



COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Rome, 16 - 20 July 2018

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON THE WORK AND ACTIVITIES OF FAO IN FORESTRY

I. Introduction

1. At its 158th Session, the FAO Council strongly encouraged the implementation of FAO's Strategy on Climate Change and agreed addressing climate change as a priority for the 2018-19 biennium. It also appreciated the mainstreaming of climate change into work plans of all technical departments and the FAO project cycle, noting FAO's ongoing efforts in strengthening its decentralized offices to support countries' in implementing work on climate change. The overall progress in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change and the biennial theme 2018-2019 is described in Annex 1: "Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO".

2. Actions to reduce emission levels arising from deforestation and forest degradation and to enhance forest carbon sinks are one of the most significant and cost-effective ways to reduce global emissions, while producing important adaptation, biodiversity, livelihood and development benefits. Forests are also vulnerable to climate change and further action is needed to protect them. The changing climate and the increasing global trade alter the disturbance dynamics of native forest pests and pathogens, and facilitate the spread of non-native invasive species. Climate change is also influencing the risk of damaging fires through weather and climate trends that increase the potential for fires to start, travel across the landscape and impact on ecosystems, communities and infrastructure. These factors are exacerbating the vulnerability of communities depending on forests for their livelihoods, and thus call for policy and action to increase resilience through forests.

3. Climate change and climate variability are threatening the delivery of a range of goods and ecosystem services from forests. Natural disturbances including fires and insect and disease outbreaks are an integral part of ecosystem dynamics in forests. They usually occur as relatively discrete events, however climate change has been documented as a prominent driver in the change of these disturbance regimes. Increased temperatures and extended droughts are likely to increase the frequency and/or intensity of fires and shift fire seasons although fuel load, wind patterns and topography also play a role. This will create severe difficulties in preventing and managing fires leading to widespread forest loss in the future.

4. Pests and diseases have already been noted to respond to climate change from changes in phenology and distribution to influencing dynamics and composition. While some impacts of climate change may be beneficial in terms of protecting forest health (e.g. increased winter mortality of some pests due to thin snow cover; slower larval development and increased mortality during droughts), many impacts will be quite detrimental (e.g. accelerated pest development rate; range expansions of pests). The expansion of invasive species, pests and diseases into new territories particularly with the increase in trade of plant species, without the checks and balances provided by natural enemies, may create opportunities for significant episodes of outbreaks, of reductions in forest growth and of tree mortality. In addition, the weakening of trees due to severe climate driven weather events have rendered them vulnerable to extreme native insect outbreaks such as the bark beetle which are currently devastating millions of hectares of forests in temperate regions. Predicting and managing these outbreaks is where the challenge lies. More information on the interaction of pests, diseases and fire as well as the interaction of pests, diseases, heat and drought will also be important.

5. Both increased fires and insect and disease outbreaks have the potential to negatively impact the ability of forests to provide important goods and ecosystem services by for example disrupting food production and water quality and supply, increasing tree mortality thus posing risks for carbon storage, damaging infrastructure and settlements, and affecting and human well-being. For countries at all levels of development, these impacts are consistent with a significant lack of preparedness for current climate variability in the forestry sector and require robust policies and immediate and sustained action to build the resilience of forests and people who are dependent on forests.

6. Building resilience in the forest sector includes adjusting forest management to build resilience of forests and trees to the negative impacts of climate change, to increase the resilience of vulnerable people and to help build and maintain resilient landscapes. It also requires efforts to ensure that adequate technical knowledge and expertise, enabling policies and legal framework, responsive and effective institutions and governance mechanisms that can support timely, appropriate and equitable decision-making and action at local level are all in place.

7. Building resilience may be particularly important but challenging for specific groups of countries. Under the presidency of Fiji, the 23rd UN Climate Conference (COP23) addressed – in addition to the rules of implementation of the Paris Agreement – climate change adaptation and resilience to climate change which are issues of particular interests to small island states and least developed countries. The financing of adaptation (which has thus far has received much less commitment than mitigation with a ratio of about 3:1) was also discussed and received a notable boost. Pledges to the Adaptation Fund exceeded the US\$ 80 million resource mobilization goal for 2017 and this will enable vulnerable communities in developing countries to receive much-needed support for concrete actions to adapt and build resilience to climate change.

8. The importance of forests as part of the climate solution was highlighted in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement and actions related to forests are part of the nationally determined contributions in the majority of countries. Only a fraction of the estimated emission reduction potential of 5.3 GtCO₂¹ is currently being captured in the country commitments and existing forest carbon mechanisms. Preventing and reversing forest loss will require decisive global action to address the multiple social and economic drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as promoting forest restoration. Scaling up these activities will require innovative tools, technologies, policies and new financing opportunities that, among other things, enhance the role of the private sector.

¹ The global emission reduction potential of land use, land use change and forests is quite significant according to a number of estimates. For instance, the UN Environment's Emissions Gap Report 2017 estimates this potential in 5.3 GtCO₂ [4.1 – 6.5] by 2030. The 2015 Report of The New Climate Economy estimates the emission reduction potential of degraded land and forests in 6.2 GtCO₂ [3.3 – 9.0] by 2030. Both reports combine the potential from reducing emissions and removals through restoration and reforestation activities.

9. The Paris Agreement calls for increased action on adaptation, with a global goal of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development. Adaptation responses stem from country-driven, participatory planning processes. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes that, even with scaled up and accelerated action in mitigation, adaptation needs will increase and will become more costly with time. Forest-based adaptation (and mitigation) actions can have significant synergies with efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

10. Global contributions to mitigation efforts under the Paris Agreement cover only about a third of the reductions needed to limit climate change to less than two degrees. As a result, it is critical that the 2020 revision process of the nationally determined contributions close the emissions gap. In fact, the effects of climate change are already being felt, with average temperatures during 2017 being 1.1 degrees above preindustrial levels² and with weather related disasters reaching a record \$320 billion in economic damage³.

II. FAO Forestry Activities on Climate Change

11. FAO's Strategy on Climate Change⁴ focuses on: enhancing institutional and technical capacities of Member States; improving integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the international climate agenda; strengthening internal coordination and delivery of FAO's work. This Strategy builds on the rapidly growing portfolio of activities related to climate (see Annex 1).

A. Climate change mitigation through forests

12. FAO has partnered for almost ten years with UN-Environment and UNDP to support developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of forest management, conservation and enhancement of forest stocks (REDD+). Over 50 countries have benefitted from FAO support for REDD in a number of key areas, including their capacity in national forest monitoring and setting forest reference levels as requested by the UNFCCC's Warsaw Framework for REDD+. One of the most recent developments includes the use of a cloud computing-based platform for remotely sensed data, namely the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL). SEPAL provides free access to data and enables countries to monitor their forest cover, detect changes in land use and trace forest degradation at an unprecedented speed. 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 sustainable management of forest and ways to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

13. Moreover, FAO's activities in the context of climate change mitigation include: (i) developing capacities for forest monitoring and the generation of statistics on forests and land use at FAO that its member countries draw on for designing mitigation and adaptation frameworks in the forest sector; (ii) developing a e-learning courses supporting countries to build a sustainable national GHG inventory and to assess emission from the forest sector; (iii) providing support to member countries on sustainable forest management and forest governance; (iv) providing technical assistance for restoration of degraded forests thus increasing carbon stocks in biomass and soil; (v) promoting woody biomass as carbon neutral energy source; and (vi) promoting multi-stakeholder processes and engaging with civil society and the private sector as important partners.

² World Meteorological Organization, 2017.

³ Munich Re, 2018.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7175e.pdf>

14. FAO has also strengthened its collaboration with other ongoing processes such as the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and Biocarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL). Projects are currently underway to support various aspects of REDD+ including in Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Tunisia and Uganda. In the past years, FAO's work has evolved from supporting readiness for REDD+ into implementation of their National REDD Strategies to generate climate results in a variety of areas:

- a) monitoring forests and land-use: including support for countries to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of developing countries to meet the enhanced transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement (CBIT);
- b) sustainable forest management;
- c) linkages between REDD+ and governance including legal frameworks, tenure, the agricultural sector and food security issues as well as climate smart agriculture;
- d) implementation of REDD+, including inter-sectoral coordination and finance;
- e) supporting biodiversity conservation; environmental safeguards, and Safeguards Information Systems (SIS);
- f) analyses of the drivers of deforestation; identification of costs and benefits of REDD+ policies and measures;
- g) identifying non-carbon benefits and related spatial planning;
- h) promoting private sector engagement, including innovative REDD+ finance; and
- i) addressing deforestation associated with global commodity supply chains.

15. Internally, FAO has been promoting collaboration among the various related programmes, including between REDD+ and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) in order to promote synergies for achieving deforestation goals and strengthening governance.

B. Climate change adaptation through forests and for forests

16. Forests can contribute to climate change adaptation by increasing the resilience of landscapes and livelihoods to climate change. Several FAO programmes contribute to achieving this objective. As resilience is particularly important for drylands, FAO is implementing a programme on Action Against Desertification (AAD)⁵ with funding from EU-ACP⁶ that aims to build resilience of dryland communities and landscapes. AAD has supported eight countries with a funding of US\$20 million. Over 12,000 ha have been planted under restoration efforts to reverse land degradation, improve land productivity and increase the resilience in agro-silvo-pastoral systems and of rural communities. Yet, the restoration need is huge and estimated at a total of 166 million ha in Africa's Great Green Wall countries alone.

17. In this context, FAO has also published "Global Guidelines for the Restoration of Degraded Forests and Landscapes in Drylands" (FAO Forestry Paper 175)⁷ and "Trees, forests and land use in drylands: The first global assessment"⁸. Furthermore, FAO's Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism supported 18 countries with a total funding of US\$48.5 million from Korea, Sweden, Germany (IKI), France, and Global Environmental Facility in the period of 2015-2018.

18. In the area of forest pest and disease assessment, control, and management FAO has supported 18 countries with US\$5.6 million extra-budgetary funding. It supports four regional technical networks on invasive plant species (Africa, Asia and Pacific, Near East, and South America) and has helped establish a new forest invasive species network for Europe and Central Asia. The networks

⁵ www.fao.org/in-action/action-against-desertification

⁶ EU Economic partnership Agreement with African, Caribbean and Pacific partners

⁷ FAO. 2015. Global Guidelines for the Restoration of Degraded forests and landscapes in Drylands: Building Resilience and Benefiting Livelihoods. FAO Forestry Paper 175. Rome, Italy.

⁸ Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5905e.pdf>.

focus on the prevention and management of forest invasive species and endemic insect outbreaks associated with climate change. All forest health projects are to strengthen resilience of forests to invasive species (pests, diseases and plant species) as well as native pest outbreaks associated with adverse impact of climate change.

19. On forest fire management, FAO helped develop indicators to measure the effects of climate change on forests, provided inputs on fire management strategy and projects in nine countries and one region (Central America), and is working to reinvigorate the Near East and North Africa Wildland Fire Network.

20. As mangroves matter for food security, resilience, energy and disaster risk reduction, among others, FAO supported and assisted mangrove restoration projects in at least 28 countries since 2006. Furthermore, FAO promoted community resilience through Forest Farm Facility and Social Forestry programs such as community-based forest management in at least 24 countries in the last three years. FAO has improved its tools on Ex-ante Carbon balance of AFOLU project to account for Mangroves.

21. In relation to policy and planning related to climate change adaptation, FAO is working both on forest sector climate initiatives and, through interdepartmental collaboration, on intersectoral approaches to climate change adaptation. FAO is preparing a framework methodology for climate change vulnerability assessments of forests and forest dependent people to assist countries in their adaptation planning. It is also preparing, in partnership with the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry, supplementary guidelines to the UNFCCC National Adaptation Plans Technical Guidelines solely focusing on forestry and agroforestry sector that will accompany the FAO publication on *Addressing Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in National Adaptation Plans*⁹. Currently FAO is providing direct support to eight countries to integrate the agricultural sectors into their National Adaptation Plans which are currently under development. FAO has revised the *Climate Change Guidelines for Forest Policy-Makers* in light of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda commitments.

22. To support countries in their climate change adaptation efforts across all the agricultural sectors (forestry, crop, livestock and fisheries), FAO has prepared a new edition of the *Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook* which includes guidance on both climate change adaptation and mitigation action in all of the agricultural sectors and now includes modules on forests and agroforestry. FAO also prepared guidance on *Tracking adaptation in the agricultural sectors* as part of its efforts to enhance the tools and methods for tracking progress of adaptation at national level and to assist countries in their ongoing efforts to develop systems to track climate change adaptation.

III. Looking ahead

23. The transformative change needed for achieving the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement and SDGs, will require REDD+ actions at a much greater scale and pace. Countries are already starting to demonstrate results on REDD+ and these could be strengthened and scaled up with sufficient support. This will require issuing results-based payments and developing financing schemes to provide the necessary funding.

24. Forests play a key role in the water cycle, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, and habitat protection, including for pollinators. Their sustainable management is crucial for sustainable agriculture and food security. Agriculture remains the most significant driver of global deforestation, and there is an urgent need to promote more positive interactions between agriculture and forestry. In

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/adaptation-planning/guidelines/en/>

this regard, integrated land-use planning provides a strategic framework for balancing land uses at the national, subnational and landscape scales.

25. FAO is committed to assisting countries in their efforts to accelerate and integrate actions to halt deforestation and forest degradation, enhance forest carbon stocks and strengthen the role of forests in building resilience. The enhanced financing necessary for these actions will require increased political will and the recognition of the multiple development and economic benefits of forest related investments. In particular, opportunities to protect forests and enhance forest cover while enhancing food security require greater attention and promotion of successful examples and factors contributing to positive trends in food security and forest cover need to be further shared¹⁰.

26. The Paris Agreement underlines both the imperative and commitment to scale up climate action. FAO recognizes that countries will need to ensure consistency between their NDCs and the various national climate adaptation response plans and actions especially National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and national and sectoral climate change strategies. It will be important that the forest sector engage in the development of climate change strategies and implementation plans to ensure that the sector is adequately reflected. FAO is ready to support countries in enhancing the engagement of the forestry sector in the future review and revision of NDCs as well as assisting countries to ensure that forest sector strategies and plans underpinning sustainable forest management are harmonized with climate change strategies.

27. As many countries are in the process of developing their NAPs, this is an opportune moment to identify and integrate forest-based adaptation actions into them and make links with mitigation activities, including REDD+. FAO is committed to working with countries to ensure that both 'adaptation for forests' and 'forests for adaptation' or using forests to help society strengthen resilience to climate change, and to support livelihood strategies are included in NAPs.

28. FAO recognizes the important role that private and public partnerships can play in assisting the adaptation efforts in forestry particularly by pooling resources and catalyzing sustainable transformative change in the forestry sector to build resilience of forests and people dependent on forests in support of both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

29. Through its work, FAO supports further climate action by:

- a) strengthening the case for increased investments at the country and global levels;
- b) promoting more holistic, landscape-based approaches that can better address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
- c) further developing, testing and applying new tools and technologies for timely, efficient and transparent forest and land monitoring;
- d) strengthening role of local stakeholders, indigenous peoples and women in the design and implementation of climate actions; and
- e) engaging the private sector in climate efforts, from those in forest industries, to those in agriculture, food, insurance and financial sectors, to eliminate deforestation;
- f) improving forest health monitoring and management of invasive species and native pest outbreaks;
- g) reducing fire risks and the implementation of sustainable fire management where needed so that forest ecosystems are more resilient to climate change FAO is also improving fire reporting using new approaches at finer resolution.

IV. Points for Consideration

30. The Committee may wish to:

¹⁰ State of the World's Forests 2016, FAO (2016)

- a) *Encourage members to* operationalize and enhance ambition in their forest related contributions to reduce emissions in their NDCs, including their efforts to monitor and verify them.
- b) *Encourage members to* incorporate forests into their National Adaptation Plans, develop policies for adaptation through forests, and take action to improve forest health and to restore degraded forests and landscapes.
- c) *Request* FAO to:
 - facilitate inter-sectoral dialogues among agricultural sector Ministries, other Ministries and relevant stakeholders to address the vulnerabilities and mitigation potential of forests in the face of climate change, in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
 - provide additional technical and capacity-building support to countries to address deforestation and implement REDD+ strategies and investment plans ;
 - further assist countries to integrate forestry into their National Adaptation Plans (NAPS) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs), to implement their NDCs and to develop and implement integrated, cross-sectoral approaches to climate action, using funding opportunities under the GCF and GEF-7;
 - continue exploring synergies across forest programmes that support mitigation and adaptation action, including support to strengthening coordination of REDD+ and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiatives at country level, and to strengthen integration of food security, agriculture, forestry and fisheries within the international climate agenda;
 - contribute to enhancing the role of private sector in forest related actions, including the promotion of responsible investments that are consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of forests, including those in agriculture;
 - further support multi-country technical and policy exchanges to address emerging issues relating to climate change and advance understanding and adoption of best practices for climate change adaptation measures among Member Nations.

Annex I**Background**

The 2018-19 biennial theme – *Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO* - was endorsed by the FAO Council at its 155th session in December 2016 and by the FAO Conference at its 40th session in July 2017. The selection of the theme is the result of a review process and deliberations in the relevant Governing Bodies during 2017-2018.

Relevant Governing Bodies will include discussion items related to the biennial theme in their sessions of work in 2018 and 2019, so as to engage in a critical review of linkages between exogenous trends and challenges relating to climate change and the work and activities of FAO, including *vis-à-vis* nutrition, food security, poverty reduction, migration, oceans, water and energy resources, fisheries, resilience, land uses, forest management, soil management, disaster risk reduction, food systems and others.

The biennial theme is timely in light of the recent global developments, including the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement and the overarching Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, as well as the UNFCCC COP23 Decision for the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, and the launch of the [FAO Strategy on Climate Change](#) at the 40th FAO Conference in July 2017.

This paper is intended to support the Governing Bodies in addressing the biennial theme in their upcoming 2018 and 2019 work sessions. Its purpose is twofold:

- i) to inform Governing Bodies on recent and planned FAO work and activities that contribute to the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change;
- ii) to suggest specific discussion items on the biennial theme in the Governing Body sessions to advance further the delivery of the Strategy on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the 2018-19 biennium within FAO's Strategic Framework.

Objectives of the biennial theme

The objectives of the biennial theme on climate change are summarized as follows:

- 1) Recognize the scope of current work on climate change and identify gaps and opportunities where FAO can address and integrate climate change more effectively across its work programme;
- 2) Take stock of the specific needs and climate risks arising from food and agricultural sectors, regions and countries to guide the advancement and further development of relevant work streams across the Organization;
- 3) Raise awareness and position FAO as the lead voice to address the nexus between climate change and the food and agricultural sectors nationally and regionally, as well as globally;
- 4) Stimulate discussion between and within the Governing Bodies to strengthen the effective and efficient implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change.

FAO work and activities on climate change

This section provides an update on the progress made by FAO on the implementation of the three Outcomes of the Strategy on Climate Change, on recent global developments on climate change as related to the food and agricultural sectors, and on future actions and priorities in the pipeline of the Organization during the biennium 2018-19 to further advance the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change.

Outcome 1 - Enhanced capacities of Member Nations on climate change through FAO leadership as a provider of technical knowledge and expertise**Facilitating countries' access to climate finance**

- Climate change features as a priority funding line for many multilateral and bilateral donors. Resource mobilization for climate and environment finance activities will be increased in 2018 through greater engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as with other multilateral and bilateral donors.
- In 2016 FAO was accredited to the GCF to manage medium-sized grant-based projects (up to USD 250 million) with a medium (or lower) level of environmental and social risk. Currently, FAO is supporting more than 25 countries globally in developing nationally owned GCF projects as well as supporting more than 15 countries as a 'delivery partner' under the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. FAO is also preparing to support up to ten Direct Access Entities to develop high-quality GCF projects in the agricultural sectors to be launched in 2018.
- As of November 2017, FAO's current GEF portfolio stands at USD 740 million. The total value of climate finance in FAO's GEF portfolio amounts for USD 424 million from which 33 projects (21 percent of the portfolio value) are focused on climate change adaptation with USD 157 million in funding, and USD 267 million address climate change mitigation as part of multi-focal area projects, while 1 percent of the project portfolio focuses exclusively on climate change mitigation. The partnership between FAO and GEF will continue growing as GEF7 is rolled out, enhanced by the recent integration of the FAO's GEF unit into the Climate and Environment Division (CBC).

Supporting countries with their NDC implementation

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) define national climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. Actions in the food and agricultural sectors feature prominently in all NDCs and particularly those of developing countries. During the 2018-2019 biennium, FAO will develop a NDC implementation support platform to facilitate knowledge and information sharing among relevant stakeholders. FAO also aims to support over 40 countries in the 2018-19 biennium to implement and/or further refine the agricultural sector components of their NDCs (in line with the FAO Strategy on Climate Change Output indicator 1.a.i.) as well as to improve the institutional coordination between the agriculture sectors and other relevant sectors, including energy. The FAO Forestry Department continues to support developing countries in their REDD+ processes and climate change adaptation planning to turn their political commitments, as represented in their NDCs, into action on the ground.
- FAO will continue to facilitate the Thematic Working Group on Agriculture, Food Security and Land Use under the umbrella of the NDC Partnership, which was launched in 2017 and currently has a membership of around 20 actively participating countries. In 2018, FAO will develop a work plan on peer-to-peer learning among participating countries, and facilitate online dialogues on topics including climate change adaptation / resilience and climate finance.

Supporting countries in integrating climate change in their national policies, strategies and programmes

- FAO is currently supporting seven global and regional programs and 10 national programs, including 10 Least Developed Countries and 22 developing countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean on the design and implementation of processes related to adaptation planning/National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and related Disaster Risk Reduction/Management (DRR/DRM) / resilience planning processes, both at the national and sub-national level. To this end FAO is preparing Supplementary Guidance to

Integrate Forestry and Agroforestry into National Adaptation Plans. Through the joint UNDP-FAO *Integrating Agriculture in National Adaptation Plans* (NAP-Ag) programme, FAO will continue supporting target countries in 2018 in NAPs implementation and aims to scale up its support on NAPs/adaptation planning also in the context of the dedicated GCF readiness window and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets.

- In 2017, FAO supported 15 countries to report on their greenhouse gas emissions and on mitigation actions in the context of the MICCA programme, and aims to support 15-20 countries in this regard in 2018.

Outcome 2 - Improved integration of food security and nutrition, agriculture, forestry and fisheries considerations within the international agenda on climate change through reinforced FAO engagement

Advocating for food and agriculture under UNFCCC

- Following the [Koronivia joint work on agriculture](#) decision that was adopted at COP23, FAO submitted its views on the elements to be included in the joint work to be undertaken by the subsidiary bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and for Implementation (SBI). FAO is supporting this process in the Subsidiary Bodies by providing technical input as requested and will also provide technical support, tools and mechanisms to the UNFCCC secretariat for these new activities, as part of the MoU signed between FAO and UNFCCC.
- COP23 adopted the Gender Action Plan (GAP), which explicitly calls for UN Agencies with thematic mandates to advance the knowledge base along the gender-climate change nexus and to contribute to achieving the above goals with targeted capacity development interventions and training programmes. Collaboration on gender is highlighted in the MoU between FAO and UNFCCC signed in 2017, as well as FAO's Corporate Climate Change Strategy. In 2018, FAO will contribute to efforts under the GAP, inter alia by preparing a background study paper on gender in agriculture in relation to selected UNFCCC mandated areas, and integrating a gender perspective within FAO's technical submissions to the UNFCCC.
- FAO will pursue its engagement with the UNFCCC in the context of the Talanoa Dialogue (former 2018 Facilitative Dialogue) by, inter alia, providing technical inputs on the online platform in 2018. The Talanoa Dialogue is mandated to take stock of the collective efforts of Parties towards the long-term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is intended to inform the preparation of the next round of NDCs.
- FAO's work on clean energy for food chains and sustainable bioenergy in both development and emergency/rehabilitation settings represents a significant contribution from the agricultural sectors to the energy commitments of the Paris Agreement.

Outcome 3 – Strengthened coordination, and delivery of FAO work on climate change

Sharing knowledge and fostering training on climate change

- The 2018-19 biennial theme will be used as a means to provide consistent information to all FAO Governing Bodies and Member Nations on climate change activities and developments at international, regional and country level. These discussions will help to ensure that climate change is considered and integrated in all areas of FAO's work and that the views of Member Nations contribute to considerations on the implementation of the Strategy on Climate Change.

Partnering to maximise the impact of FAO work

- FAO established a partnership with Google that led to the development of a digital tool called Collect Earth. By enabling data collection through Google Earth, this new tool enables countries to assess land use and deforestation and to quantify their environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emissions.

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- Collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) will be reinforced through the development of joint activities on climate change. In 2016-17, the informal RBA working group on climate change met twice to explore closer collaboration on climate change at strategic and national level. The RBAs are collaborating on several climate-related initiatives including the IFAD Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), Bangladesh, Kenya and in the development of proposals to the Green Climate Fund for Ghana and the Palestinian Territories among others. The RBAs are collaborating on the operationalization of the Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (A2R) Initiative of the UN Secretary-General.