



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



UPDATE ON GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND PROCESSES FOR THE REGIONAL FORESTRY COMMISSIONS

METTE WILKIE

Director Forestry Division, FAO
Agenda Item 7.1

31st
Session

North American
Forest Commission

17 November 2021 - 19 November 2021

Location: Virtual

SOFO 2022

**Forests and green recovery –
building inclusive and
sustainable green economies**

Launch:
World Forestry Congress 2–6 May 2022
and
FAO Committee on Forestry 3–7 October 2022



Forests and trees are vital for sustainable development, addressing global crises and sustainable recovery:

They cover **31%** of the terrestrial land area; about **4.06 billion hectares**.

Forests have become a carbon sink over the last decade.

Gross forest-related emissions are estimated at **8.1 ± 2.5 gigatonnes** of CO₂ per year;
Gross removals **16 ± 49 gigatonnes** of CO₂ per year.

Forests are **home** to most of the world's terrestrial **biodiversity**.

Habitat loss, deforestation and **forest fragmentation** have amplified health risks such as COVID-19.

For **millions of people** living in poverty, forest and tree resources not only **provide food, fuel** for cooking and **heating, medicine, shelter** and **clothing**, but they also function as **safety nets** in crises or emergencies.

Forest smallholders and communities will be key players in the **green recovery** and development, in **solving** current issues and in working towards more **sustainable** solutions.





The report will present **three forest-based solution pathways**

- 1.** Protecting forests, reducing deforestation and forest degradation
- 2.** Restoring and improving degraded landscapes and putting more trees into agricultural settings
- 3.** Enhancing the sustainable use of forest resources towards a green recovery and sustainable economies



The UN-Secretary-General's initiative on turning the tide on deforestation

Call from the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to “Turn the tide on deforestation”:

“ We must halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and change the way we farm ”

(Climate Action Summit, September 2019)

Context

Scaling-up action to halt deforestation and forest degradation

2018

CPF International Conference

Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action

2019

Climate Action Summit

Call from the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to **Turn the tide on deforestation**: “We must halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and change the way we farm”

FAO and UNEP asked to lead a concerted effort of UN agencies to halt deforestation and forest degradation

2020-2021

Identifying “key messages” from reliable facts and figures

Joint statement of the CPF: Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation

A CPF Joint Initiative on turning the tide on deforestation is being developed to further support efforts of countries

THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT 2021



[UN Food Systems Summit](#) UNGA, September 2021

Designed to **develop principles** and identify, raise awareness of, and elevate public discussion about **positive solutions** for improving global food systems and **generate significant action** towards implementing those solutions in support of the SDGs

Outcomes:

- [‘National pathways’](#) for food systems transformation;
- [Coalitions](#) formed with support from Member States
- ‘Collaboration hub’ hosted by FAO
- Global stocktaking meeting every 2 years

Forests represented in coalitions under **Action Area 2 – Boost Nature-Based Solutions of Production :**

- [Halting deforestation and conversion from agricultural commodities](#)
- [Coalition on Better Data Better Decisions for Nature-Positive Production](#)
- [Coalition for the Transformation of Food Systems Through Agroecology](#)
- [Land and Freshwater Nexus](#)

The 16th session of the UNFF

- 6-30 April 2021, New York (technical, virtual)
- FAO contributed to high level and plenary sessions
- Endorsement of themes for **IDF 2022: Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption** and **IDF 2023: Forests and Health**
- The output: **Chair's Summary**, transmitted to **UNFF17** (policy session), **9-13 May 2022, New York**
- **UNFF16 Report:** www.un.org/esa/forests/forum/index.html
- **UNFF17:** The implementation of the UNSPF and preparations for the midterm review in 2024 of the effectiveness of the IAF

UNFCCC and CBD

26th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 1-12 Nov. 2021, Glasgow, UK

Adopted Glasgow Climate Pact that explicitly recognizes key role of forests in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.

Finalized rules of the Paris Agreement, including Article 6.

Announced Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use: 140 countries pledged to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 with more than USD 20 billion committed.

NFO held 26 events, including high-level 'Turning the Tide on Deforestation'

The UN Biodiversity Conference (CBD COP15), 11-15 October 2021 (Part I) and 25 April-8 May 2022 (Part II), Kunming, China

Adopted Kunming Declaration demonstrating political support for ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework (will be finalized in 2022)

Mainstreaming of biodiversity remains one of the key elements needed for a successful post-2020 framework

Progress review of the implementation the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

COP26
UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

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C O P 1 5
2020
UN BIODIVERSITY
CONFERENCE

Ecological Civilization:
Building a Shared Future for
All Life on Earth
KUNMING, CHINA





Points for consideration 1/2

The Commission may wish to:

- Consider forest-relevant updates to facilitate policy dialogues and technical exchanges, and to assist in achieving Members' goals and contributions to international processes and goals
- Welcome the topical focus on FAO's flagship publication "**The State of the World's Forests**" 2022, titled "Forestry and Green Recovery, Building Inclusive and Sustainable Green Economies"
- Welcome FAO's efforts in mainstreaming forest-related issues into the preparations of the **UN Food Systems Summit** and its **Pre-Summit**
- Welcome the developments under the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on **Turning the Tide on Deforestation**
- Welcome the themes of the **International Day of Forests 2022** and **2023** and consider them in the preparations of celebration events in the region.



Points for consideration 2/2

The Commission may wish to request FAO to:

- Promote **SOFO 2022** within and outside of the forestry sector;
- Take an active part in advancing the UN Secretary-General's Initiative on **Turning the Tide on Deforestation** and related activities;
- Continue to take an active role as the Chair of the **Collaborative Partnership on Forests** and through this enhance advocacy on forests through relevant global processes and initiatives



THANK YOU!

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