



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

**COFO 24**  
World Forest Week

# ENHANCING WORK ON BOREAL AND TEMPERATE FORESTS

Agenda Item 6.4



# Introduction

- COFO 23 - Recommendation for FAO to:
  - strengthen its work on boreal and temperate forests
  - explore further options in this regard
  - present a detailed document with concrete proposals in COFO 24
- Discussion in EFC and NAFC – Recommendation to:
  - Separate boreal and temperate forests
  - Work within existing structures and mechanisms



# Existing work and relevance in FAO

- Active technical cooperation in the forest sector with all key boreal countries
- Normative work on e.g. forest fires, forest health, pests and diseases and climate change highly relevant to boreal forests
- New Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW) initiative will be of major relevance to the countries with boreal and temperate forests
- Statutory bodies: EFC, NAFC, ACSFI

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense boreal forest. A winding river flows through the center of the forest, leading to a large, calm lake in the upper right. The forest is composed of tall, green coniferous trees. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds.

# **Institutional mechanisms**

- ✓ **International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA)**
- ✓ **Barents Forest Sector Network (BFSN)**
- ✓ **Circumboreal Working Group (Canada, Finland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, USA)**

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR STRENGTHENING FAO'S WORK ON BOREAL FORESTS



# More emphasis on boreal forests



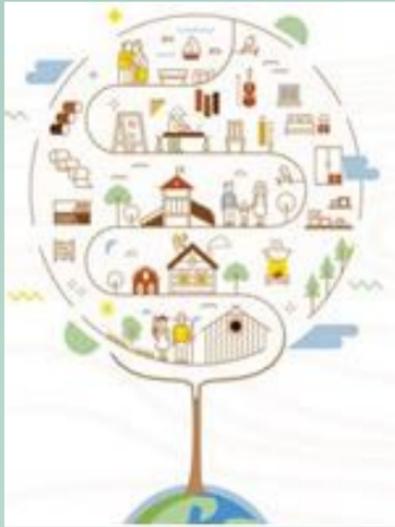
- **Climate change:** Framework methodology for vulnerability assessments of forests
- **Forest fire:**
  - Support to analysis and monitoring of fire data
  - assessment of damage and loss from wildfires
  - Assistance to countries on focusing efforts and resources on critical areas
  - raising awareness of the importance of wildfire management to achievement of global objectives
  - reinvigorating relationships with global networks

# More emphasis on boreal forests



- **Forest health:**
  - Invasive species networks
  - New focus on early detection, phytosanitary measures, climate-induced pest outbreaks and forest dieback, resilience of boreal forest ecosystems to pest outbreaks
- **Forest monitoring:**
  - FRA as global repository for forest information on the boreal forest biome
  - Use of remote sensing technologies to improve data quality in boreal forest areas

# Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World (SW4SW)



- Strengthening boreal forests' contributions to the bioeconomy
- Sustainable wood value chains for sustainable development and climate change mitigation
- Awareness raising and advocacy of benefits of sustainable wood products
- Capacity building for sustainable wood value chains
- Facilitating access to finance and markets

# Working through existing mechanisms

- FRA 2020: Partnership on CFRQ (Forest Europe, UNECE) and Google partnership
- Working Groups of NAFC on e.g. silviculture, forest fire, pests and diseases
- Existing thematic Teams of Specialists (ToS) of EFC and COFFI
- Collaboration with IBFRA and Circumboreal Working Group



# Points for consideration

The Committee may wish to **invite member countries** to increase the visibility and recognition of boreal forests in the relevant international policy fora and catalyse continuity and planning depth for the related scientific and technical cooperation.



# Points for consideration

The Committee may wish to **recommend FAO to:**

- Strengthen its work on boreal forests within its existing programmes and through existing mechanisms such as regional Working Groups or ToS
- Ensure through its governing bodies, in particular the Conference, that activities on boreal forests are adequately reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium Term Plan



# Thank

# you

