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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Rome, 16 - 20 July 2018

REPORT ON PROGRESS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MYPOW

I. Background

1. The aim of this document is twofold: to inform the Committee on progress in implementing its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW); and on work accomplished in response to previous recommendations of the Committee, as well as to those of the Council and the Conference. Document COFO/2018/6.1 provides further details on these recommendations.
2. In discussing the activities since the last session of the Committee the current report provides information on the work accomplished in selected major programmes in Forestry, while the complete report on the implementation of recommendations of the Committee's 23rd Session is presented in miscellaneous document *Progress report 2016-2017*.
3. The Committee may wish to note also that highlights of the forestry programme's achievements are presented in miscellaneous document *Moving forward: Selected achievements of the Forestry Programme 2016-17*.

II. Progress Report on the MYPOW: results for 2016-2017

4. The Committee adopted the current MYPOW at its 23rd Session in July 2016. The MYPOW was subsequently endorsed by the 155th Session of the Council and the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. The MYPOW serves as a major guidance document for COFO and the secretariat during its 4-year period.

A. Strategy, priority setting, and budget planning

5. The Committee had reviewed the situation of the world's forest and forestry through the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2016¹, focusing on *Forests and agriculture: land-use challenges and opportunities*. SOFO 2016 made landmark contributions to the international forest dialogue, including

¹ <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofo/en/>

through providing evidence that food security can be increased without destroying forests and presenting case studies from several countries where both food security and forest area had grown in the last decades. The scope of the related recommendations of the Committee went beyond the boundaries of the forest sector and were offered for the consideration by the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The current edition of SOFO is focused on forests' contributions to the SDGs and is expected to provide a basis for the Committee's consideration and also a contribution to the review of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2018, in accord with COFO's recommendation² at its 23rd Session. The key findings of SOFO 2018 are presented to the Committee in document COFO/2018/4.

6. The Committee's recommendations for FAO's priorities, programmes, organizational structure, the Strategic Framework, and the Programme of Work and Budget (PWB) were endorsed by the 155th Session of the Council and the 40th Session of the FAO Conference.

7. The collaboration among FAO Technical Committees have continued in the 2016-17 biennium with COAG taking over the leading role from COFO. A joint meeting of the Bureaux, held on the sidelines of the FAO Conference in June 2017, made recommendations for future joint activities and for possible common items to be addressed in 2018, including climate change as a biennial theme and mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture. Furthermore, Chairpersons of the committees held two informal meetings to discuss issues of collaboration and gave guidance to the secretariats.

8. A major step in the collaboration was the joint side event held by the Technical Committees at the 158th Session of the Council. The event, entitled FAO Technical Committees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, provided insight into the results of the collaboration so far and highlighted potentials that could be exploited through cross-sectoral dialogues for promoting the implementation of the SDGs.

9. The indicators and targets specified in the MYPOW were successfully met and all planned activities performed.

B. Advise on global policy and regulatory matters

10. The Committee presented its recommendations from the 23rd Session to the Conference in a timely manner. The recommendations, including those related to FAO's Strategic Objectives, were fully endorsed by the Conference at its 40th Session.

11. Close collaboration with and among the Regional Forestry Commissions (RFCs) was maintained including through the COFO Steering Committee, which also served as a platform for dialogue among the chairpersons. The Committee continued to provide guidance to the RFCs including by recommending topics for their consideration and requesting RFC input for COFO's consideration. On this basis the RFCs considered as common items: the CFS High-level Panel of Experts study on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition; FRA 2020 and efforts for reducing reporting burden by streamlining international forest reporting; Global processes; A new strategic document for FAO in forestry; Input to FAO governance. The Committee's agenda was developed on the basis of the Commissions' recommendations as well as the related decision³ in the MYPOW.

C. Work planning and working methods

12. The Committee and the RFCs continued to maintain close coordination and worked with the secretariat towards meeting calendars that allowed timely input to all relevant governing bodies. A

² COFO/2016/REP paragraph 14.b)

³ COFO/2016/10 paragraph 30

unique situation needed to be handled in case of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, moving the session to June, 2018. The Executive Committee of AFWC has been very influential in providing input to COFO in the absence of the session outcome.

13. Regular exchanges (emails and video conferences) were held between the COFO secretary and the secretaries of the RFCs to support the development of agendas and documents for the different sessions. When requested, logistical support was provided in the organization and conduct of the sessions. Regular meetings were held with the secretaries of other Technical Committees to enhance cooperation and coordination and to further the implementation of related recommendations of COFO.

14. The system of meetings of the Executive Committees of the Regional Forestry Commissions continued in the reporting period, in 2016 the meeting focused on two topics: Mainstreaming the outcome of the RFCs into the Regional Conferences, Regional Initiatives and Country Programming Frameworks; and Experience in organizing the Forestry Weeks in conjunction with the RFC Sessions. Preparations are in progress for the next meeting during the forthcoming session of COFO.

15. The Steering Committee had three physical meetings till the date of this paper and one joint meeting with the Bureaux of other Technical Committees. The Steering Committee also reached out to Member Nations and encouraged participation in the work of COFO.

III. Report on the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the 23rd Session of the Committee

16. The 23rd Session of the Committee resulted in 68 recommendations for FAO action. A full account of all actions taken in response to the recommendations to COFO, the RFCs as well as other FAO Governing Bodies contained in miscellaneous document: Progress Report 2016-17.

17. To highlight progress in specific activities, the Committee is provided with summary reports from major programmes and activities conducted or hosted by FOA, in particular:

- COFO Working Group in Drylands and Agrosilvopastoral Systems
- Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) Secretariat
- Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)
- EU FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme
- Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)
- Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWGFR)
- Mountain Partnership
- REDD+ Programme

A. COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems

Background

18. Recognizing the critical importance of Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems in all regions, COFO at its 23rd Session in July 2016 agreed to establish a Working Group (WG) on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems in accordance with the proposal contained in document COFO/2016/7.3, and to review its continued relevance and operational modalities at following 26th Session of COFO⁴.

19. COFO further agreed that the work of the WG would be financed through extra-budgetary means and urged FAO to mobilize such resources to this end.

20. The WG Terms of Reference are contained in the annex of document COFO/2016/7.35. According to this document the mandate of the WG is to:

- review and report to the COFO on the status, trends, issues and developments in dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems;
- contribute to developing a comprehensive understanding of dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems and the people who depend on them; and
- promote scaling-up of the adoption of good practices for the protection, sustainable management and restoration of drylands forests and agrosilvopastoral systems, enhancing also environmental and socio-economic resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

FAO Actions

21. In initiating the work of the WG, the secretariat received a total of 55 nominations of experts from 35 countries.

22. FAO has invested efforts in exploring with partners funding sources to enable the organisation of the first meeting of the WG. The Government of Spain has offered to host the inaugural meeting in Madrid, Spain in October 2018 and to contribute with EUR 40,000 to cover part of the costs. The Government of China has offered to cover the cost of participation of experts from Asian countries. In spite of these generous offers funds are still insufficient to conduct the meeting with the planned wide participation.

23. FAO has reached out to all the developed countries which have nominated their experts to serve on the WG as well as to a few other developed and developing countries that have large dryland forests for financial contributions. At the time of writing, FAO has received only negative answers and only from a few countries.

24. FAO has notified the nominated experts about the meeting (including dates and venue) and requested their technical contributions in preparation of the meeting, hoping to be able to find a solution for the financial challenge.

Points for consideration

25. The Committee may wish to invite countries to:

- recall the relevance of the COFO Working Group on Drylands Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems and encourage members who have not sent yet their nominations of experts to do so;

⁴ See item h on page ii and paragraphs 27, 28, 29 on page 6 of COFO 23 Report (<http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr526e.pdf>).

⁵ See <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mq993e.pdf>.

- encourage members to contribute technically and financially to the organization of the first meeting and other activities of the WG.

B. Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management

Background

26. The CPW is a voluntary partnership of fourteen international organizations⁶ with substantive mandates and programmes for the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The FAO Forestry Department serves as the CPW Secretariat.

27. Established in 2013 in response to the Decision XI/25⁷ of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the CPW's mission is to increase cooperation and coordination among its members and other interested parties on sustainable wildlife management to promote the sustainable use and conservation of terrestrial vertebrate wildlife, contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the improvement of food security and livelihoods.

Areas of work and progress made

28. The Partnership's work is organized under four main thematic areas: wildlife, food security and livelihoods; human-wildlife conflict; illegal and unsustainable hunting (wildlife crime); and coordination of the Partnership and outreach.

29. During the period of 2015-2017, the CPW organized the first Wildlife Forum in 2015 in Durban; produced five thematic Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) fact sheets, an online sourcebook on bushmeat, and a glossary of technical wildlife management terms; published the 249th edition of FAO's *Unasylva* on "Sustainable Wildlife Management"; and, through a number of international meetings (e.g. EU Parliament debates and the Standing Committee of CITES), advanced issues regarding wildlife governance processes and sustainable management approaches.

30. At its Thirteenth meeting, the COP to the CBD adopted decision XIII/8⁸, requesting that the CPW, subject to the availability of resources, further elaborates technical guidance for better governance towards a more sustainable wild meat sector, building on the road map on the role of wild meat in food security. The CPW is supporting the development of the technical guidance that will be discussed at the Fourteenth meeting of the COP, in Egypt in November 2018.

31. As a member of the CPW, FAO is currently involved in the preparation of the second CPW Wildlife Forum at the margins of the Fourteenth Session of the COP. As it did at the first CPW Wildlife Forum, FAO will advocate for sustainable management of wildlife as an important element of the integrated approaches to the multipurpose use of natural resources in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

⁶ The members include the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC); the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB); the International Trade Centre (ITC); the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN); the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO); the wildlife trade monitoring network (TRAFFIC); the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

⁷ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-25-en.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-08-en.pdf>

Point for consideration

32. The Committee may wish to recognize the importance of CPW's past and future work in promoting the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources, as part of sustainable forest management.

C. Forest and Farm Facility

Background

33. **Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)** is a multi-donor funded partnership between FAO, [IIED](#), [IUCN](#) and [AgriCord](#), launched in September 2012. The mission of FFF is to promote sustainable forest and farm management by supporting local, national, regional and international organizations and platforms for effective engagement in policies and investments that meet the needs of local people. FFF's work has been built on the proposition that these producers are powerful when they are organized and their Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) can provide a vehicle to improve well-being at scale - making them indispensable partners in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. During the first Phase, which ended in December 2017, FFF worked in Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, The Gambia, Liberia, Kenya, Zambia, Nepal, Myanmar and Vietnam and at the regional and global level to: strengthen FFPOs to improve their business capacity and participate directly in policy advocacy; facilitate governments to improve cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder platforms to improve coordination and policy relevance; and increase sharing of experience and knowledge between FFPOs and governments within and between countries, regionally and globally.

Impacts Achieved

34. FFF has provided direct support to 947 FFPOs: three global, three regional, 10 national and 931 local or provincial (comprising 21 to 79 percent women, depending on country/region) and indirect support to many hundreds more. In total these FFPOs represent more than 30 million forest and farm producers.

35. FFF has facilitated links to 80 new financial or business service providers, which together with FFF's own capacity development activities have resulted in: 279 FFPO businesses complete business plans, 262 FFPO businesses diversified or added value to their products, 158 FFPOs gained access to new finance, and 56 FFPO businesses which adapted their business practice, plans or systems following exchanges.

36. The combined progress on FFPO businesses has reduced rural poverty by substantially raising incomes for hundreds of thousands of women and men, smallholder and Indigenous Peoples, forest and farm producers (e.g. with ranges of specific income increases documented for FFPO businesses, for example, between 35-50 percent in The Gambia, 46-65 percent in Kenya, 12-18 percent in Myanmar, 30-50 percent in Nicaragua, 10-20 percent in Vietnam (with several outliers in excess 500 to 1 000 percent in Bolivia, The Gambia and Myanmar).

37. FFF has facilitated the establishment of 51 policy platforms at national or regional level. Direct FFPO engagement in policy processes by more than 140 representatives of FFPOs (12-45 percent women across ten countries) led to 33 changes in policies, rules or regulations in favour of FFPO interests, with a further 18 changes due to indirect effects of FFF in-country activities. One of the key impacts of FFF has been a harmonization in vision and approach between local, district, regional and national level authorities. This led to greater awareness of production issues for FFPOs and more recognition.

Phase II (2018-2022)

38. Based on significant demand from countries and FFPOs FFF has now developed a Phase II initiative: *Climate Resilient Landscapes and Improved Livelihoods*, with a view to scale up the role and impacts of FFPOs around cross-sectoral processes for enabling policies; inclusive value chains, finance and business incubation support; ensuring integrated climate resilient management and restoration of forests and farm landscapes; and improving the access and delivery of social and cultural services.

Point for consideration

39. Countries may wish to urge support for Phase II of FFF in the context of the Decade on Family Farming, the importance of forests for food security and the need to ensure the role of local communities in the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement and suggest leveraging possibilities.

D. FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme

Background

40. The FAO-EU FLEGT Programme is one of the EU's flagship initiatives to support the implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan – to combat illegal logging and the consumption of illegally-produced timber. The Programme provides technical and financial support to governments, civil society and the private sector organizations for locally-defined solutions that improve forest governance and promote the legal production and consumption of timber. Starting in 2008, the Programme is now in its third phase, with funding provided by the UK, Sweden and the European Commission. Over 100 projects between 25 000 – EUR1 000 000 have been funded during phase III of the programme.

41. Through implementation of Phase III, it is increasingly recognized that forests play an important role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, the programme seeks to improve forest governance as an enabling component of all initiatives to address climate change issues; reduce trends towards forest degradation and deforestation; and ensure that forests play a central role in improving rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation.

Major areas of work

42. There are a number of support streams through the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme that have improved governance and created the enabling environment:

- **Strengthen private sector capacity** to participate in the trade of legal timber: small- and medium-sized forest enterprises (SMEs) are often disadvantaged compared to large international producers to demonstrate compliance with demand side legal timber production requirements, due to capacity or knowledge gaps. Nearly 40 percent of the projects funded in the programme support local businesses to close these gaps. For example in Ghana, project support has helped SME timber producers to develop an analysis and training tool to help understand where businesses are not meeting legality requirements and to deliver targeted support to fill these gaps. This approach is being expanded in Peru to include training on a range of basic business skills, including business planning and record keeping, which are found to be limiting SMEs capacity to incorporate legality procedures in their normal operations. These pilots are feeding into the development of a global tool for “best practices for wood-based businesses.”
- **Systems development for governments:** Under the FLEGT Action Plan, countries are encouraged to improve national timber-tracking and control systems to monitor timber products along the supply chain. In Honduras, the “Instituto de Conservación Forestal” is

applying a “modular approach” to develop such a system (called SIRMA), where data ranging from registration of licenses, timber harvest and transport and finally production and sale, are built in a step-by-step process. By building on existing information management procedures, SIRMA creates a cost-effective electronic system to improve monitoring forest production and make more informed forest management decisions. Systems approaches such as this one are being tested in Cameroon, Guatemala and Colombia.

- **Enhancing multi-stakeholder processes** to improve transparency: for the last two years, the FAO–EU FLEGT Programme has supported independent monitoring efforts by civil-society organizations (CSOs) to improve forest governance, through the funding of three projects in West and Central African countries. Their overall objective is to produce reliable information to support the detection and punishment of forest infractions and make it available to relevant stakeholders (e.g. national administrations, competent authorities in the European Union, timber importers, local communities, etc.). For example, reports produced by Forests and Rural Development (FODER), a Cameroun-based NGO, have led to 11 field missions from the National Forest Law Enforcement Brigade in 2016 and 2017, followed by prosecutions of illicit behaviour.

Point for consideration

43. The Committee may wish to take note of the progress made and encourage governments to reinforce commitments to improving forest governance as an enabling factor for addressing challenges of deforestation and supporting climate change initiatives.

E. Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism

Background

44. The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLR Mechanism) was established in 2014 at FAO to support country efforts to restore degraded forest and other land, using an integrated landscape approach, in fulfilment of the pledges countries have made under global initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge and the CBD Aichi Targets, as well as related regional initiatives, such as the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), the 20x20 Initiative in Latin America and Asia-Pacific Forest and Landscape Restoration Strategy.

Areas of work and progress made

45. To date, seven countries have received direct support to develop strong enabling conditions for wide scale restoration in areas such as cross-sectoral institutional coordination and improved policy coherence and legal frameworks. Pilot activities have also been funded to demonstrate the types of restoration suitable to country conditions and the different approaches needed to foster multi-stakeholder involvement and address socio-economic issues as well as environmental objectives. The solid results achieved so far have built strong interest from new resource partners, leading to the rapid expansion of the programme that will support a total of 18 countries in 2018. The FLR Mechanism has already mobilized more than \$40 million in financing to support restoration programmes in these countries during the period 2017 – 2021.

46. Innovative approaches are being tested in areas such as participatory monitoring of restoration activities and results at community level, by developing relevant and simple monitoring systems that do not depend on the availability of external project resources. In addition, the FLR Mechanism is providing support to local financing mechanisms to ensure that financial resources for restoration are able to flow through existing institutions and instruments, such as communal development funds, that are already supporting sustainable development at local level. Innovation is also being fostered through new partnerships with programmes such as the Forest and Farm Facility (hosted at FAO), where restoration is promoted together with increased capacity of producer organizations that are engaging in tree planting, agroforestry and other restoration technologies through value chains and

activities that support improved livelihoods, food security and related areas, in addition to re-greening environmentally degraded lands. This approach is ensuring that restoration is carried out through and fully embedded in economically viable activities (and therefore bankable and attractive to investors), rather than dependent on grants and external funding only.

Points for consideration

47. Increased action in these areas could significantly contribute to building healthy, productive and resilient landscapes, while ensuring that local communities are the key actors in restoration interventions and able to benefit from the wide variety of environmental, social and economic returns that restoration offers. In this regard, the Committee may wish to:

- invite members to actively pursue more integrated approaches to restoration of degraded lands at landscape level, through improved inter-sectoral coordination and planning;
- encourage members to support the development of financing mechanism dedicated FLR at various levels (communes/districts/provinces) and to promote public-private partnerships to better engage private sector in FLR initiatives;
- request FAO to pursue its efforts in mobilizing all relevant technical divisions in order to achieve both global / regional and national targets on Forest and Landscape Restoration (Bonn Challenge, Regional initiatives on Forest and Landscape Restoration and national pledges).

F. Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources

Background

48. In 2009, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) established the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR)⁹ to review issues related to genetic resources in the forest sector, and to advise and make recommendations to the CGRFA. The Secretariat of the ITWG-FGR lies within the Forestry Department. The ITWG-FGR and other similar working groups on animal, aquatic and crop genetic resources are composed of 28 member nations which are elected every two years, during regular sessions of the CGRFA. Other countries and international organizations are welcome to attend the sessions of the working groups as observers. This document presents information on the ITWG-FGR work since the 23rd Session of COFO in July 2016.

Sixteenth Regular Session of the CGRFA

49. In February 2017, the CGRFA adopted targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources to be used as assessment tools to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on forest genetic resources¹⁰. It requested FAO to prepare reporting guidelines and invite countries, regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. It further requested FAO to prepare draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources and continue developing a funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.¹¹

50. FAO created an online questionnaire based on the agreed indicators and verifiers, and invited the National Focal Points on forest genetic resources to answer it by January 2018. The filled questionnaire was considered as the country progress report and countries did not need to prepare a separate written report. FAO also invited the regional networks and relevant international organizations to provide brief reports on their contributions. FAO is currently preparing a first

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fgr/92063/en/>

¹⁰ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3849e.pdf>

¹¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report, paragraphs 73-76.

assessment report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action based on the reports submitted by countries, regional networks and international organizations. Moreover, FAO has continued the development of the voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources and the funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

Fifth Session of the ITWG-FGR

51. On 8-10 May 2018, the ITWG-FGR will review the draft first assessment report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, the draft voluntary guidelines and the draft funding strategy. Furthermore, the ITWG-FGR will consider the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SoW-FGR-2). The SoW-FGR-2 is scheduled to be released in 2023. The ITWG-FGR will also discuss several cross-sectoral issues, such as access and benefit sharing, and digital sequence information. The recommendations of the ITWG-FGR on these topics will be forwarded to the Seventeenth Regular Session of the CGRFA in February 2019.

Point for consideration

52. The Committee may wish to acknowledge the work done by the ITWG-FGR and request FAO to report on its activities during future sessions.

G. Mountain Partnership

Background

53. The Mountain Partnership (MP) is a United Nations voluntary alliance dedicated to improving the lives of mountain peoples and protecting mountain environments around the world. Since its founding in 2002, the MP membership has steadily grown to 329, including 60 governments, 7 subnational authorities, 16 IGOs and 246 major groups (NGOs, civil society and the private sector). The MP is supported by a Secretariat, which is funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Federal Office of Agriculture of Switzerland and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The FAO Forestry Department hosts the Mountain Partnership Secretariat (MPS) and is the custodian for the SDG Indicator 15.4.2. - Mountain Green Cover Index.

Areas of work and progress made

54. The MP's four main pillars of work are advocacy; capacity development; joint projects and sharing knowledge. Here are some of its major achievements in July 2016 - April 2018.

Advocacy

- The Fifth Global Meeting of the MP was held on 11-13 December 2017 at FAO in Rome, Italy, during which a [Framework for Action](#) for implementing the 2030 Agenda for mountains was launched and endorsed by the over 220 participants. The Meeting also launched the Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), a joint programme of work for addressing the similar constraints that mountains and islands face.
- In November 2017 and November 2016 during UNFCCC COP 23 and COP 22, side events focusing on mountain issues were organised with MP members.
- Together with FAO and key partners, the MPS drafted the [UN Secretary-General's Report on Sustainable Mountain Development](#), which was presented at the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly in September 2016. The Report formed the basis of [Resolution 71/234](#).

Capacity development

- In 2017 the Tenth International Programme on Research and Training on Sustainable Management of Mountain Areas (IPROMO) focused on "Environmental and economic issues to enhance mountain sustainability". IPROMO is jointly organized by the MPS, the University

of Turin, Italy, and the University of Tuscia, Italy. In 2018, the course will focus on “Bioeconomy in mountain areas - an opportunity for local development”.

- In December 2017, the MPS organized a training on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 15.4.2. - Mountain Green Cover Index, for key MP government members.

Joint projects

- Accomplishments include finalizing the baseline data for the Mountain Green Cover Index, which was sent to countries for validation, and the second phase of the MP Products Initiative.

Sharing knowledge

- The MP disseminated sustainable mountain development news, events and other information through its website, social media channels and monthly newsletter. It also produced the following publications and videos: [15 Years of the Mountain Partnership](#) (2017), [Stepping up for Mountains – the MPS Annual Report](#) (2016), [“Mountain Partnership Products Initiative”](#) video (2016).

The way ahead

55. The momentum generated at the 2017 MP Global Meeting now requires concerted action from MP members to implement the Framework for Action, under which all MP members have pledged to integrate strategies for sustainable mountain development and mountain ecosystem conservation, as applicable, into their development policies and programmes. The Coalition for Fragile Ecosystems is a chance for the MP and GLISPA to leverage supplementary funding to support a joint programme of work.

Points for consideration

56. The Committee may wish to recognize the importance of the Framework for Action of the Mountain Partnership as the global mechanism for supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for mountain areas and specifically encourage countries to:

- Promote investment and specific policies for improving the livelihoods of mountain peoples and increase their resilience specifically within the 2030 Agenda;
- Invest in data and research collection in mountains to provide basis for policy;
- Engage in or strengthen commitment to the MP; and
- Strengthen the national and local capacities in sustainable mountain development.

H. FAO’s Support to Countries on REDD+

Areas of work and achievements

57. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, plus the sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+) is an essential part of the global efforts to mitigate climate change, and one of the most significant and cost-effective ways to reduce global emissions, while producing important adaptation, biodiversity, livelihood and development benefits.

58. FAO has been partnered for almost 10 years with UN Environment and UNDP to support developing countries in REDD+. Over 50 countries have benefitted from FAO support for REDD+ in a number of key areas including capacity development for national forest monitoring and setting forest reference levels; preparing REDD+ national strategies and investment plans; implementation of cross-sectoral action plans to address the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. In addition, FAO supports countries in addressing safeguards, including governance assessments, land tenure

arrangements, legal preparedness and forest law enforcement, and in identifying best practices for the sustainable management of forest.

59. Countries, with the technical support of FAO through various programmes and donors (UN-REDD, CAFI, World Bank FCPF and FIP, and BioCarbon funds, GEF and many bi-lateral), have shown progress in many areas. The following are highlights of achievements supported by FAO:

- As of early 2018, 34 countries have submitted Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRLs) and were participating in associated technical assessment processes. Four countries have reported their complete REDD+ results to the UNFCCC, with total reductions of over six billion tons of carbon-dioxide equivalents, mostly from Brazil.
- Since 2008, 12 countries (Benin, Honduras, Lao PDR, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Panama, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia) have conducted assessments of their tenure regimes in the context of REDD+.
- Fourteen countries (Benin, DRC, Honduras, Colombia, Kenya, Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire, Nepal, Guatemala, Peru, Malawi, Paraguay, Panama and Pakistan) have been supported to review policy and legal frameworks.
- 5 countries (Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay) have advanced towards adopting legal instruments to clarify institutional mandates associated with NFMS; and to establish platforms to facilitate data and information sharing.
- System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL), the cloud-based computing data platform for satellite based forest monitoring has reached 790 users in over 60 countries, with approximately 57% of those users being located in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

60. In order to make real progress on reducing deforestation and forest degradation at the country level, a country must include its targets and goals in relevant national processes, including beyond the forest sector, to address complex relationships between different land use sectors. In this context, FAO's support of countries in planning and implementing REDD+ actions ensures the actions are aligned with those reflected in country NDCs, and addresses the cross-sector coordination needed for many land use policies and actions.

61. Beyond emission reductions alone, REDD+ is well placed to deliver non-carbon benefits which can include social, environmental and governance benefits. For example, REDD+ processes have supported momentum to address governance and transparency issues and policy reforms related to sustainable forest resource management and REDD+, and have improved stakeholder engagement in forest and land-related decision-making. Many of the cross-sectoral sustainable land use policies and actions outlined in country REDD+ action plans have the end goal of ensuring better land use planning, improved policies, laws and regulations, and more information on biodiversity and ecosystem services which people depend on for their livelihoods.

Point for consideration

62. Request FAO to support countries in their process to revise NDCs in order to optimize the inclusion of forest related emission reduction and adaptation targets.