as a source of fodder by farmers and pastoralists in traditional extensive systems and in more intensive silvopastoral systems.
8. *Provision of energy:* Woodfuel⁴ contributes globally to 6 percent of the total primary energy supply and 27 percent in Africa. Some 2.4 billion people, one-third of the global population (including two-thirds of the households in Africa), rely on wood as their main source of energy for cooking. Moreover, 764 million people use woodfuel to boil and sterilize water, of which 644 million are in Asia.
9. *Income and employment:* Formal and informal forestry sectors are also an important source of employment and income, often underestimated given the importance of the informal sector. In 2011, the formal forest sector employed an estimated 13.2 million people worldwide and represented 0.9 percent of the world gross domestic product. Such figures hide a huge diversity across countries and generally underestimate the real contribution of forests to national income as they do not integrate the value added of wood products accounted for in the industrial sector, nor, for instance, their contribution to tourism and recreation. Moreover those figures only cover the formal forest sector and data are still lacking to properly reflect the importance of informal forest-related activities for income generation and employment, including through woodfuel and collection of non-wood forest products (NWFPs).
10. Forest products collected either for sale or for auto-subsistence can, in both cases, make a crucial contribution to the FSN of women and of their entire household. In spite of a lack of gender-disaggregated data, studies suggest that women play a lesser role in the formal sector and in income generating activities, but are central in fuelwood collection as well as in the collection of many forest products, with important regional differences.
11. *Provision of ecosystem services:* Forests and trees directly support food production at farm, landscape and broader levels by delivering numerous non-provisioning ecosystem services that are essential for FSN and sustainable development in the long term (such as water regulation, soil protection, nutrient circulation, pest control and pollination). Forests host the major part of terrestrial biodiversity and play a critical role for climate change mitigation at the global level and for adaptation to climate change at farm, household, landscape and broader levels. Production systems that integrate forests, trees and crops need to explicitly take into account potential competition for nutrients, water and light.
12. *Human health and well-being:* Forests, tree-based agricultural systems and forestry impact human health in a diversity of ways, including: provisioning of food, medicinal plants, fuelwood, clean water and income. Empirical evidence suggests that forest environments can improve peoples' mental health and reduce depression and stress. However, forests can also provide habitat for parasites and diseases that can affect human and domestic animals. The critical linkages between human, animal, and ecosystem health are encompassed in the concept of "One Health", which highlights the need for collaboration across sectors.
13. *Resilience and safety net:* Forests and trees can play a crucial role to improve resilience, defined as the capacity to prevent, mitigate or cope with risk, and recover from shocks, at landscape, community and household levels. They thus make a significant contribution to stability, the fourth dimension of FSN, by playing a major role as a safety net during drought or lean seasons as well as during periods of crises and conflicts. Forests and trees can provide a complement or a

⁴ Woodfuel designates the total of fuelwood plus charcoal, as per FAO's terminology.

substitute to other sources of food, income and employment, in periods of scarcity. This role of safety net is often important for the most vulnerable groups.

14. Importantly, contributions of forests and trees to FSN depend upon numerous interactions inside complex environmental, economic and social systems that are often built and sustained with a considerable amount of traditional and indigenous knowledge.

FORESTRY TRENDS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FSN

15. Changes in forest cover, forest types and management have considerable impacts on the contributions of forests and trees to FSN at different spatial and temporal scales. These changes, as well as their drivers, enable the identification of some of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable forestry to contribute to FSN.
16. In 2015, almost 4 billion ha worldwide (30.6 percent of the world's land area) were covered by forests. Despite relatively high rates of ongoing deforestation, particularly in the tropics, the global net forest loss has slowed over the past two decades. The FRA 2015 has also provided for the first time global figures on forest degradation based on partial canopy cover loss (PCCL)⁵ and estimated that, in the tropics, the area subject to PCCL is 6.5 times the area deforested since 1990.
17. The overall decrease in total forest area is the result of contrasted trends across forest types and across regions. Between 1990 and 2015, most regions showed a steady decrease in natural forest area, including primary and secondary forests, and a sharp increase in planted forests. The loss of primary forest is of particular concern as they are irreplaceable reserves of biodiversity. Planted forests are increasingly important, not only in terms of area, increasing from 4 to 7 percent between 1990 and 2015, but also in terms of production, with 46.3 percent of industrial roundwood coming from planted forests in 2012. Planted forests are also a way to restore degraded land and to provide ecosystem services such as reduced erosion and protection from floods. Considering the increasing demand for wood, planted forests could help to reduce the pressure on natural forests.
18. Deforestation and forest degradation threaten income, livelihoods and ways of life of forest-dependent populations, and compromise the provision of ecosystem services that are essential to FSN and sustainable development in the long term. Deforestation for agricultural expansion is sometimes considered to offer greater opportunities for welfare improvement. However, those immediate benefits can result in depletion of natural resources, simplified diets and compromised livelihoods and ways of life in the long term. Finally, deforestation and forest degradation, leading to habitat fragmentation, can also impact human health by increasing the risk of transmission of pests and diseases.
19. Changes in forest cover, forest types and uses are driven by the interaction of numerous factors, at local and global levels: growing demand for food, feed, wood and energy, driven by population and income growth; and increased importance given to the protection of biodiversity, to carbon stocks, water and soil protection. They also depend on the governance systems that address and manage these demands.
20. Given the global population and economic growth, the increase in demand for food, feed, wood and bioenergy is expected to continue in the future. Wood and fibre demand is in particular expected to double between 2005 and 2030.
21. In addition, forests need now to adapt to climate change and are called upon to contribute to its mitigation. Land degradation fuels additional demand for land for agriculture, creating additional pressure on forests, but also opportunities for reforestation and afforestation. There is at the same time increased awareness of the role of forests to protect soil, water and biodiversity and to contribute to climate change mitigation. These trends intensify the competition for land. They also intensify the competition between forest uses, for environmental preservation, for timber and wood production, and for food and other NWFPs, each of which impacts FSN. Addressing the issue of competition for land while taking into account agricultural and forests demands on the one hand, environmental and climate concerns on the other hand, calls for tackling consistently the trade-offs at and between different scales, from local to global. This requires moving beyond

⁵ Defined as the loss of more than 20 percent of tree cover between 2000 and 2012.

the controversy materialized by the two opposite narratives “land sharing - land sparing” to design and implement appropriate arrangements and mechanisms.

22. These increasing demands on land, forests and trees, create new challenges and opportunities for their contributions to FSN. They can threaten some of the contributions of forests to FSN, particularly when such contributions are less visible or concern marginalized and most vulnerable groups. On the other hand, they can create additional reasons to protect and invest in forests and generate new jobs and opportunities for sustainable development. This calls for a better understanding of the drivers of change, and of the dynamics at play in evolving landscapes such as secondary forests, landscape mosaics, agroforestry systems and their impact for FSN and sustainable development, and for a better support for the forest restoration of areas that qualify as other wooded land.

HOW TO OPTIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS AND TREES TO FSN IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY?

23. There are potential synergies and trade-offs between the benefits provided by forests and trees for FSN, at different scales, from local and global, from short to long term. SFM for FSN has thus to take fully into account and integrate: the multiple uses of forests and trees, as well as the diverging and sometimes conflicting interests, needs and rights of different stakeholders, paying specific attention to the more vulnerable and marginalized groups. It requires governance mechanisms at different spatial and temporal scales, through international instruments, national policies and local arrangements.
24. The FRA identifies a set of enabling conditions for SFM: permanent forestlands, legal frameworks, management plans, stakeholder involvement, as well as information, monitoring and reporting systems. According to the FRA, only half of the 2.2 billion ha of permanent forest land met all those conditions in 2015. However, areas under forest management plans have sharply increased during the last decades. In 2015, 167 countries reported to have such forest management plans and these plans cover more than half of their forest area (around 2.1 billion ha). The main objective of a forest management plan (whether forest conservation in primary forests and protected areas or wood production in plantation forests) may conflict with rights of access to and use of forest resources and therefore with the FSN of local forest-dependent people and communities, including indigenous peoples. Legal frameworks regulating these rights vary hugely across countries.
25. There are numerous international treaties and standards that have an influence on the way forests are managed. Among them some focus on the environmental dimensions of forest management, such as the three Rio Conventions, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Diversification (UNCCD). Other treaties relate to international human rights, in particular to the right to adequate food and nutrition. A third group of international instruments is directly linked to forest management, such as the 1992 United Nations Forest Principles⁶ and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.
26. There is increasing interest in market-based instruments to recognize and valorize the different contributions of forests, especially related to environmental issues. Examples include carbon credits and other payments for environmental services, certification and green procurement. Forest certification plays an important role in assessing and monitoring the sustainable management of forests in an independent way. The two main international certification schemes (the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, introduced in the late 1990s) covered 438 million ha in 2014 (90 percent of which are situated in boreal and temperate climatic domains). Also, voluntary green building programmes, codes and standards promote the use of legally and sustainably harvested wood products. While such instruments can link forestry management to people who consume forest products from a

⁶ Annex III – Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests – Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992

distance by enabling them to pay for environmental impacts, they do not always fully integrate FSN concerns and the needs of local forest-dependent people and communities.

27. SFM for FSN thus requires integrated, innovative and inclusive governance systems across sectors at different spatial and temporal scales, ensuring the full and effective participation of all concerned stakeholders and affected groups, particularly of women, as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities. In particular, appropriate arrangements must be designed at the landscape level where the challenges are to optimize the concrete cohabitation among cities, agriculture, forests and other natural areas, and to better integrate FSN concerns in forest management.
28. The realization of the right to adequate food of local communities, forest-dependent communities and indigenous peoples requires ensuring their land and forest use rights. Forest-based goods and services are also crucial for the realization of social, economic and cultural rights of people around the world. In this context, laws, policies and interventions related to forests should not only avoid infringing rights but advance human rights outcomes, prioritizing the most disadvantaged groups in order to achieve substantive rather than formal equality. Such processes should respect the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality, transparency and access to information, participation, empowerment, legality and accountability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Forests and trees contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition (FSN) in numerous ways. They are a source of energy, foods and other products. They provide livelihoods for an important part of the worldwide population, often the most vulnerable. Forests perform vital ecosystem services, including the regulation of the water and carbon cycles and protection of biodiversity, that are essential to agriculture. These contributions vary according to types of forests and the way they are managed. They are of course particularly important for forest dependent people but have also impacts on a very large scale. Sustainable forest management aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

1. DEVELOP AND USE POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE ON THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS AND TREES TO FSN

States and academic institutions should take measures to inform and train FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forests for FSN. This should be done using participatory methodologies that enable the co-construction of knowledge about the contributions of forests and trees to FSN, at different spatial and temporal scales.

In particular, they should:

- a. Build the necessary capacities, professional training and organisational changes needed for participatory expertise and research.
- b. Design metrics and collect data that are disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, social class, age, and other social parameters, to measure the multiple, direct and indirect, contributions that forests and trees make to FSN through production, ecological processes, income and livelihoods, cultures and well-being, with a particular focus on the FSN status of forest-dependent people.
- c. Gather data on nutritional trade-offs between increased income and changing diets on the one hand, and sociocultural, economic, environmental and health impacts of deforestation and forest degradation on FSN on the other hand.
- d. Improve trans-sectorial, systemic data collection in FSN and forestry monitoring systems, on the use of wild foods (animals, plants, mushrooms) and forest products, including for dietary quality and diversity, poverty alleviation, health and medicinal purposes, as well as harvest impacts, to ensure long-term availability of wild foods and forest products.
- e. Strengthen FAO INFOODS studies on the nutrient composition of wild foods.

2. ENHANCE THE ROLE OF FORESTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES AT ALL SCALES WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD OF FOREST-DEPENDENT PEOPLE

All stakeholders should use an ecosystem approach to promote the sustainable management of forests and trees, from local to global levels, in order to preserve ecosystem functions of forests and trees, as well as their contributions to FSN.

In particular, **states, IGOs, NGOs and other stakeholders** should:

- a. Recognize and enhance the role of forests and trees in regulating climate, water cycle and water quality, as well as in biodiversity conservation.
- b. Promote the role of forests and trees to limit soil erosion and land degradation, and to restore land.
- c. Consider how the implementation of initiatives designed to address environmental issues will affect local communities' and indigenous peoples' access to forest foods, and how this might impact dietary diversity and quality.

3. SUPPORT THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS TO IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIES FOR FSN

States and the private sector should:

- a. Develop and promote participatory forest planning and management policies and measures that enable access to nutritionally important forest foods, in particular for forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples.
- b. Promote and enable income generation and livelihoods opportunities in local communities, through the sustainable management and use of forest resources, particularly for those living in mountains and other remote areas.
- c. Integrate low-carbon, renewable energy schemes in forest management plans to achieve multiple benefits, including adequate access to fuel for food preparation.
- d. Increase public investments to support community-driven, forest-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods, culture and well-being.
- e. Invest in social and technical innovations to minimize health risks associated with the use of fuelwood and wood stoves.
- f. Develop transformative, transparent and understandable marketing information systems for non-wood forest products.

4. PROMOTE MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPES FOR FSN THAT INTEGRATE FORESTS AND TREES AS KEY COMPONENTS

States, IGOs, local authorities, conservations agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders should:

- a. Strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production, including pollination and water and nutrient cycling.
- b. Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes with strong acknowledgement of the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees.
- c. Promote a nutrition-sensitive landscape approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forestry, land use, and biodiversity conservation for human, animal and ecosystems health.
- d. Promote and invest in research and technologies aiming at developing and up-scaling diverse suitable agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics.
- e. Ensure that governance mechanisms at different scales enable sustainable integrated landscape approaches that: articulate different functions of forests and trees (including wood and food production, biodiversity conservation and sociocultural benefits); consider short and long-term objectives; recognize and reduce conflicts between stakeholders.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE AND STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREES IN ENHANCING RESILIENCE AT LANDSCAPE, COMMUNITY AND HOUSEHOLD LEVELS FOR FSN

States, IGOs, local authorities, conservations agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders should:

- a. Identify and strengthen the ways in which forests and trees contribute to build resilience at landscape, community and household levels.
- b. Develop integrated food-forestry systems building on local knowledge that contribute to enhance resilience of landscapes, communities and livelihoods.
- c. Strengthen the capacity of forest-dependent and indigenous peoples, local communities, local organizations and national institutions to mainstream and enhance the concept of resilience of landscapes, communities and households in policies, plans and projects that address the forest-FSN nexus.

- d. Determine and provide the institutional and financial requirements to integrate and implement resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests and trees into policies and programs.

6. RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE TENURE AND USE RIGHTS OVER FORESTS AND TREES FOR FSN

States should:

- a. Ensure local communities', forest dependent communities' and indigenous peoples' access to and use of forest resources for the realization of their right to adequate food.
- b. Ensure that policies, legislation and programmes that affect forests and trees respect and ensure the rights of indigenous peoples, smallholders and marginalized communities, including the rights of indigenous peoples over their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- c. Legally protect customary land and natural resource tenure and use rights of food insecure people over forests and trees for FSN through formal instruments consistent with legal frameworks.⁷
- d. Ensure and enforce access, use and tenure rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups to forests and trees, especially in the face of large-scale infrastructure development as well as land grabbing and the establishment or expansion of protected areas.
- e. Collaboratively develop rights-based initiatives with indigenous peoples to enhance the productivity and resilience of forests and tree-based systems, and incorporate these initiatives into policies, programmes and practices.

7. STRENGTHEN INCLUSIVE FOREST GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS ACROSS SECTORS AND SCALES FOR FSN

States and other stakeholders should:

- a. Strengthen policy coherence across forestry, agriculture, education and other sectors at different scales, in order to ensure sustainable forest management strategies for improved FSN.
- b. Promote effective incentives for the sustainable production and consumption of forest products for FSN.
- c. Promote a rights-based approach to the governance of forests and trees for FSN, ensuring compliance with international human rights law and standards,⁸ including standards of transparency and accountability.
- d. Ensure that laws, policies, and programmes affecting forests and trees avoid or minimize negative impacts on FSN, create forest governance regimes that incorporate FSN concerns, clearly define the roles, rights and obligations of various stakeholders, and are effectively enforced.
- e. Ensure the full and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in forest policy development, governance, and management at all scales, particularly of women as well as vulnerable and marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, and forest-dependent communities, by providing them adequate support and capacity building.
- f. Ensure the full and effective participation of concerned stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities in order to integrate FSN concerns in the creation and management of protected areas.

⁷ e.g.: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW).

⁸ Including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the CEDAW, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the CFS VGGT.

- g. Facilitate the implementation of processes that take into account the impacts of forestry management on FSN at different spatial and temporal scales.
- h. Ensure that forest certification schemes include FSN concerns of all stakeholders by facilitating their full and effective participation.
- i. Promote inclusive co-management and co-production initiatives that are co-developed with relevant stakeholders, including through concessions, and corporate and social responsibility schemes.