

Comments from the European Union and its 28 member states on CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition to be adopted by CFS 44

We welcome the Rapporteurs proposal but consider it necessary to assess the recommendations in relation to the real added value of forest management for Food Security and Nutrition. It is a key target that the CFS Policy Convergence Process could offer more FSN focused policy guidance compared to the previous processes.

Considering the target of having just a few recommendations of clear focus on FSN, the document of three and half pages seems too long and detailed. The recommendations are somewhat vague and they do not focus enough on FSN outcomes. Clearer linkages need to be made to outcomes on FSN and we should have a clear understanding on how the outcome would help achieve FSN outcomes.

The terminology of the document should be checked and the internationally agreed term “sustainable forest management (SFM)” instead of “sustainable forestry” should be used coherently. The term SFM is widely known and goes beyond the term “forestry”, which should be interpreted rather restrictively as mere technical management of forests. Some expressions should be clarified, f.ex. "forest foods" and "wild foods" –is the meaning to emphasize the difference and if there is no difference, the same terminology should be used throughout the text.

Also the use of the term sustainability should be used coherently. If the emphasis is to underline sustainability of forest management, a coherent approach to this should be adopted. Now in the text sometimes sustainability is used and, most of the times not. Throughout the text and where appropriate it should be mentioned “Forests, trees and their sustainable management” or, alternatively, clearly state that “for the purpose of this document and to facilitate the reading, the expression “XXX” refers to “Forests, trees and their sustainable management”.

In the UN strategic plan for forests, “trees outside forests” are also mentioned. The submitted text limits it to “trees”. In order to promote overall consistency, it is advisable to use always the same terminology.

The text before the recommendations should also refer to the UN strategic plan, which was finalized at the special session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) in January 2017 and endorsed by the UNGA. Global forest goal 2 “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people” explicitly talks about food security: 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased. Also reference and alignment with the so-called forest instrument is missing. It is therefore strange that at the end a recommendation is made to the UNFF, while these recommendations are already in line with what has been ratified by the UNFF. It would be a stronger signal if the message would be better aligned with the work already provided by UNFF (ex: applying nuances, indicating possible gaps, elaborating certain themes).

Specific comments:

Contribution of forests to food security and nutrition

1. paragraph:

Wild foods from forest provide nutritious food and **diversity to diet** ~~quality diets~~ to...

The wording such as "sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests" needs to be broadened or elaborated. It is important to acknowledge all three dimensions of sustainability social, economic and environmental to avoid polarization between the environmental and commercial interests. It would be useful to acknowledge that good management is particularly important in forestry, due to the long timespan in forest production.

2. Paragraph

Recognize that the figure "accounting for approximately 80% of total forest loss" is under discussion. Consider to leave out this concrete figure and only stay with the first part of the sentence where it is already stated that agriculture is the most important driver for global deforestation. As an alternative a footnote with the concrete reference could be added.

-- "Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote a sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems."

3. Paragraph

The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts' report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. They aim to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees sustainable forestry to the achievement of food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

[separate paragraph:]

Ensuring women's and girl's rights in food security and nutrition and gender-responsive implementation of the recommendations is important. Thus the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring their equal rights and access to natural resources, including agriculture and forests, capacity building and fostering women's equal participation in decision making, should be mainstreamed across all policy recommendations.

Recommendation I

These recommendations are too vague with very little linkages to FSN outcomes. Either we work them out in order to make them fit the purpose of this document or we ask to take them out. In addition, the three recommendations start by 'Recognising' - what does it mean and how can they be actionable?

I.c. Recognize the key contribution of forest dependent communities and indigenous people in ~~managing sustainably~~ sustainably managing their forests and trees while achieving FSN.

Recommendation II

The three recommendations are about data collection. Whilst recognizing the importance of data collection when developing the policy and programming process in relation to FSN, it is rather too technical and should be left out to experts. We suggest merging the three recommendations into just one to reflect this issue.

"All stakeholders to take measures to inform and train FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forests and trees management sustainable forest management and agroforestry for FSN, 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"

II.c. Improve trans-sectorial, systemic data collection in FSN and forest monitoring systems, on the use of wild foods (animals, plants...)

II.d. Perform more research on Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) and on other biological relations between trees and agricultural productions in agroforestry systems as well as knowledge on insufficiently explored diversity of forest genetic resources likely to meet the human needs of FSN.

Recommendation III

III. Recommendations 3 a to f are only directed to States but some of those recommendations are surely directed to other stakeholders such as e.g. forest owners (e.g. III d). Delete the reference "States to" and replace it by "All stakeholders" for the whole part III. Point j) on research should also be referred to in this part addressed to States.

We could keep d, f, k and perhaps n, provided it is rephrased in order to reflect the importance of forest food products to complement diets by supplying micronutrients.

III.a.

The clear reference that the policy coherence across forest and other policies at different scale is linked to international processes such as the UN strategic plan and others is missing. This could be added to this point;
It is also needed to develop and implement policies taken into account those already agreed policy frameworks;
The clear link to the climate change question and the Paris agreement is missing. It is an essential influencing factor for forests and FSN.

III.b

Provide, on a voluntary basis, the institutional and financial requirements to integrate and implement resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests- -

III.g.

Promote and enable income generation and livelihoods opportunities in local communities, through the sustainable forest management and agroforestry.

III.h.

Promote and integrate low-carbon, renewable energy schemes in sustainable forest management plans to achieve multiple benefits, including adequate access to renewable energy for food preparation; and invest in social and technical innovations to minimize health risks associated with the use of fuelwood.

III.l.

Ensure that voluntary forest certification and environmental schemes address FSN concerns of all stakeholders by facilitating their full and effective participation.

III.m.

Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes acknowledging the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees that contribute to enhance both resilience of landscapes, and communities' livelihoods.

III.n.

Recommendation needs to be further developed to make it clear.

Promote a nutrition-sensitive approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forest management, land use, water and biodiversity conservation

III.p.

Increase agricultural productivity through diversification, improved varieties and technologies as well as related training to lessen the pressure put on forests

Recommendation IV

Although these recommendations tackle the VGGTs, link should be made to FSN outcomes. As these recommendations stand now they are too vague, could merge the recommendations to have just one on tenure of land and other resources, appropriately linked to FSN outcomes.

Ensure that policies, legislation and programmes, based on the principles of the VGGT, that affect forests, trees and farmlands respect and secure the rights of local communities, women, indigenous peoples and smallholders.

CFS POLICY CONVERGENCE PROCESS ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

RAPPORTEUR'S PROPOSAL

CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Forests and trees contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition (FSN) in numerous ways. Forest foods are a regular part of healthy diets and serve as safety nets in periods of food scarcity to those directly depending on forests for their livelihoods. They also play a role as coping mechanisms in terms of shock and crises. Wild foods from forests provide nutritious food and quality diets to millions of rural women, men and children. Woodfuel is a primary source of energy for cooking and sterilizing water for one in three households globally. Forests generate income for local people and provide essential ecosystem services that are essential for agriculture by regulating water flows, stabilizing soils, maintaining soil fertility, regulating the climate and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.

However, land use conversion for agriculture remains the main cause of global deforestation, accounting for approximately 80 percent of total forest loss and putting at risk the environment and millions of communities directly dependent from forests. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote a sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy and productive forest and tree ecosystems.

The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts' report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. They aim to strengthen the contribution of sustainable forestry to the achievement of food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In addition and within this context, the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring their equal access to natural resources, including agriculture and forests, capacity building and fostering women's equal participation in decision making, should be mainstreamed across all policy recommendations.

The recommendations are primarily addressed to governments for public policies, but are also addressed to all stakeholders with a role in achieving food security and nutrition. The recommendations are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement and not restate related guidance previously provided in other CFS products.

At the end of each recommendation, functional references to the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, whose achievement would be supported by the implementation of the recommendations, have been added and specified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF AND ENCOURAGE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREES FOR FSN

All stakeholders to:

- a. Recognize and enhance the contribution of forests and trees to the four dimensions of FSN, including by building resilience (SDG, 2, 2.1, 2.4);
- b. Recognize the need to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production and restore land productivity, including regulation of climate, water and nutrient cycling, water quality, conservation of biodiversity, limitation of soil erosion and land degradation, and pollination (SDG, 2.3, 2.5, 6.3, 6.6, 12.2, 15.1, 15.4, 15.2, 15.b, 15.5);
- c. Recognize the key contribution of forest dependent communities and indigenous people in managing sustainably their forests and trees while achieving FSN (SDG, 2.1, 6.b).

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

All stakeholders to take measures to inform and train FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forests and trees management for FSN, 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, to:

- a. Build the necessary capacities, professional training and organizational changes needed for participatory expertise and research for better data collection (SDG, 15.b);
- 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 (SDG, 8);
- c. 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 (SDG, 1, 2, 3);
- d. Perform more research on Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) and on other biological relations between trees and agricultural productions in agroforestry systems (SDG, 15.4).

III. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE FSN

States to:

- a. Strengthen policy coherence across forestry, agriculture, water, energy, education and other sectors at different scales, by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination through a participatory and inclusive process (SDG, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12.2, 12.a, 15, 17.4);
- b. Provide the institutional and financial requirements to integrate and implement resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests and trees into policies and programs (SDG, 1.4, 1.a, 2.a, 15.b);
- c. Develop and promote participatory forest and trees policies and management planning and measures that enable access to nutritionally important forest foods, in particular for forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples (SDG, 15.2, 16.7);
- d. Ensure access to and use of forest and trees resources and access to markets for forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples for the realization of their right to adequate food (SDG, 1.4, 2.1);
- e. Promote forest restoration of unproductive, abandoned degraded forest and deforested areas (SDG, 6.6, 12.2, 15.3, 15.b);
- f. Provide incentives for the provision of forest-based ecosystem services that benefit sustainable agriculture and FSN.

All stakeholders to:

- g. Promote and enable income generation and livelihoods opportunities in local communities, through the sustainable management and use of forest resources;
- h. Promote and integrate low-carbon, renewable energy schemes in forest management plans to achieve multiple benefits, including adequate access to fuel for food preparation; and invest in social and technical innovations to minimize health risks associated with the use of fuelwood (SDG, 3, 7.2, 9, 12.2, 12.c, 15.2) ;
- i. Increase responsible public and private investments to support community-driven, forest-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods, culture and well-being as well as adaptation and mitigation to climate change (SDG, 1.5, 13.1, 17);
- j. Increase investment in research to establish, promote and upscale good practices in forestry and agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics (SDG, 2.a, 15.b, 17.7);
- k. Contribute to increasing population sizes and diversity of trees species that are relevant for food and nutrition (SDG, 2.5, 15.4);
- l. Ensure that forest certification and environmental schemes address FSN concerns of all stakeholders by facilitating their full and effective participation;
- m. Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes acknowledging the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees that contribute to enhance resilience of landscapes, communities and livelihoods (SDG, 2.4, 15);
- n. Promote a nutrition-sensitive approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forestry, land use, and biodiversity conservation (SDG, 2.1);
- o. Ensure the availability of appropriate technical support, extension services and training to stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups;
- p. Increase agricultural productivity through diversification, improved varieties and technologies to lessen the pressure put on forests (SDG, 2.a, 4, 17.7);
- p. Increase agricultural productivity through diversification, improved varieties and technologies to lessen the pressure put on forests (SDG, 2.3).

IV. SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES, AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT) TO SECURE FOREST DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES' AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' TENURE RIGHTS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE OF THEIR LANDS.

All stakeholders to:

- a. Ensure that policies, legislation and programmes, based on the principles of the VGGT, that affect forests, trees and farmlands respect and secure the rights of local communities, indigenous peoples and smallholders (SDG, 2.1, 2.3, 11.4, 16.7);
- b. Collaboratively develop VGGT-based initiatives with forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples to enhance the productivity and resilience of forests and tree-based systems, and incorporate these initiatives into policies, programmes and practices (SDG, 2.4, 9.4).

The Committee encourages these policy recommendations to be forwarded to relevant policy processes including the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).