Forests play a central role in combating climate change by absorbing and storing carbon from the atmosphere in their vegetation and soils.

Many countries methodically collect, analyse and disseminate forest-related data to establish a robust national forest monitoring system (NFMS).

To promote transparency and mutual trust, the Paris Agreement encourages countries to follow the enhanced transparency framework (ETF), building on the transparency arrangements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

A fully functioning multipurpose NFMS allows countries to respond to their own forest data needs and effectively report on forest emissions and removals and track progress on climate action.

Transparency, accuracy, completeness, consistency, comparability are the guiding principles of forest monitoring and the ETF.

Better forest information is needed to make policies and decisions to protect and sustainably manage forest resources.

FAO has supported the efforts of over 50 countries to strengthen their NFMS.

Boosting transparency of forest data for climate action

This publication was developed under the project “Building global capacity to increase transparency in the forest sector (CBIT-Forest)” aiming to strengthen capacities of developing countries to collect, analyze and disseminate forest-related data.

For more information: www.fao.org/in-action/boosting-transparency-forest-data

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