



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

MOVING FORWARD

**SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN 2016–2017**



*Cover image:
A jungle guide paddles a canoe
on the Yanayacu River near
Iquitos in the Peruvian Amazon*

MOVING FORWARD

**SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN 2016–2017**

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

ISBN 978-92-5-130707-6

© FAO, 2018

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be made via www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request or addressed to copyright@fao.org.

FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org.

This publication has been printed using selected products and processes so as to ensure minimal environmental impact and to promote sustainable forest management.

Cover image: © DC_Colombia

CONTENTS

FOREWORD v

FAO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES vi

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONSviii

1		HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION 2
2		MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE 4
3		REDUCE RURAL POVERTY 22
4		ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS 28
5		INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES 32
6		TECHNICAL QUALITY, STATISTICS AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES 36

LIST OF STORIES 39

FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN FIGURES 2016–2017 40



FOREWORD

Forests and trees are gaining recognition for their contributions to societies and planetary health. In the 2016–2017 biennium, the Committee on World Food Security – the world’s foremost international and intergovernmental platform enabling stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all – formally recognized forestry’s role in “making a difference in food security and nutrition”. In October 2017, the Committee’s 44th Session adopted recommendations aimed at strengthening the contributions of sustainable forest and tree management to food security and nutrition, especially for the world’s poorest – and often undernourished – people.

Also gathering momentum during the biennium was the view that sustainably produced wood is essential for our shared future. One of the key messages of the Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World conference, convened by FAO and partners in late 2017, is that environmentally friendly, socially responsible and economically sound wood value chains are crucial for transitioning to sustainability.

The International Day of Forests has become a prominent global celebration. In 2016, the IDF addressed the theme “forests and water” to acknowledge the essential functions of forests in water and food security. In 2017, the IDF highlighted the importance of forests in energy security. On both occasions, FAO provided materials to help communicate to the public why forests are vital.

FAO’s five Strategic Objectives (described on pages vi and vii) represent the main areas of work on which FAO is concentrating its efforts to achieve its vision and global goals. They guide FAO Forestry’s work in optimizing the economic, social and environmental functions of forests and trees, and they reinforce the globally agreed Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 15.

This edition of *Moving Forward* presents highlights of FAO’s work in forestry in 2016 and 2017 to put the Organization’s Strategic Objectives into action. The FAO Forestry programme had more than 170 ongoing projects in over 60 countries during the period, and it delivered resources valued at about USD 186 million aimed at achieving transformational impacts that benefit FAO member countries.

The world faces complex political, economic, social and environmental challenges – such as those associated with poverty, food insecurity, climate change, resource depletion and biodiversity loss. The need has never been greater for coordinated global responses involving best practices, peer-to-peer learning, capacity development, technology development and transfer, expert analysis and multistakeholder involvement – in short, for the services that FAO and its partners are striving to provide.

As the stories in this publication show, FAO is committed to moving forward with its members and partners and to working with vulnerable forest communities to find sustainable, equitable solutions to these challenges and achieve our common goals.



Hiroto Mitsugi
Assistant Director-General, FAO Forestry Department

FAO'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In 2012, to meet the demands posed by major global trends in agricultural development and the challenges faced by member nations, FAO identified key priorities on which it was best placed to intervene. A comprehensive review of the Organization's comparative advantages enabled Strategic Objectives (SOs) to be set, representing the main areas of work on which FAO is concentrating its efforts in striving to achieve its vision and global goals. The five SOs are described below.



SO1.

HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

There is sufficient capacity in the world to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately; nevertheless, despite the progress made in the last two decades, 815 million people still suffer from chronic hunger. Among children, it is estimated that 155 million under five years of age are chronically malnourished and about 52 million are acutely malnourished.

FAO's mandate is to support members in their efforts to ensure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food. FAO can help by supporting policies and political commitments that promote food security and good nutrition and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and malnutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.

The Forestry programme assists members to harmonize forest and food security policies; improve the availability of data on the role of forests in food security; and address tenure as a means of increasing food security.



SO2.

MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

The world's population is predicted to increase to 9 billion people by 2050. Some of the world's highest rates of population growth are predicted to occur in areas that are highly dependent on the agriculture sector (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries) and have high rates of food insecurity. Growth in the agriculture sector is one of the most effective means of reducing poverty and achieving food security. We must ensure that increased productivity not only benefits the few and that the natural resource base can provide services (pollination, nutrient cycling in soils, quality water, etc.) that enhance sustainability.

The Forestry programme develops policies and implements field projects to promote sustainable forest management; the restoration of degraded lands, including drylands, mountains and watersheds; the role of forests in climate-change mitigation; sustainable wildlife management; the conservation of protected areas and genetic resources; and agroforestry. It also works to improve the monitoring of forest resources at the national and global levels.



SO3.

REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

Most of the world's poor live in rural areas. Hunger and food insecurity are all expressions of rural poverty and reducing rural poverty, therefore, is central to FAO's mission. Many people living in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty in recent decades. In 1990, 54 percent of those living in rural areas in developing countries lived on less than USD 1.25 a day and were considered extremely poor. By 2010, this share had dropped to

35 percent. Rural poverty remains widespread, however, especially in South Asia and Africa. FAO strives to help smallholders improve farm productivity while aiming to also increase off-farm employment opportunities and, through social protection, find better ways for rural populations to manage and cope with risks in their environments. Continuing gender inequality continues to exacerbate rural poverty, as does the marginalization of indigenous peoples.

The Forestry programme helps in the development of small forest enterprises; promotes decent employment in the forest sector; works to ensure social protection in forestry; and helps strengthen local, national, regional and global forest and farm producer organizations.



SO4.

ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

With increasing globalization, agriculture as an independent sector will cease to exist, instead becoming one part of an integrated value chain. The value chain exists both upstream and downstream, or from production through to processing and sales, in which the whole is now highly concentrated, integrated and globalized. This poses a huge challenge for smallholder farmers and agricultural producers in many developing countries, where even the most economically valid smallholders can easily be excluded from important parts of the value chain. Increasing their participation in food and agricultural systems is crucial for achieving FAO's goal of a world without hunger.

The Forestry programme promotes forest products in the bio-economy and the development of non-wood forest products and wood-energy value chains; generates reliable statistics on forest products; and provides information and guidance on sustainable forest finance.



SO5.

INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES

Each year, millions of people who depend on the production, marketing and consumption of crops, livestock, fish, forests and other natural resources are confronted by disasters and crises. They can strike suddenly – like an earthquake or a violent coup d'état – or unfold slowly – like drought-flood cycles. They can occur as a single event, one can trigger another, or multiple events can converge and interact simultaneously with cascading and magnified effects. FAO's mission is to help countries govern, prevent and mitigate risks and crises and to support them in preparing and responding to disasters.

The Forestry programme helps countries develop integrated forest fire management approaches; promotes best practices in forest health; offers guidance on disaster risk management in forests; and assists countries and communities to adapt forest management and forest communities to climate change.



OBJECTIVE 6

TECHNICAL QUALITY, STATISTICS AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

This objective covers the provision of technical knowledge, quality and services, the quality and integrity of data produced and disseminated by FAO, and quality services for work on governance and gender. FAO Forestry generates and disseminates considerable technical knowledge, such as through: the work and recommendations of its technical and statutory bodies, including the Committee on Forestry; guidelines and parameters on various aspects of sustainable forest management, including the role of gender in forestry; the Organization's contributions to the global forestry agenda and international processes under FAO's chairmanship of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; the strategic coordination of forestry activities; FAO Forestry's wide range of publications, including the authoritative *State of the World's Forests*; and a host of other information, advocacy and outreach products.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FFPO	forest and farm producer organization
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
NWFP	non-wood forest product
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest stocks) in developing countries
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SO	Strategic Objective
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
USD	United States dollar(s)



© Sergio Garrido



© CIFOR/Nathalie Van Vliet

1



THE COMMITTEE ON
WORLD FOOD SECURITY
FORMALLY RECOGNIZED
FORESTRY'S ROLE IN "MAKING
A DIFFERENCE IN FOOD
SECURITY AND NUTRITION"

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1 HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

FORESTS ARE "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" IN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

FAO is supporting the development of policies aimed at increasing the role of forests in ensuring food security and nutrition. For the first time ever, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), at its 41st Session in 2014, discussed the role of forests, and it requested the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition to conduct a study on "sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition". The report was launched in June 2017 as a major contribution to the 44th Session of the CFS.

The CFS formally recognized forestry's role in "making a difference in food security and nutrition" and, in October 2017, it adopted recommendations to support the integration of policies and action on food security and nutrition across the agriculture sectors. The recommendations centred on the need for an integrated policy approach to forestry, agriculture, water and food security and nutrition by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination. Tenure of land and other resources was identified as key in the recommended approach, with the

CFS acknowledging the greater role that the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* could play.

The 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry, held in 2016, highlighted the importance of mainstreaming cross-sectoral forestry and food-security policies and programmes. In response, FAO, in collaboration with the European Union, published a policy guidance note in 2017 on strengthening policies to increase the contributions of forests to food security and nutrition. Together with cross-sectoral forestry and food-security policy assessments undertaken in 2016–2017 in seven countries – Equatorial Guinea, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Gambia, Guatemala, Myanmar, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania – the note serves as a tool for integrating food security and nutrition objectives into forest policies. It also highlights the role of inclusive dialogues with stakeholders to improve policy coherence.

FAO further increased visibility by publishing a working paper and a factsheet in 2017 to help raise awareness of the links between

Above: In Lamatar, Nepal, forests are an integral part of rural landscapes and agricultural systems
© FAO/Sooyeon Laura Jin

wood energy and food security and nutrition and to support cross-sectoral approaches in the development of forest and food security policies, programmes and projects.

More information

www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1043669/icode
www.fao.org/policy-support/resources/resources-details/en/c/885769 (guidance note)
www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/36c8539c-dc9c-4fae-ab8e-ee5c43d30a25 (working paper)
www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/5f0bc74d-e925-4ff6-abb9-636f1fbf3a49 (fact sheet)

MEASURING THE ROLES OF FORESTS AND TREES IN HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIES

Measuring the socio-economic benefits of forests is challenging because of the scarcity of data and the lack of clarity on what to measure. Nevertheless, the collection and analysis of information on socio-economic benefits is crucial if the contributions of forests and trees to society are to be properly recognized. The systematic comparison of the reliance of households on forests and trees is also challenging, in part because existing research mainly comprises case studies using varying methodologies.

A consistent, systematic approach is needed to fully capture forest values in national-level measurements, including those related to reducing poverty. Thus, FAO and partners¹ have developed specialized modules for conducting national socio-economic surveys in forestry to

enable users to collect data on the contributions of forests and trees to household welfare and livelihoods, and they have provided guidance on how to use the modules.

Field-testing of the modules in Indonesia, Nepal and the United Republic of Tanzania helped improve the design of the modules, which can be customized according to the policy and research needs of target users. The modules (with adaptations) have been applied in Georgia and Turkey, and they are being considered for use in various other FAO- and World Bank-supported projects.

The results of the socio-economic surveys will help narrow the information gap on the relationship between forests and household welfare and livelihoods and thereby lead to better-informed policy deliberations and interventions. This work, therefore, will contribute to the design and implementation of targeted policy and investment measures aimed at improving food security and reducing poverty. In Turkey, for example, the survey data were captured in a World Bank forest policy note.

More information

www.fao.org/3/a-i6206e.pdf
www.fao.org/forestry/forestry-modules
<https://bit.ly/2rYu4Ro> (World Bank forest policy note)

¹ The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Forestry Resources and Institutions Network and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study and Program on Forests.

A field worker conducts an interview on the socio-economic role of forests at a home in Mehakama village, United Republic of Tanzania
© Lauren Persha

THE SURVEYS WILL HELP NARROW THE INFORMATION GAP ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORESTS AND HOUSEHOLD WELFARE AND LIVELIHOODS AND THEREBY LEAD TO BETTER-INFORMED POLICIES



2

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

NATIONAL FOREST INVENTORIES IN BANGLADESH AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA

For more than 50 years, FAO has been supporting countries to collect forest information that meets national and international needs – because better information leads to improved decisions, which leads to more effective action in the forest sector and beyond. Today, FAO is supporting multipurpose national forest inventories (NFIs) in 20 countries.²

NFIs under way in Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea are integrating biodiversity and socio-economic, field and remote sensing information to enable informed decision making on forest management and use.³ In both countries,

this is the first time that such comprehensive NFIs have been undertaken. The Bangladesh Forest Department is leading Bangladesh's NFI process, which is the first to fully deploy the free, open-source inventory tools developed by FAO (see next story). Papua New Guinea's Forest Authority is implementing that country's NFI, which, among other things, is systematically assessing the country's forest biodiversity.

In both countries, the NFIs are going beyond measuring timber volume and estimating carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions to examine various other important aspects of forests. In Bangladesh, there is an emphasis on understanding socio-economic dimensions and the valuation of the spiritual, cultural and recreational roles of forests. Papua New Guinea's NFI is the first in the country's history to integrate a full set of forest biodiversity indicators in each sample plot – assessing the biodiversity of trees, other plants, invertebrates and vertebrates. The NFI, therefore, will make it possible to assess the synergies between protecting biodiversity and efforts to reduce deforestation and degradation. The data it

Botanists sort plant specimens collected during a national forest inventory in Papua New Guinea, while nearby villagers observe the practice
© FAO/Hitofumi Abe

² Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

³ FAO's NFI projects in Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea are supported by the United States Agency for International Development, SilvaCarbon, the European Commission, UN-REDD, Italian Development Cooperation, and the Mountain Partnership Secretariat.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S
NATIONAL FOREST
INVENTORY IS THE FIRST IN
THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY
TO INTEGRATE A FULL SET
OF FOREST BIODIVERSITY
INDICATORS IN EACH
SAMPLE PLOT





BY APRIL 2018, SEPAL
HAD 933 REGISTERED
AND ACTIVE USERS
REPRESENTING
224 ORGANIZATIONS IN
84 COUNTRIES

produces will be instrumental in developing sound policies for sustainably managing the nation's biodiverse forest heritage.

Significant progress has been made in both these NFI projects. It is expected that their results will help improve forest planning, forest management, and efforts to report internationally on the status of forest resources.

More information

www.fao.org/bangladesh/news/detail-events/en/c/1110890

www.fao.org/bangladesh/news/detail-events/en/c/421807

www.fao.org/redd/news/detail/en/c/1068687

www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/news/news-detail/en/c/1104380

SEPAL: RAPIDLY IMPROVING FOREST MONITORING

FAO has developed a range of innovative, open-source technical tools, using Google and other modern technologies, to assist countries in their efforts to measure, monitor and report on their forests and land use. One of these tools is the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring – SEPAL.⁴

SEPAL is an easy-to-use platform for processing and interpreting satellite data. It enables users to query, access and process satellite data quickly and thereby conduct

advanced geospatial analyses faster than ever before. SEPAL harnesses the power of cloud-based supercomputers, thus overcoming barriers such as poor Internet connections and low computing power. SEPAL provides access to, and the processing of, the global Landsat archive (which contains decades of detailed data) and data from the higher-resolution European Sentinel satellite and the Japanese Advanced Land Observation Satellite.

The adoption and use of SEPAL for forest monitoring has been impressive: by April 2018, SEPAL had 933 registered and active users representing 224 organizations in 84 countries. Emerging partnerships with the providers of high-resolution data are generating further opportunities to improve the accuracy and efficiency of forest and land monitoring systems supported by SEPAL. The broadening of collaboration with donors and cooperating partners signals a scaling up and expansion of the scope of SEPAL, with further benefits for national and subnational forest management and international processes.

Improving national forest and land-use information is important for good policy-making on forests, land use, rural livelihoods and food production. SEPAL can also help increase the accuracy and transparency of reporting for international programmes and processes, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment.

SEPAL can help measure and monitor Papua New Guinea's vast tracts of tropical rainforest and thereby contribute to sustainable forest management and conservation
© FAO/Lauri Vesa

⁴ SEPAL was developed with the financial support of the Government of Norway and other partners.

The availability of accessible tools such as SEPAL is already having an impact on reporting to the UNFCCC, with 65 percent of 2018 submissions on forest reference/emission levels reporting on uncertainties in activity data, a dramatic improvement on previous years (only 20 percent of submissions reported on uncertainties in 2015). The reporting of uncertainties in submissions to the UNFCCC is a key step recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and is important in the context of REDD+ results-based payments.⁵

More information

Openforis.org

Sepal.io

⁵ REDD+ = reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest stocks) in developing countries.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION ON URBAN FORESTRY

Cities need forests. Urban and peri-urban forests perform a huge range of functions – such as regulating climate; storing carbon; removing air pollutants; reducing the risk of flooding; assisting in food, energy and water security; and improving the physical and mental health of citizens.

FAO has stepped up its urban forestry programme in response to the increasing needs of countries. Following a wide consultation process, the Organization released its *Guidelines on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry* in 2016 with the aim of assisting local actors to plan, design and manage urban and peri-urban forests, thereby helping make cities greener, healthier and happier places to live.

The next step was to disseminate the concepts embodied in the guidelines and to strengthen collaboration among practitioners, academia and local administrators. To this end, FAO is convening a series of regional and global urban forestry meetings.



Tapgol Park, Seoul, Republic of Korea. FAO is working with partners to optimize the role of urban and peri-urban forests in achieving sustainable cities
© FAO/Simone Borelli

More than 250 participants from across Asia and the Pacific attended the first Asia Pacific Urban Forestry Meeting (APUFM), held in Zhuhai, China, in 2016 in collaboration with China’s State Forestry Administration. The main outcome of the meeting was the Zhuhai Declaration, designed to raise awareness among governments of the key role that urban forests and trees can play in the sustainable development of the region’s fast-growing cities.

FAO organized a second APUFM in 2017, bringing together more than 120 participants in Seoul, Republic of Korea, with the support of the Korea Forest Service. In addition to exchanging technical and scientific information, participants worked on the development of the Seoul Action Plan, which sets out practical actions that local administrators can take.

A similar process started in Latin America and the Caribbean when stakeholders met in Lima, Peru, in 2017 to take stock of the many initiatives under way in large and small cities throughout the region.

FAO and partners⁶ will convene the World Forum on Urban Forests in Mantova, Italy, in November 2018. At this meeting, practitioners and policy-makers from all parts of the

planet will exchange experiences in urban and peri-urban forestry, thereby boosting the uptake of good urban forestry practices and approaches worldwide. Further regional meetings will follow in 2019.

In combination, the guidelines and regional and global meetings are helping bring forests to the forefront in the planning, design and management of sustainable cities. The theme of the 2018 International Day of Forests, “forests and sustainable cities”, has helped maintain the momentum.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/urbanforestry

⁶ The City of Mantova, the Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology, and Politecnico di Milano.



THE GUIDELINES AND REGIONAL AND GLOBAL MEETINGS ARE HELPING BRING FORESTS TO THE FOREFRONT IN THE PLANNING, DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES





THE COMBINATION OF FIELD-TESTING AND POLITICAL AND LEGAL ANALYSES HAS HELPED DEFINE THE ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR SCALING UP PROMISING MODELS THAT BENEFIT BOTH PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT THAT BENEFITS PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY

Approaches to the bushmeat crisis in Central Africa in the last 15 years have tended to employ repressive strategies. In the absence of effective and sustainable alternatives, however, bushmeat remains a key source of protein and livelihoods in the subregion. Prohibiting bushmeat consumption is unlikely to be effective, and a global consensus is emerging on the need to establish conditions for the sustainable use of wildlife that simultaneously promotes biodiversity conservation, food security and local livelihoods.

FAO and partners⁷ implemented the Sustainable Management of Wildlife and Bushmeat Sector in Central Africa project from 2012 to 2017 to help governments achieve this complex balance. The project, which received financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), involved the governments of the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon, and the Central African Forest Commission.

Based on comprehensive background analyses, the project established the foundation for innovative, locally adapted wildlife management models that allow, outside protected

areas, the use of the most resilient wildlife species by and for local communities. Such models also promote formal bushmeat supply chains while simultaneously maintaining restrictions on vulnerable species.

The project tested models and tools to assist stakeholders in developing participatory wildlife management frameworks that can help coordinate overlapping natural resource and land-use rights. Such overlaps are common in Central Africa, where the customary rights of local communities frequently coincide with access or exploitation rights granted to loggers, miners and agribusinesses.

The combination of field-testing and political and legal analyses has helped define the enabling conditions for scaling up promising models that benefit both people and biodiversity. This, in turn, has initiated long-term processes of policy reform and behavioural change in participating countries towards sustainable wildlife management. These efforts will continue through the new global Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (see next story).

More information

www.fao.org/3/a-i7447f.pdf

www.fao.org/3/a-i7634f.pdf
www.fao.org/3/a-i7635f.pdf

Above: Village men take part in a project-led participatory mapping exercise of hunting zones in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
 © CIFOR/Nathalie Van Vliet

⁷ CIFOR, the French International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

THE SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

The steady increase in demand for bushmeat in villages, towns and cities linked to population growth is leading to the increased exploitation of wildlife. This demand is mostly inelastic in remote rural areas, where there are few alternative sources of domestic animal protein.

Wildlife populations are collapsing in many areas, leading to “empty forest and savannah” syndrome, biodiversity loss and reduced ecosystem services. Natural areas are being converted to other uses, resulting in a ripple effect on deforestation processes on the one hand and increased food and nutrition insecurity (protein deficiency) on the other.

The seven-year Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme (SWMP)⁸ was launched in October 2017 as an earlier FAO project, Sustainable Management of Wildlife and Bushmeat Sector in Central Africa, came to a close (see previous story). A partnership between FAO, CIRAD, CIFOR and the Wildlife Conservation Society, the SWMP mobilizes vast experience acquired from long-term, field-based involvement in wildlife conservation and livestock production as well as expertise in cutting-edge research and groundbreaking impact evaluation. The four institutional

partners bring the complementary skills needed to reduce bushmeat consumption to sustainable levels, protect endangered species, and secure the well-being and identity of some of the world’s poorest and most politically marginalized people.

The SWMP has five aims: 1) reduce wildlife hunting in ACP member countries⁹ to sustainable levels; 2) protect endangered wildlife species; 3) conserve biodiversity; 4) maintain the essential ecological roles of wildlife in forested and savannah ecosystems; and 5) secure the stocks and flows of provisioning ecosystem services (especially of food) for communities living in target areas.

Among the SWMP’s first steps (October 2017–June 2018) was the selection of project sites and the development of project documents in each of the partner countries – Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, the Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁹ ACP = African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States.

⁸ The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme, an initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States Secretariat, is hosted by FAO, with funding from the 11th European Development Fund.

Government focal points of partner countries, and other programme partners, meet at a technical workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2018 as part of the Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme
© FAO/Roger Miller

THE FOUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS BRING THE COMPLEMENTARY SKILLS NEEDED TO REDUCE BUSHMEAT CONSUMPTION TO SUSTAINABLE LEVELS





THE PROJECT HAS ENABLED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TEN FOREST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH ARE NOW ABLE TO OPEN BANK ACCOUNTS AND OPERATE AS COMMUNITY-BASED ASSOCIATIONS

SUPPORTING AFGHANISTAN IN COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT

Afghanistan is a landlocked developing country with a mountainous landscape. Suffering from several decades of conflict, it has also been subject to considerable deforestation and ecosystem degradation due to agricultural expansion, logging, overgrazing and woodfuel harvesting.

The country's cover of forests and woodlands has declined from about 3.3 million hectares in the 1950s to less than 1 million hectares (1.5 percent of the country's total area) today. The shortage of woody vegetation has led to the use of economically valuable species such as pistachios and almonds as woodfuel. Although initiatives aimed at reducing land degradation and deforestation have been implemented, challenging environmental conditions and ongoing insecurity have hampered restoration efforts.

Since 2016, FAO and the Government of Afghanistan¹⁰ have been implementing a GEF-funded project to promote community-based forest management and sustainable approaches to biomass energy use, including the use of fuel-efficient stoves and anaerobic biogas digesters. The project is helping build national and community-level capacities and

supporting the design and implementation of community-based management plans for forests and rangelands. Various training and awareness-raising activities, studies, policy processes and community-forestry and bioenergy-technology pilots are being carried out. Governmental and non-governmental institutions are being strengthened at the national and subnational levels.

Among other things, the project has enabled – for the first time – the establishment of ten forest management associations (FMAs), which are now formally registered with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. After receiving their certificates of registration, these FMAs have been able to open bank accounts and operate as community-based associations to sustainably manage their forests. The project is providing small grants to operationalize the FMAs in two pilot areas in the Dari Noor and Salang districts. It has also started forest inventories and carbon measurement in pilot districts, with the aim of providing realistic data on forest cover, species and carbon stock.

To help achieve results on a wider scale, and following a request by the Government of Afghanistan, FAO is designing a new GEF project on community-based sustainable land and forest management, with an expected budget of USD 10.5 million. This project, to be implemented in five of the country's provinces, will build on the success of the first GEF project.

More information

www.fao.org/gef/projects/detail/en/c/1056790
www.fao.org/gef/projects/detail/en/c/1113210

Local men meet at Dari Noor, Afghanistan, for consultations as part of a project to promote community-based forest management and sustainable biomass energy use
© Anwari

¹⁰ Especially the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, the Ministry of Energy and Water, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and the Independent General Directorate of Kuchis.

RESTORING FORESTS IN LEBANON

Lebanon's forests are becoming degraded and fragmented, posing a serious threat to the country's food security, watersheds, biodiversity and ecosystem services, including those benefiting the country's tourism sector.

To reverse this decline in natural resources, the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture launched the National Afforestation and Reforestation Programme in 2013. FAO helped strengthen this programme with a project aimed at increasing national capacity in planning, implementing and monitoring reforestation programmes.

The project had wide-ranging benefits. It assessed existing reforestation projects and developed technical guidelines on best forest management practices, the monitoring of reforestation and afforestation, forest inventory, and reporting. It helped build the capacity of nursery technicians through a coaching programme, and it equipped eight Ministry of Agriculture nurseries with adequate nursery tools and renovated their irrigation facilities. The project also produced a comprehensive guide on forest nursery management, and it delivered training sessions on: best practices in nursery management; determining forest development targets in reforestation and forest management projects; and the management of agrosilvipastoral spaces and key considerations in field assessments.

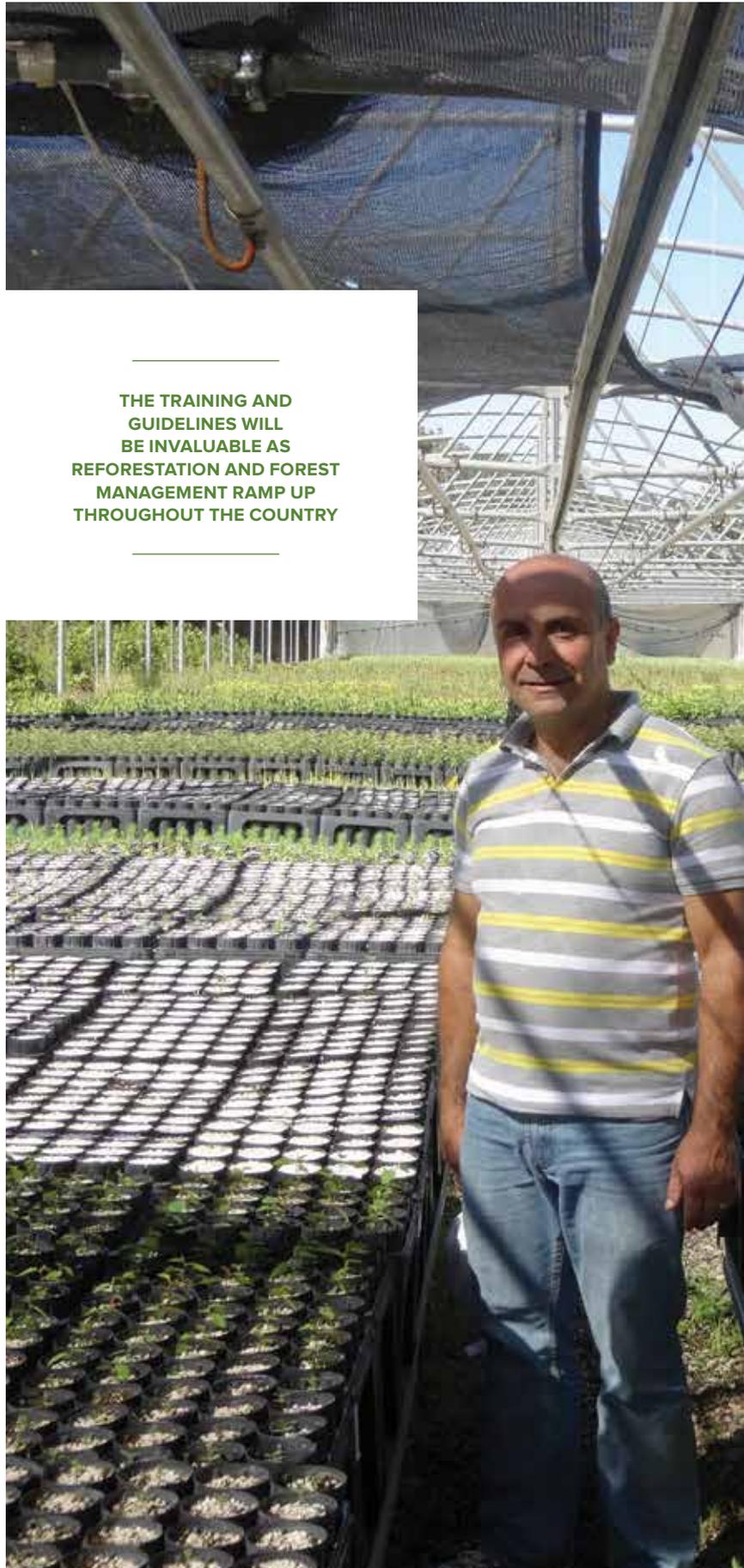
The training provided to forest engineers and guards will have a long-term impact on the capacity of forest-sector officials. The project also created momentum for change in Ministry of Agriculture nurseries and helped build the capacities of ministry staff. The coaching process will be maintained until all nurseries are capable of producing high-quality seedlings.

The training and guidelines on forest development targets, site monitoring and nursery management will be invaluable as reforestation and forest management ramp up throughout the country. The assessment of reforestation approaches and costs will increase the efficiency of future reforestation programmes.

More information

AbdelHamied.Hamid@fao.org

Agricultural engineer Khalid Sleem, the owner of a private nursery, led a coaching programme for Ministry of Agriculture nursery technicians as part of an FAO project
© FAO/Abdel Hamied Hamid



TIMOR-LESTE'S FIRST-EVER FOREST LAW

Seventy percent of Timor-Leste's 1.2 million people live in rural areas. The country has a land area of 1.5 million hectares, 60 percent of which is classified as forests. Rural people rely heavily on forest land for their livelihoods, and deforestation and forest degradation are among the country's biggest challenges.

When Timor-Leste became a sovereign state in 2002, FAO provided it with technical support to formulate a national forest policy (NFP), which the national parliament approved in 2007. In addition to the NFP, FAO supported the drafting of community and participatory forestry guidelines in 2005–2008.

In 2015, the Government of Timor-Leste requested FAO to carry out a review of the 2007 NFP to accommodate recent changes and new data and expectations, and it asked for FAO's support in formulating a forest law. Thus, FAO worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through its Directorate General of Forest, Coffee and Industrial Plantations. Stakeholders were consulted at the national and municipal levels across the country, various pilot projects were assessed, and national and

subnational workshops were convened. Stakeholders were asked how they perceived the effectiveness of the NFP and the changes they would like to see. Parallel with this process, capacity-building activities in forestry, participatory forestry and watershed management were carried out, including exchange visits to Nepal and Viet Nam.

The revised NFP, which is now closely aligned with SDGs 12, 13 and 15, was finalized in May 2017.¹¹ In August 2017, after a process spanning almost two years, the national parliament approved the Basic Forest Law (*Regime Geral das Florestas*, Law No. 14/2017). With a new NFP and the country's first-ever forest law in place, Timor-Leste is moving forward with other elements of its policy framework, including a national strategy for community forestry, also supported by FAO.

More information

www.mj.gov.tl/jornal/public/docs/2017/serie_1/SERIE_I_NO_30.pdf

Government-agency representatives in Timor-Leste are consulted during a review of the national forest policy
© FAO/Cor Veer

¹¹ It awaits final approval by the Council of Ministers.



WITH A NEW NATIONAL FOREST POLICY AND THE COUNTRY'S FIRST-EVER FOREST LAW IN PLACE, TIMOR-LESTE IS MOVING FORWARD WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF ITS POLICY FRAMEWORK



THE GENERAL AIM OF THE SUITE OF PROJECTS IS TO EXPAND THE USE AND APPLICATION OF SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT

ARRESTING LAND DEGRADATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Climate change and land degradation are acute threats to ecological integrity in Central Asia, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Livestock grazing is a primary cause of land degradation and biodiversity loss, contributing to the destruction of natural vegetation, a decrease in rangeland productivity, and soil erosion. Other contributors to land degradation include agricultural practices such as inappropriate cropping patterns and rotations, inefficient irrigation methods, and the overuse of fertilizers and pesticides.

FAO is assisting countries in the subregion through projects promoting the sustainable use of forests, agricultural lands and rangelands. Five projects are under implementation in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey (two projects) and Uzbekistan, and a sixth project spans several countries.

The general aim of the suite of projects is to expand the use and application of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. This is being done by integrating forest and agricultural management plans and improving the enabling environment for SLM by piloting activities at carefully chosen sites. Demonstration activities are performed at the pilot sites to highlight state-of-the-art methods and technologies for combating land degradation. They are based on experience accrued by FAO experts worldwide, and locally recruited consultants are assisting FAO in adapting the activities to local conditions. For example, forest rehabilitation

efforts using mixed native tree species need to consider the local climate and soil conditions to ensure sustainable results. From the pilot sites, stakeholders will learn how best to scale up activities to the rest of the country.

All projects are still under implementation, but several outcomes have already been achieved. Degraded forests and rangelands have been rehabilitated and management practices improved; climate-smart agricultural techniques have been applied across productive landscapes; and an enabling environment for sustainable land management has been fostered. In Konya, Turkey, for example, more than 22 000 hectares of degraded forest have been rehabilitated, enabling the capture of about 49 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year; 11 000 hectares of agricultural land are under a conservation-agriculture regime; and 1 000 farms have adopted new agricultural practices. In Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, forest inventory and monitoring systems will enable the operationalization of sustainable forest management in selected forest enterprises to improve the livelihoods of local households and generate other benefits, such as carbon sequestration. In Kyrgyzstan, best practices have been disseminated through awareness-raising campaigns, including regular coverage in the mass media.

More information

Peter.Pechacek@fao.org
www.thegef.org/projects

Lines of young trees planted to restore degraded land in Konya, Turkey. FAO is assisting countries in Central Asia to restore and sustainably use forests, agricultural lands and rangelands
 © FAO/Peter Pechacek



Women in the Wounaan community in Aruza, Panama, engage in a participatory mapping exercise
© M.C. Ruiz-Jaen

COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MONITORING IN LATIN AMERICA

The UN-REDD¹² and EU FLEGT¹³ FAO programmes are working together in Latin America to strengthen community-based forest management. They are doing this by training members of indigenous and local communities to monitor their lands through the use of drones, image processing, high-resolution mapping and the gathering and analysis of field data. The programmes are also helping communities strengthen participation, engage in dialogue and develop advocacy capacity.

Panama was the first partner country, and Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Paraguay are now also involved. The effort is increasing the engagement and participation of local communities in the sustainable management of their territories and fostering community-based forest governance.

Achievements include the delineation of territory boundaries and the development of land-management plans and wood-product legality verification encompassing free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

¹² UN-REDD = United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

¹³ EU FLEGT = European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade.

In the Wounaan community of Aruza in Panama, for example, community-based monitoring has paved the way for the approval by the local council of regulations establishing the use and management of forest resources, thereby granting ownership rights to indigenous peoples over natural resources on their lands. The Ministry of Environment has also been a key actor in this process, contributing to and endorsing the results. Other important partners are national and local traditional authorities, governments and non-governmental organizations, particularly the World Wildlife Fund and the Rainforest Foundation. Other activities in the Wounaan community will centre on supporting land-titling processes to secure the community's tenure rights and on complementing existing efforts to promote sustainable forest management and legal timber harvesting and trade.

The next steps will involve expanding community-based forest monitoring as a way of strengthening community-based forest governance in Guatemala and Paraguay, and developing a platform for monitoring forest territories in Colombia. In close coordination with national institutions in Panama, FAO's REDD+ team is also preparing guidelines on responding to deforestation and forest degradation events. Through the EU FLEGT Programme, FAO will soon begin work to promote collective rights, territorial governance and the development of FPIC norms in Honduras.

More information

<https://goo.gl/EVVSed>

<https://goo.gl/iH5e8g>

<https://goo.gl/iK7HLJ>

THE EFFORT IS INCREASING THE ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THEIR TERRITORIES AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST GOVERNANCE

PAYING FOR THE WATER SERVICES OF FORESTS

Given the many threats to global water supply, forest management and planning will increasingly need to deploy strategies for optimizing forest watershed services such as water purification, the regulation of surface flows, and erosion control. To this end, FAO and partners¹⁴ conducted a study in 2016–2017 on valuing these services.

In addition to increasing understanding of the wide range of watershed services that forests provide, and their value, the study assesses the governance, design and funding sources of various payments-for-watershed-services (PWS) schemes. The analysis shows that PWS schemes based on partnership models are most successful in accessing multiple sources of funding, increasing organizational resilience in the face of fluctuating political support, and obtaining the long-term commitment of forest owners and managers. Case studies demonstrate that PWS schemes can provide important co-benefits, such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and social benefits.

¹⁴ The study was coordinated by the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section and supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, FAO, the European Environment Agency, Western University (Canada), Etifor, the University of Padua (Italy), and Ecosystem Marketplace.

For example, the study reports on a small-scale scheme in Kyrgyzstan, which helped reduce erosion near a mountain village due to overgrazing and forest degradation, thereby improving downstream water quality, with benefits for mushroom pickers and other water users. Instead of cash payments, buyers of the water services provided in-kind contributions, such as work days to assist with reforestation, fencing and road repair. In return, the villagers improved their pasture management, including by avoiding overgrazing, and the forest administration reforested 14 hectares of degraded land.

PWS schemes are likely to continue to proliferate as high-quality water becomes increasingly valuable. Governments, private water users, non-governmental organizations and others need reliable information on existing schemes if they are to achieve optimal outcomes. This study, which makes a range of important recommendations, is a significant contribution to their efforts.

More information

www.unece.org/forests/areas-of-work/policy-dialogue-and-advice/ecosystem-services/table-of-case-studies.html

When published, the study will be available at www.unece.org/forests/publications.html

An aerial view of an inland waterway in the Russian Federation. Payments-for-watershed-services schemes work best through partnership models
© FAO/Vasily Maksimov



THE ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT PAYMENTS-FOR-WATERSHED-SERVICES SCHEMES BASED ON PARTNERSHIP MODELS ARE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN ACCESSING MULTIPLE SOURCES OF FUNDING

VISION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE AMAZON

Since its creation, REDPARQUES¹⁵ has led work to realize the “Amazon Vision” of ensuring the effective management, governance and biodiversity conservation of Amazonian protected-area systems. Taking as a roadmap the Programme of Work of Protected Areas of the Amazonian Biome (PoWPA) (2010–2020), FAO and partners¹⁶ have been implementing the Amazon Protected Areas Integration Project in eight countries and a French territory since

¹⁵ REDPARQUES = Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks, other Protected Areas and Wildlife.

¹⁶ Partners include the European Union, the World Wildlife Fund, the United Nations Environment Programme, IUCN and REDPARQUES.

2014. The objectives are to strengthen the Amazon Vision, increase the resilience of the protected-area network to the effects of climate change, and benefit local communities and economies.

As a result of the project, the national protected-area systems of Amazonian countries have stronger participatory mechanisms and institutional and land management capacities; experiences have been exchanged at the regional level; and trinational action plans have been adopted that encourage landscape approaches across borders. In updating the PoWPA, the project assessed the total protected-area cover, which increased from 900 sites and 27 percent of the Amazon biome in 2010 to 1032 sites and 33 percent in 2017. The project outlined governance mechanisms to enable indigenous

AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT, THE NATIONAL PROTECTED-AREA SYSTEMS OF AMAZONIAN COUNTRIES HAVE STRONGER PARTICIPATORY MECHANISMS AND INSTITUTIONAL AND LAND MANAGEMENT CAPACITIES

A crowded part of the river in Leticia, Colombia, in the Amazon Basin. Participatory management mechanisms are being strengthened in the region's network of protected areas, with assistance from FAO
© Juliana Veléz



peoples and local communities to improve their livelihoods and manage protected areas sustainably, and it published the first *Atlas of Conservation Opportunities in the Amazon Biome under Climate Change Considerations*.

The project facilitated a dialogue among the directors of Amazonian protected areas that helped persuade the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC to declare Amazonian protected areas as natural solutions to climate change. The dialogue also influenced the decision taken at COP13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the contribution of protected areas to food security and human welfare.

The project is developing a strategy for the financial sustainability of the Amazon Vision and seeking to further improve governance and the participation of local communities in Amazonian development.

More information

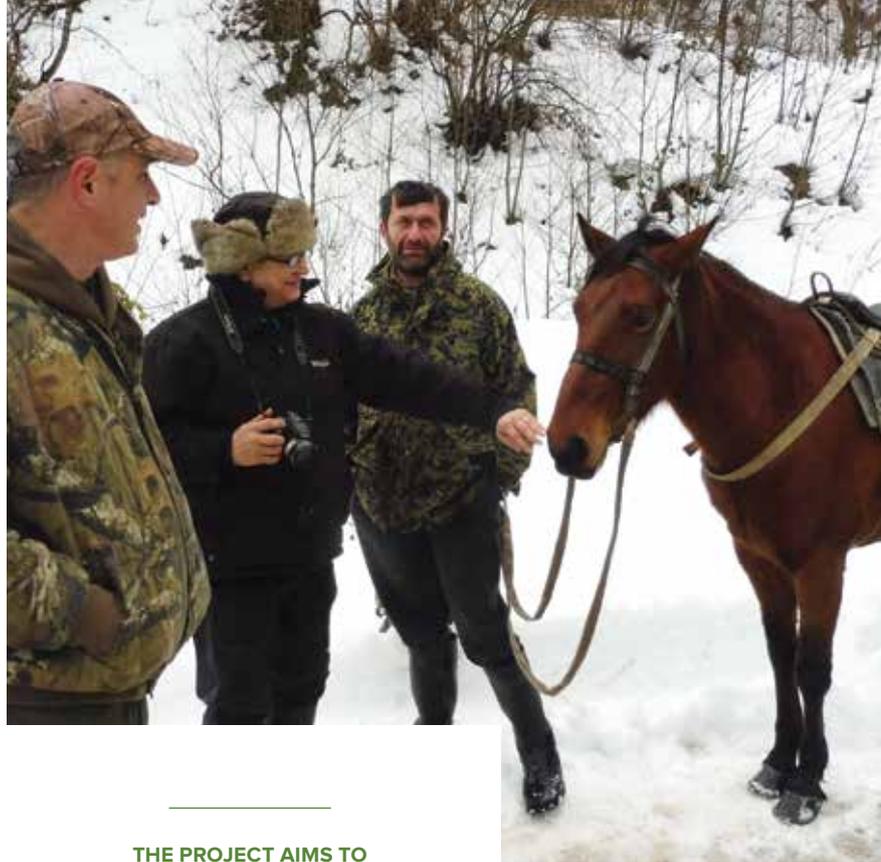
http://redparques.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Dossier_Resultados_ProyectoIAPA_Octubre2017.compressed.pdf
<http://bit.ly/2wKsgyB> (atlas)

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The system of hunting that existed in Georgia in the time of the former Soviet Union was dismantled when Georgia gained its independence in 1991. The Hunters' Union, which had been an important pillar of this system, lost responsibility for hunting areas with the passing of the Wildlife Act in 1996. Today, no effective state administrative system is in place for hunting and fishing. These practices are unregulated, therefore, and they contribute little to government revenues; both, however, have the potential to add substantially to local economies and to tourism at the national scale.

It is generally believed that a large share of the country's illegal hunting is associated with traditional rural practices. Rural residents see hunting and fishing as a right, but this is not reflected in national laws. The government wants to engage with rural stakeholders to ensure that their traditional use of wildlife resources is sustainable and to balance such use with efforts to improve rural economies through commercial hunting and fishing as part of rural tourism.

The sustainable management of wildlife resources requires reliable information on the extent and state of existing resources and changes over the time. FAO's Capacity Building



THE PROJECT AIMS TO DEVELOP AN UP-TO-DATE WILDLIFE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR GEORGIA THAT WILL GENERATE TRANSPARENT, CONSISTENT INFORMATION ON WILDLIFE RESOURCES

for Sustainable Wildlife Management Project has been under way since 2017.¹⁷ It aims to develop an up-to-date wildlife resource management system for Georgia that will generate transparent, consistent information on wildlife resources and facilitate the use of such information in planning and reporting. The project is developing a long-term programme for sustainable wildlife management and strengthening the capacity of rural people to participate in this, and it is also contributing to Georgia's forest-related policies.

The project is ensuring that communities in rural areas, hunting and fishing groups, and other stakeholders are fully involved in its activities and, through this, in the development and implementation of wildlife management in Georgia.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife
www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership

Above: Hunting and fishing have significant tourism potential, but the sector's governance needs improving
© FAO/Kitti Horváth

¹⁷ The project is being implemented in cooperation with the National Forestry Agency in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.



FAO IS SUPPORTING SEVERAL COUNTRIES IN THE SUBREGION TO PUT THE CLIMATE CHANGE GUIDELINES FOR FOREST MANAGERS INTO PRACTICE

ASSESSING VULNERABILITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE – AND ADDRESSING IMPACTS IN EAST AFRICA

Assessing the vulnerability of forests and forest-dependent people to climate change is important for identifying the most vulnerable forest communities and areas and thereby targeting climate-change adaptation measures.

Through a multistakeholder process, FAO is developing a framework to guide forest practitioners conducting climate-change vulnerability assessments to ensure that no crucial points are missed and to facilitate the choice and use of tools and methods. The framework is designed to help practitioners identify and describe the elements that should be considered in assessing the vulnerability of forest ecosystems and communities to climate change, for various time horizons.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report presented strong evidence that warming over land across Africa has increased in the last 50–100 years. Regional models suggest significant changes in rainfall in many parts of East Africa, with the potential to make that region more vulnerable to climate shocks.

FAO is supporting several countries in the subregion – Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania – to put the *Climate Change Guidelines for Forest Managers* (a tool developed by FAO) into practice. The aim is to assist policy-makers and managers to integrate climate change into forest policies, plans and operations.

A workshop held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in December 2016 brought together representatives of the target countries to assess existing forest management practices and climate-related challenges and to identify priority areas for changes in practices. Work is now under way in the pilot countries to prepare implementation plans based on the actions identified at the workshop.

FAO also conducted an analysis of forests and climate-change policy and action in East Africa, offering a point of departure for identifying and catalysing regional action to complement and enhance national efforts to adapt to climate change.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/climatechange/92780
www.fao.org/3/a-i7757e.pdf

A child waters a planted teak tree at the Kiroka Primary School, United Republic of Tanzania. FAO is helping countries assess their vulnerability to climate change and to use adaptive management to ensure forest sustainability in the face of climate change
© FAO/Danial Hayduk

ONLINE PLATFORM IMPROVES REPORTING FOR FRA 2020

The reporting process for the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020 was launched at a global technical meeting of FRA National Correspondents (NCs) and CFRQ¹⁸ partners in Toluca, Mexico, in March 2018. The FRA 2020 reporting process will use an innovative online platform¹⁹ designed to make reporting both easier and more transparent. The platform assists the work of NCs by providing tools for visualizing data and enabling the automated estimation and forecasting of forest area and calculations of biomass and carbon stock; in addition, automatic consistency checks will help both NCs and reviewers. The system is structured to allow annual reporting on SDG indicators using data collected through the FRA process.

The FRA online platform was developed in collaboration with CFRQ partners, NCs and

other international experts. In addition to collecting data for FRA 2020, the platform will be used for pan-European reporting on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and FOREST EUROPE.

The platform has geospatial functionality, allowing users to access the latest freely available satellite remote sensing data and forest information products through Google Earth Engine. These tools can be used to compare nationally derived forest-area statistics with remote sensing-based estimates of tree cover and tree-cover change and to generate forest maps and other products. FAO and Google have signed a memorandum of understanding guaranteeing that countries will be able to access these services until at least 2020.

More information

www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment

Below: Participants at a global technical meeting in Toluca, Mexico, discuss the new online platform designed to make the FRA 2020 reporting process simpler and more transparent
© CONAFOR

¹⁸ Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire.

¹⁹ The development of the platform was financed by the European Union and the Government of Finland.



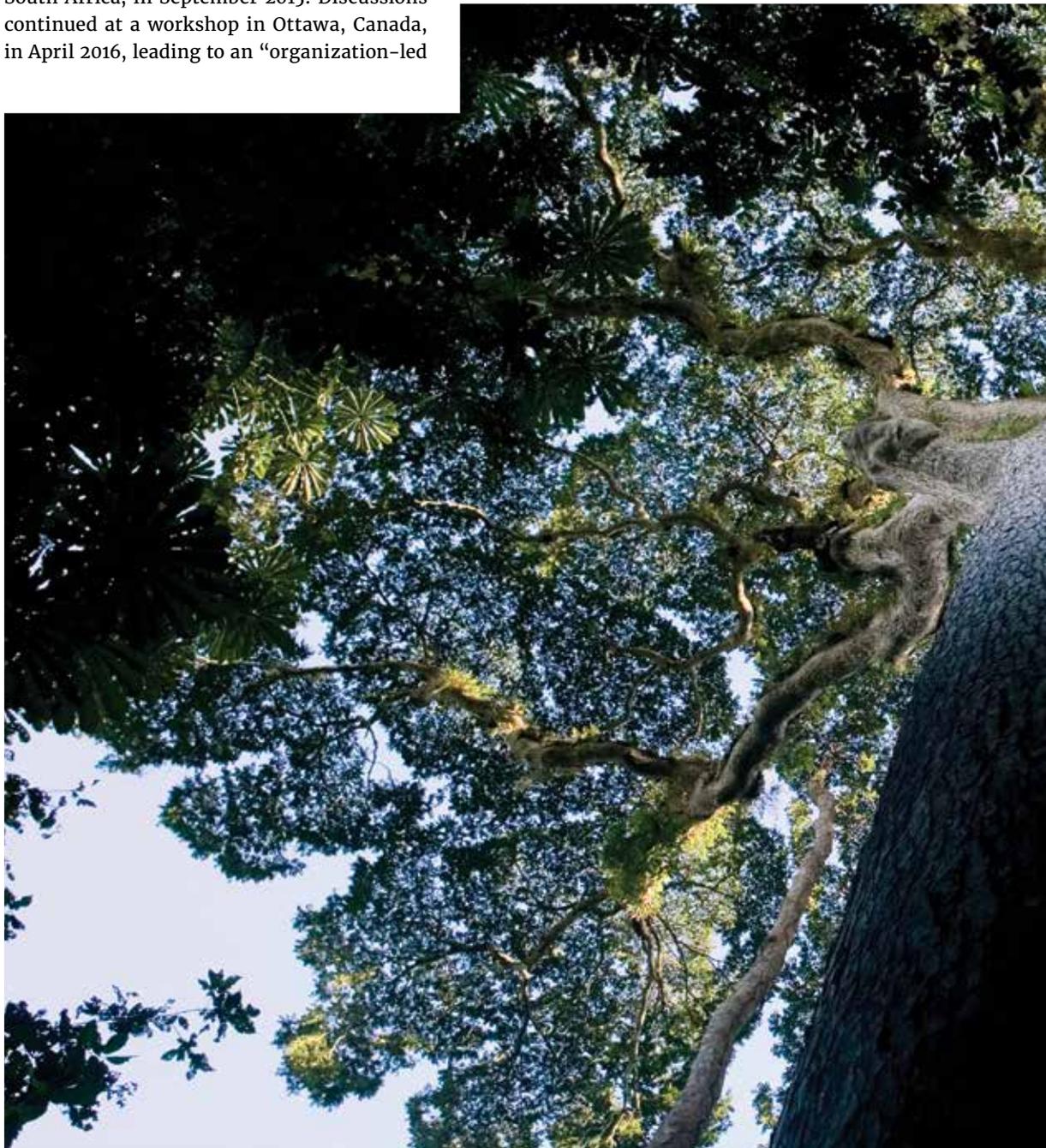
THE PLATFORM ASSISTS THE WORK OF FRA NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS BY PROVIDING TOOLS FOR VISUALIZING DATA AND ENABLING THE AUTOMATED ESTIMATION AND FORECASTING OF FOREST AREA AND CALCULATIONS OF BIOMASS AND CARBON STOCK

DEVELOPING A GLOBAL CORE SET OF FOREST INDICATORS

The increasing need for information on forests is placing new demands on reporting mechanisms and processes. To minimize the burden on countries and ensure data consistency on forest-related parameters, international conventions and organizations are collaborating with the aim of reaching a common understanding on underlying concepts, terms and definitions.

A process to create a global “core set” of forest-related indicators was initiated at the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015. Discussions continued at a workshop in Ottawa, Canada, in April 2016, leading to an “organization-led

initiative” (OLI) convened by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests at FAO headquarters in Rome in November 2016. The OLI proposed a draft core set of forest-related indicators for wider consultation and suggested the establishment of a global task force to further develop and revise the core set in light of feedback. The Task Force had its first meeting in March 2017, when it refined the indicator set. Stakeholders’ views were obtained through an online consultation in May 2017 and at the Global FRA 2020 Expert Consultation in Joensuu, Finland, in June 2017.



At its second meeting in December 2017, the Task Force reviewed all comments received and finalized a draft global core set of forest-related indicators. It presented the proposal to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in February 2018. Finally, the draft global core set was presented at the 13th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in May 2018.

A global core set of forest-related indicators will help in reducing reporting needs and in the consistent measurement of progress in:

- ▶ The achievement of sustainable forest management.

- ▶ The implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests.

- ▶ Meeting the targets of the SDGs, as well as other internationally agreed goals on forests.

The draft core set of indicators is harmonized with the FRA 2020 reporting process. Further developments will be reflected in future FRAs and other reporting processes.

More information

www.cpfweb.org/92408

**A GLOBAL CORE SET
OF FOREST-RELATED
INDICATORS WILL HELP IN THE
CONSISTENT MEASUREMENT
OF PROGRESS IN THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE
FOREST MANAGEMENT**



A global core set of forest-related indicators will increase the consistency of reporting on sustainable forest management and other aspects of forests
© FAO/Giulio Napolitano

3



MAINSTREAMING SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE VALUE CHAINS WILL BENEFIT WORKERS, SUCH AS BY PROVIDING THEM WITH ACCESS TO MEDICAL INSURANCE, INJURY INSURANCE AND PENSIONS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3 REDUCE RURAL POVERTY

CREATING SYNERGIES BETWEEN FORESTRY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Evidence is emerging that combining social-protection and forest-policy instruments can help in achieving forest conservation goals and increasing resilience in communities. FAO and partners are exploring opportunities for building linkages and exploiting synergies between such instruments to help FAO member countries combat poverty and hunger.

Case studies in Burkina Faso, China and Uganda, a global literature review, and inputs from FAO member countries show that forest-dependent communities (FDCs) face heightened risks and vulnerabilities and are thus often in need of economic and social support. Their inclusion in formal social-protection policies and programmes is limited, however.

In 2016–2017, FAO explored ways in which to expand the coverage of social-protection measures in FDCs and to strengthen coherence between forestry and social protection through assessments in China, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania and at a subregional workshop for East Africa. This work has raised awareness among forest and social-protection agents of the linkages between their fields and potential policy synergies; created an enabling environment for expanding the access of FDCs

to existing social-protection programmes; promoted the social-protection role of forest producer organizations; and strengthened coherence between forestry and social protection at the policy and programme levels.

Opportunities to mainstream social protection in forest value chains were identified in the United Republic of Tanzania. For example, rural logging and wood-processing workers are at high risk of industrial accidents but, because they are outside the formal economy, they often lack access to formal social-protection interventions. Mainstreaming social protection in the value chains will benefit workers, such as by providing them with access to medical insurance, injury insurance and pensions, and it will make the value chains more inclusive and sustainable.

Country workshops and the East Africa sub-regional workshop have encouraged dialogue among policy-makers and practitioners from forest, social-protection and producer organizations in eight countries. These interactions are creating opportunities for the three types of actor to cooperate on policies and programmes aimed at combating poverty and hunger and increasing social protection.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/social-protection

Above: Rural forest workers in the United Republic of Tanzania process sawnwood in a noisy, dusty environment using a “ding dang” machine, risking serious injury and illness. Millions of workers like these would benefit from increased access to social-protection programmes
© FAO/Qiang Ma

INCREASING FOREST-FARMER INCOMES BY BOOSTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a partnership launched in September 2012 between FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development, IUCN and AgriCord. Its mission is to promote sustainable forest and farm management by helping local, national, regional and global organizations and platforms engage effectively in policies and investments that meet the needs of local people. The FFF's first phase came to an end in 2017, involving work in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Viet Nam and Zambia and at the regional and global levels to strengthen forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs).

In phase 1, the FFF provided 947 FFPOs – of which three are global, three are regional, ten are national and 931 are local or provincial – with direct support and many hundreds more with indirect assistance. In total, these FFPOs represent more than 30 million forest and farm producers. Of the organizations supported directly by the FFF, women comprise 21–79 percent of their membership (depending on country and region).

The FFF has facilitated links to 80 new financial or business service providers, which together with the FFF's own capacity-development activities have had the following impacts: 279 FFPO businesses have developed business plans; 262 FFPO businesses have diversified or added value to their products; 158 FFPOs have gained access to new finance; and 56 FFPO businesses have adapted their business practices, designs, plans or systems.

The combined development of FFPO businesses has substantially raised the incomes of hundreds of thousands of forest and farm producers. Specific income increases documented for FFPO businesses include 35–50 percent in the Gambia; 46–65 percent in Kenya; 12–18 percent in Myanmar; 30–50 percent in Nicaragua; and 10–20 percent in Viet Nam. In some cases, outliers have achieved income increases in excess of 500–1 000 percent – such as in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Gambia and Myanmar.

More information

www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility

Forest and farm producers attend a regional exchange visit coordinated by the Forest and Farm Facility © IUCN

THE COMBINED DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER ORGANIZATION BUSINESSES HAS SUBSTANTIALLY RAISED THE INCOMES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FOREST AND FARM PRODUCERS



IMPROVING POLICIES AND LAWS TO BENEFIT SMALL PRODUCERS

The Forest and Farm Facility has facilitated the establishment of 51 policy platforms at the national or subnational level. The direct engagement of FFPOs in policy processes in ten countries by more than 140 FFPO representatives (12–45 percent of whom are women) has created 33 changes in policies, rules and regulations in favour of FFPO interests, with a further 18 changes due to the indirect effects of FFF activities. The FFF's key impacts include the harmonization of visions and approaches among local, district, subnational and national authorities and an increase in awareness among officials of the production and value-chain issues confronting FFPOs.

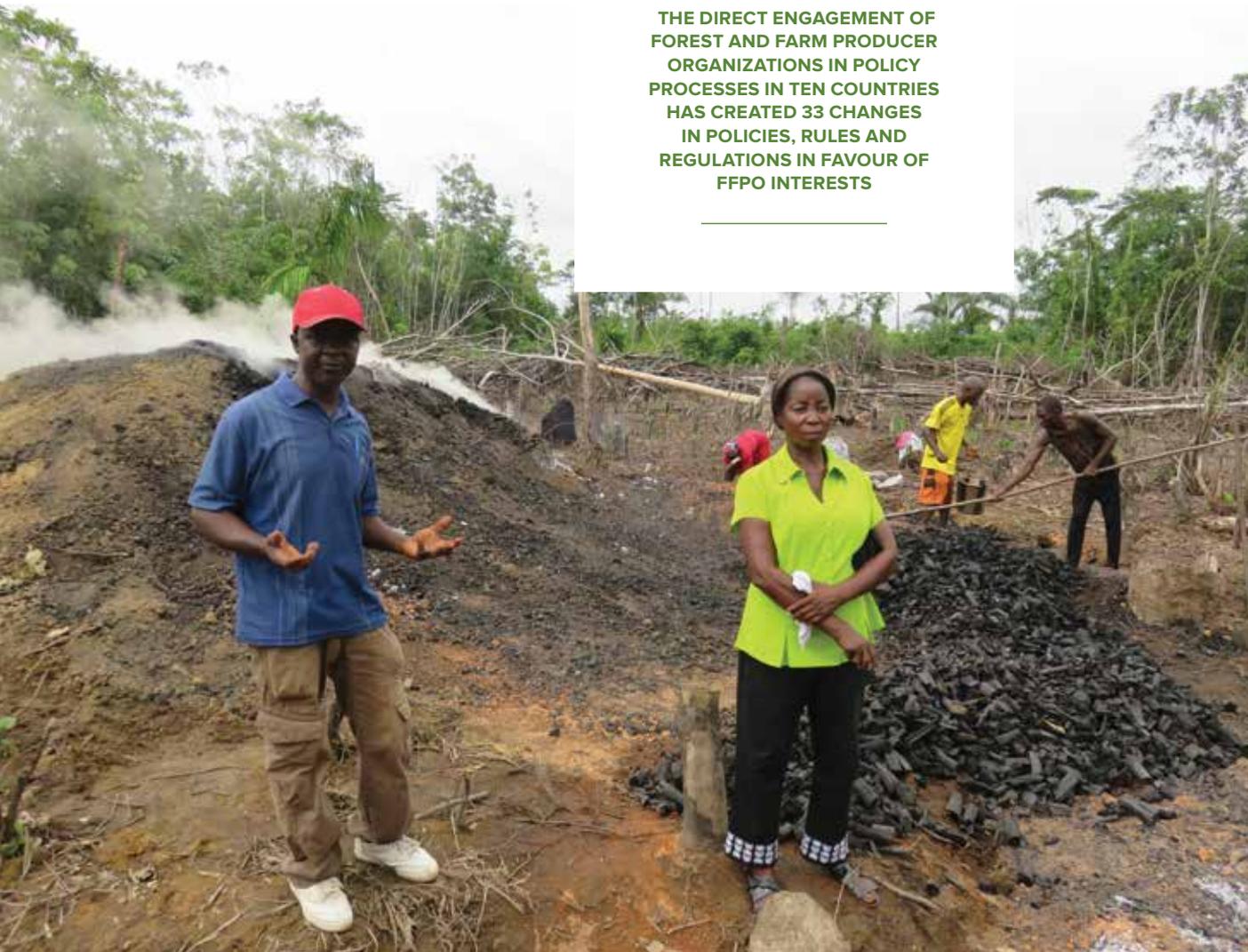
Work in Liberia illustrates the role of the FFF in policy development that benefits small

producers. Charcoal and firewood are the main sources of domestic energy in that country, and the market is huge. Charcoal production, however, is often seen more as a threat to forest cover than as a vital source of energy and income for forest and farm producers.

FFF support for the National Association of Charcoal Unions of Liberia (NACUL) has helped register charcoal groups comprising more than 1 500 individuals in three counties (Grand Cape Mount, Margibi and Montserrado). The FFF has also enabled a wide-ranging discussion among key forest production sectors in Liberia, including the charcoal sector. For example, the FFF assisted the Forest Development Authority to convene the National Forest and Landscape Forum, which, in turn, has held discussion forums at the county level to discuss, among other things, the Land Rights Act and the

Charcoal producers in Liberia are exploring how best to support sustainable forest management and increase producer benefits, with help from the FFF
© FAO/Sophie Grouwels

THE DIRECT ENGAGEMENT OF FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN POLICY PROCESSES IN TEN COUNTRIES HAS CREATED 33 CHANGES IN POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS IN FAVOUR OF FFPO INTERESTS





THE FINDINGS OF THE FOUR ASSESSMENTS OPEN THE WAY FOR FURTHER WORK TO DEVELOP ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND FOR POLICY ACTION

Charcoal Regulation. Representatives of NACUL participated in these discussions, and NACUL also organized its own meeting between government ministries, NGOs and charcoal producers in the three counties to explore how best to contribute to sustainable forest management.

NACUL's commitment to sustainable charcoal production contributed to the development of a new regulation, Sustainable Wood-Based Biomass Energy Production and Marketing in Liberia, which was officially gazetted in October 2017 and which offers increased benefits for producer organizations.

More information

www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility

NON-WOOD FOREST PRODUCTS AND LIVELIHOODS IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The well-being of many rural households in the Near East and North Africa depends on a combination of activities, including the harvesting of non-wood forest products. Local people use NWFPs to meet domestic daily needs for food, fodder and medicine and as a source of income. The local and export markets of some NWFPs contribute significantly to national economies.

As part of its regional initiative on small-scale family farming, in 2017 FAO analysed the potential of NWFPs for value-chain development, value adding and rural microenterprises in Algeria, Lebanon, the Sudan and Tunisia using a predesigned survey tool. Among other

*Above: A Tunisian woman holds a tub of myrtle berries, a non-wood forest product used for medicinal and culinary purposes
© FCNMedNE/
Gisa_Marggraff*



things, the analysis revealed that, in Lebanon, NWFPs directly generate USD 80–97 million in sales per year; in Tunisia, NWFPs contribute nearly one-third of the total income of forest communities; in Algeria, six NWFPs earned a total export revenue of USD 12.2 million in 2015; and, in the Sudan, export earnings from gum Arabic amounted to about 17 percent of total Sudanese exports in 2013 and 13–15 percent of foreign exchange.

Despite the importance of NWFPs in the region, people living in forest areas are among the poorest members of society. The commercial harvesting and collection of NWFPs is often coordinated by outside parties, who also obtain most of the profit. Local people receive only a very small proportion of the market value of NWFPs and invariably end up with a degraded resource – with negative implications for their long-term health and well-being.

The findings of the four assessments were validated at a regional workshop. They open

the way for further work to develop entrepreneurial skills in local communities and for policy action to ensure that more of the benefits arising from the commercialization of NWFPs are retained locally.

More information

www.fao.org/policy-support/resources/resources-details/en/c/852975

INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY

It is estimated that about one-third of the world's forests is managed under community-based forestry (CBF) regimes – but there has never been a global assessment of their extent and effectiveness. With a view to enabling countries to develop and implement effective CBF programmes, FAO has developed a standardized CBF assessment framework. The first version was tested in 19 countries in



THE OUTCOMES DIRECTLY
SUPPORTED THE DECISION-
MAKING PROCESS AND
CONTRIBUTED TO THE
FORMULATION OF THE NEW
FOREST POLICY



Community members
in Ingolo 1, the Congo,
discuss a zoning plan for
their community forest
© FAO/Alain Noel Ampolo

Africa, Asia and Latin America and, based on the lessons learned, the framework was revised for wider application.

The country application demonstrated that the framework is far more than an assessment tool. In the United Republic of Tanzania, for example, it was applied in a CBF assessment with the aim of supporting the country's forest policy formulation process. The outcomes were instrumental in the forest-sector review, and they directly supported the decision-making process and contributed to the formulation of the new forest policy.

In Gabon, the CBF assessment framework was used to find appropriate solutions to rampant illegal logging. The assessment provided valuable information on the status of the CBF regimes and identified clear actions to be taken. The government is now preparing a CBF strategy supported by a conducive regulatory framework.

The "Brazzaville roadmap" for revitalizing and scaling up CBF in the Congo Basin was

developed thanks to information generated by the deployment of the CBF assessment framework in several countries. The roadmap, which country representatives and non-governmental and intergovernmental partners produced at a subregional expert meeting, sets out a clear path of priority actions to be taken by all stakeholders – with an indicative timeline – to strengthen and increase CBF in the subregion.

The CBF assessment framework has demonstrated its usefulness and will play an important role in establishing and scaling up second-generation CBF initiatives towards sustainable forest management for the benefit of local communities.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/participatory

www.fao.org/3/a-i5415e.pdf

www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/I8372FR

www.fao.org/forestry/download/46194-

0a08232cffa2b69678ea327a776d03c1a.pdf

4

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4 ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS

LABELLING MOUNTAIN PRODUCTS TO BOOST RETURNS

Although small-scale mountain agriculture cannot compete with the prices and volumes of lowland production, it can tap into rising demand for sustainable, fair-trade products originating in mountain areas.

Consumers cannot always distinguish mountain products from others, however.

To help in developing mountain economies and improving livelihoods in mountainous environments, the Mountain Partnership Secretariat – which is hosted by FAO – and

Slow Food, a not-for-profit organization, have jointly developed a voluntary labelling scheme for mountain products to support small mountain producers in developing countries.²⁰ The scheme includes actions to improve value chains, develop marketing strategies, issue the Mountain Partnership Product (MPP) label for accredited products, and develop capacity in communities.

In its first phase in 2015–2017, the project established the MPP participatory certification and labelling scheme in seven countries and for 16 products – ranging from coffee produced in Panama’s Cordillera Central to herbal tea and rice grown in the Indian Himalaya. The scheme strengthens the value chains of mountain

Women harvest amaranth on a mountainside in Bolivia (Plurinational State of). Their products bear the Mountain Partnership Product label as a way of increasing market access and income
© FAO/Claudio Guzmán

²⁰ Italian Development Cooperation is providing financial support.

THE LABEL ENABLES SMALL PRODUCERS TO OBTAIN FAIR COMPENSATION FOR THEIR HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS AND HELPS CUSTOMERS MAKE INFORMED PURCHASES





products derived from local agrobiodiversity by developing the capacity of producers to improve the quality, marketing and distribution of their products while also safeguarding their traditional knowledge and protecting mountain biodiversity.

The MPP label tells the story of each product, highlights what makes it unique, and underlines its economic, social and environmental values, thereby encouraging consumers to connect emotionally with the product. The label enables small producers to obtain fair compensation for their high-quality products and helps customers make informed purchases.

The MPP initiative is expanding to other countries, and efforts are under way to strengthen monitoring and assessment

mechanisms. To boost distribution channels in sustainable ways, additional partnerships with the private sector are being negotiated. A new pilot scheme on food and tourism is being developed with the aim of promoting links between high-quality mountain products and ecotourism services.

More information

[www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/
our-work/regionalcooperation/
climate-change-and-mountain-forests/
mountain-products](http://www.fao.org/mountain-partnership/our-work/regionalcooperation/climate-change-and-mountain-forests/mountain-products)

*Coffee farming in the
Santa Fe Protected Area,
Calobre, Cordillera
Central, Panama
© FAO/Alberto Pascual,
Fundación Comunidad*



**SNOIE IS AN INNOVATIVE
METHODOLOGY THAT
COULD BE ADAPTED AND
USED AROUND THE WORLD**

IMPROVING FOREST GOVERNANCE THROUGH INDEPENDENT MONITORING IN AFRICA

For the last two years, the FAO–EU FLEGT Programme has been exploring the potential of independent monitoring by civil–society organizations (CSOs) to improve forest governance.

In Cameroon, Forêts et Développement Rurale (FODER), a CSO, has put in place the Standardized System of Independent External Observation (SNOIE), a set of procedures for conducting independent monitoring. SNOIE has eight components – information, training, observation, verification, communication, lobbying, coordination and auditing – and specifies the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder. It meets international quality standards such as those of the International Organization for Standardization, thereby increasing its legitimacy. SNOIE aims to provide high–quality, credible and verifiable information, coordinate and develop a consistent approach and methodology for monitoring forest operations, and obtain the involvement of both CSOs and government institutions. For example, reports produced by FODER through SNOIE led to 11 field missions by the Government of Cameroon’s National Forest Law Enforcement Brigade in 2016 and 2017, resulting in prosecutions. SNOIE is an innovative methodology that could be adapted and used around the world.

The FAO–EU FLEGT Programme has also supported South–South collaboration between two CSOs, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF) in Côte d’Ivoire and the Cameroon–based

Field Legality Advisory Group (FLAG). This collaboration has enabled the WCF to develop its capacities and expertise to the extent that it is now Côte d’Ivoire’s lead organization for independent monitoring in classified forests threatened by deforestation and land conversion. Thanks to the transfer of competencies, WCF has produced high–quality reports on illegal activities such as the trafficking of cocoa. WCF reports have also been used to inform an ongoing national process in Côte d’Ivoire to revise the forestry code.

The FAO–EU FLEGT Programme is supporting similar collaboration between FLAG and the Centre pour l’Information Environnementale et le Développement Durable in the Central African Republic, and FLAG is also working in Gabon with the programme’s support. Moreover, the programme recently approved three projects to be implemented in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Côte d’Ivoire to support the operationalization of the Open Timber Portal. The portal is an independent, online platform that centralizes information on the forest sector, including documents produced by governments, companies and CSOs, with the aim of increasing transparency and supporting the legal timber trade.

More information

www.fao.org/in-action/eu-fao-flegt-programme

www.opentimberportal.org

www.forest4dev.org

www.wildchimps.org

*Above: Members of the Field Legality Advisory Group, a civil–society organization, inspect a logging site in Gabon as part of its work to develop independent forest monitoring capacity
© Field Legality Advisory Group*

A MODULAR APPROACH TO BUILDING TIMBER-TRACKING SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA

Many timber-producing countries are developing national timber-tracking and control systems to monitor timber products along supply chains. One approach is to develop these in the form of modules in a step-by-step process, with all modules ultimately interconnected to form a national timber-tracking and control system. The FAO-EU FLEGT Programme is supporting several countries to develop such systems using this modular approach. Two examples, at different stages of development, are Honduras and Colombia.

SIRMA IS CREATING A COST-EFFECTIVE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM THAT IS INCREASING CONFIDENCE AND TRANSPARENCY IN THE HONDURAN FOREST SECTOR

In Honduras, the National Institute for Conservation, Forest Management, Protected Areas and Wildlife is building a national traceability system called SIRMA. It will eventually have six modules: 1) security and user management; 2) registration of licences; 3) data registration; 4) harvesting and transport; 5) industry; and 6) reporting. Since 2014, the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme has helped in the development of modules 1-4 through pilot testing and implementation, creating a system that tracks timber through harvesting and transportation. The programme is now supporting module 5, which is designed to track timber flows through the production system and to enable forest industry to input information into the system. By building on existing information management procedures, SIRMA is creating a cost-effective electronic system that is increasing confidence and transparency in the Honduran forest sector.

In Colombia, the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme is supporting the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) as it starts development of a national timber-tracking system in a step-by-step approach throughout the supply chain. MADS has identified the relevant government institutions, diagnosed existing systems, defined



A worker processes wood at a mill in Colombia, where the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme is helping the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development develop a national timber-tracking system in a step-by-step approach throughout the supply chain
© FAO/Daniel Baldotto

the various components of a national system, and determined government priorities for module development. In the project's first phase, a module will be designed to create an information system for timber licences and environmental permits, and timber-marking and planning modules will be developed in later phases. MADS also intends to connect various existing systems – such as the environmental information system and the biodiversity information system – to the national timber-tracking system to ensure greater coherence between them.

More information

www.fao.org/in-action/eu-fao-flegt-programme

5



FAO IS WORKING TO ASSESS THE WOODFUEL SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS AND HELPING DEVELOP PLANS FOR APPROPRIATE INTERVENTIONS

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5 INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES

ASSESSING WOODFUEL DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS

Nearly 60 million people are displaced today worldwide due to violence and conflict, and 80 percent of those people rely on traditional biomass fuels – mainly woodfuel – for cooking and heating. The massive increase in demand for woodfuel for cooking caused by sudden influxes of refugees is usually a major driver of forest degradation and deforestation in displacement settings. It places enormous pressure on nearby forests and woodlands

and is often a source of tension between the host and refugee communities. A lack of sufficient cooking fuel also has an impact on the nutrition and health of vulnerable people in such settings.

FAO is working to assess the woodfuel supply and demand in displacement settings in Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, and it is helping develop plans for appropriate interventions. The work is establishing baseline information for interventions

Above: Piles of Prosopis fuelwood await distribution to refugees and their host community in Djibouti
© FAO/Leone Magliocchetti Lombi

– to be supported by FAO, the World Bank and other partners – aimed at addressing environmental impacts and increasing energy access.

FAO has established a partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to take advantage of UNHCR's access to refugee-hosting areas and FAO's decades of experience in forest and land-use planning, implementation and monitoring. FAO and UNHCR are working together in several countries to address the multisectoral challenges and risks associated with forest resources in acute and protracted refugee crises. Using modern remote sensing technologies, for example, the two organizations are planning a rapid assessment of forest degradation in areas affected by the recent influx of refugees from South Sudan into Kenya and Uganda.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/energy

GUIDELINES ON AGRO-ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

Many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have invested in the development of environmentally focused institutions and legal instruments. Nevertheless, insufficient coordination, low awareness of the impacts of environmental degradation, and a lack of valuation of ecosystem services are hindering efforts to achieve sustainability.

Sustainable development requires that governments play a guiding role among diverse stakeholders. The development of agro-environmental policies – policies that incorporate a systemic approach to the economic, sociocultural and environmental dimensions of sustainability – offers an opportunity for them to do so.

The *Voluntary Guidelines on Agro-environmental Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean*, produced as part of a project promoting dialogue

A farmer inspects the catch in his integrated fish-farming system in El Dorado, Colombia
© FAO/Valentina Stutzin

THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES
ARE THE OUTCOME OF A
REGIONAL CONSULTATION
PROCESS, THE ANALYSIS
OF CASE STUDIES, AND
INTERSECTORAL DIALOGUES



and the exchange of national experiences, are targeted at those people in charge of making and implementing policies on agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture. The countries involved in the project are Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Nicaragua in stage 1 and Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama and Paraguay in stage 2. El Salvador, Guyana and Suriname are implementing similar initiatives.

The Voluntary Guidelines are the outcome of a regional consultation process, the analysis of case studies, and intersectoral dialogues. Their aim is to guide governments in their efforts to improve policies using an agro-environmental approach that links society, land, the environment and the economy in an integrated, holistic manner and to develop such policies in collaboration with diverse social actors.

The Voluntary Guidelines, which are being disseminated through various means, propose a set of principles, strategic guidelines and measures for the implementation of sectoral actions in a governance system that strengthens local ownership and social participation. In this sense, they constitute an instrument for achieving the SDGs. As part of the project, an ongoing dialogue is helping define indicators for the monitoring of agro-environmental policies.

More information

www.fao.org/in-action/program-brazil-fao/projects/agro-environmental-policies



SCALING UP RESTORATION FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN DRYLANDS

When Moumouni Nuhu returned to his village after 30 years, everything was gone: the trees, the animals, everything. In his youth they would chase hares, antelopes and guinea fowl – but, today, these are nowhere to be found.

“Now, the *harmattan* blows with a terrible force,” says the 65-year-old retired civil servant in Bajirga. His community is on the outskirts of Tera, a dusty town in northwestern Niger, known for its cattle market that attracts traders from as far away as Nigeria.

Who can be surprised that youth are leaving, Moumouni asks. Pointing out the barren fields around him, he says: “We have to make degraded land fertile again”.

Desertification and land degradation are very serious challenges, reducing resilience to extreme weather and climate change and potentially leading to hunger, poverty, unemployment, forced migration and conflict. But large-scale landscape restoration efforts, such as those led by FAO’s Action Against Desertification Programme, are showing that land degradation is not irreversible.

Action Against Desertification is a key partner of the Great Green Wall initiative, which aims to improve the lives of millions of people by creating a mosaic of green, productive landscapes across North Africa, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. Its core area covers 780 million hectares and is home to 232 million people.

The programme’s approach puts local communities at the heart of restoration work, and it is paying off. Almost 700 families in and near the village of Moumouni Nuhu in northern Niger have benefited. Overall, the programme has reached about 500 000 people since its launch in 2014, supporting the restoration



Farmers tend plants in a tree nursery in Tera, Bajirga, the Niger, as part of FAO's Action Against Desertification Programme
© FAO/Giulio Napolitano

**THE PROGRAMME'S
APPROACH PUTS LOCAL
COMMUNITIES AT THE
HEART OF RESTORATION
WORK, AND IT IS PAYING OFF**

of their degraded lands while stimulating economic growth by helping communities develop the commercial potential of NWFPs.

The programme has enabled the planting of 12 000 hectares of degraded land to initiate the restoration process, using tonnes of seed of 110 native herbaceous fodder and woody species. A further 18 000 hectares will receive the same treatment in 2018, complementing the efforts of other partners in the Great Green Wall initiative. More than 325 village communities are involved in operations.

But the needs are staggering: in Africa's Great Green Wall area alone, more than 10 million hectares must be restored each year until 2030 to meet SDG 15 on land degradation. Action Against Desertification is scaling up activities by using mechanized land preparation and expanding its operations in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. This successful restoration method is becoming a key tool in the fight against climate change, land degradation and desertification.

More information

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

6

OBJECTIVE 6 TECHNICAL QUALITY, STATISTICS AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

SEVENTY YEARS OF GLOBAL DATA ON FOREST PRODUCTS

FAO began its statistical work on forest products based on recommendations made by the FAO Conference in 1945–1946 and approved in 1947. Every year since then, FAO has compiled and published statistics on the production, trade and consumption of forest products. In 2017, more than 120 000 online users from more than 180 countries and territories worldwide consulted FAO's forest products statistics and related publications.

The need for reliable global statistics on forests and forest products is increasing, for example to indicate the progress being made in achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change. Reliable data on forests and forest products are also essential for monitoring progress in achieving FAO's Strategic Objectives, particularly SO2 and SO4, as well as Organizational Outcome 6.2 (quality of FAO statistics to support evidence-based decision making at all levels) under FAO's Objective 6.

In 2016–2017, FAO expanded the scope of collected and disseminated data on NWFPs and wood-based products, including new types of wood-based panels. Work included the development of international standards and classifications, two new research projects, and capacity-development activities.

FAO will publish the 70th edition of the *Yearbook of Forest Products* in 2018, a milestone in international cooperation and collaboration between international organizations on international statistics. The yearbook is made possible by information supplied by governments via the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire, which is prepared and collected by a consortium of organizations comprising FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (known as Eurostat) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

More information

www.fao.org/forestry/statistics

FAO has been generating statistics on forest products since 1947
© FAO/Roberto Cenciarelli



IN 2017, MORE THAN
120 000 ONLINE USERS
FROM MORE THAN
180 COUNTRIES AND
TERRITORIES WORLDWIDE
CONSULTED FAO'S FOREST
PRODUCTS STATISTICS



© FAO/Marc Vandenaute



© Sergio Garrido

LIST OF STORIES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1
HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION 2
 Forests are “making a difference” in food security and nutrition 2
 Measuring the roles of forests and trees in household economies 3

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2
MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE 4
 National forest inventories in Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea 4
 SEPAL: rapidly improving forest monitoring 5
 Strengthening collaboration on urban forestry 6
 Wildlife management that benefits people and biodiversity 8
 The Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme 9
 Supporting Afghanistan in community-based forest management 10
 Restoring forests in Lebanon 11
 Timor-Leste’s first-ever forest law 12
 Arresting land degradation in Central Asia 13
 Community-based forest monitoring in Latin America 14
 Paying for the water services of forests 15
 Vision for the conservation of the Amazon 16
 Capacity building for sustainable wildlife management 17
 Assessing vulnerability to climate change – and addressing impacts in East Africa 18
 Online platform improves reporting for FRA 2020 19
 Developing a global core set of forest indicators 20

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
REDUCE RURAL POVERTY 22
 Creating synergies between forestry and social protection 22
 Increasing forest-farmer incomes by boosting local businesses 23
 Improving policies and laws to benefit small producers 24
 Non-wood forest products and livelihoods in the Near East and North Africa 25
 Increasing the effectiveness of community-based forestry 26

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4
ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS 28
 Labelling mountain products to boost returns 28
 Improving forest governance through independent monitoring in Africa 30
 A modular approach to building timber-tracking systems in Latin America 31

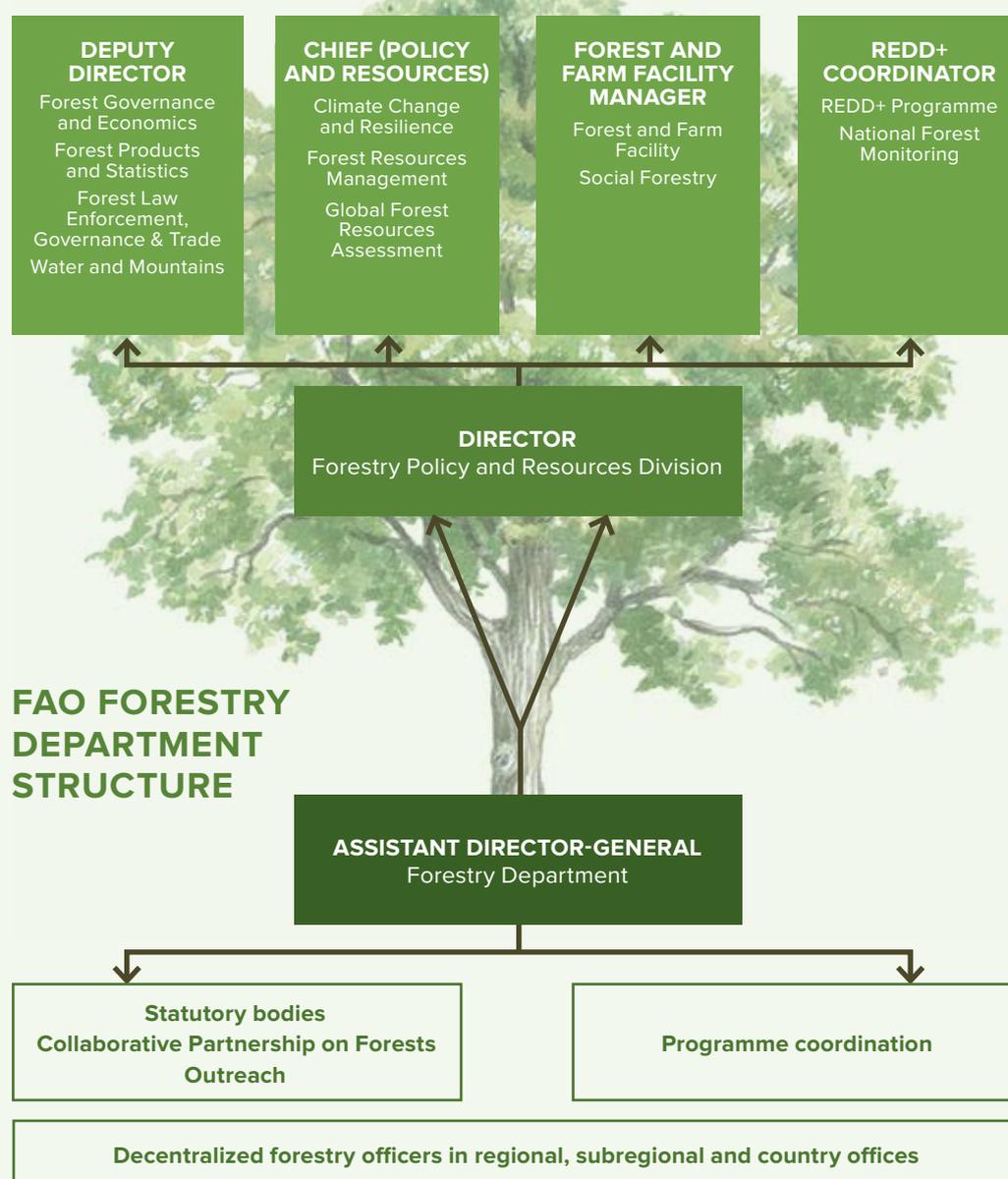
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5
INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES 32
 Assessing woodfuel demand and supply in displacement settings 32
 Guidelines on agro-environmental policies 33
 Scaling up restoration for small-scale farmers in drylands 34

OBJECTIVE 6
TECHNICAL QUALITY, STATISTICS AND CROSS-CUTTING THEMES 36
 Seventy years of global data on forest products 36

FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME IN FIGURES 2016–2017

HUMAN RESOURCES

At the end of the 2016–2017 biennium, the FAO Forestry Department had 82 professional and director-level staff members at headquarters and 13 professional staff members in decentralized offices. The department also had 29 general service staff members, 100 short-term consultants (of whom 53 were based at headquarters and 47 were in decentralized offices), and other non-staff human resources at headquarters.



Structure as at 31 May 2018

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

FAO Forestry programme funding from the FAO Regular Programme for the 2016–2017 biennium was USD 28 million, which was roughly 3 percent of the total Regular Programme budget. Added to this were voluntary contributions from bilateral and multilateral donors and trust funds amounting to about USD 158 million of delivery in the biennium.

The FAO Forestry programme had more than 170 ongoing projects in over 60 countries in the 2016–2017 biennium. The Forestry Department at headquarters led the implementation of 109

of these projects in 43 countries, with a total project budget of USD 477 million, and decentralized offices led the remaining projects.

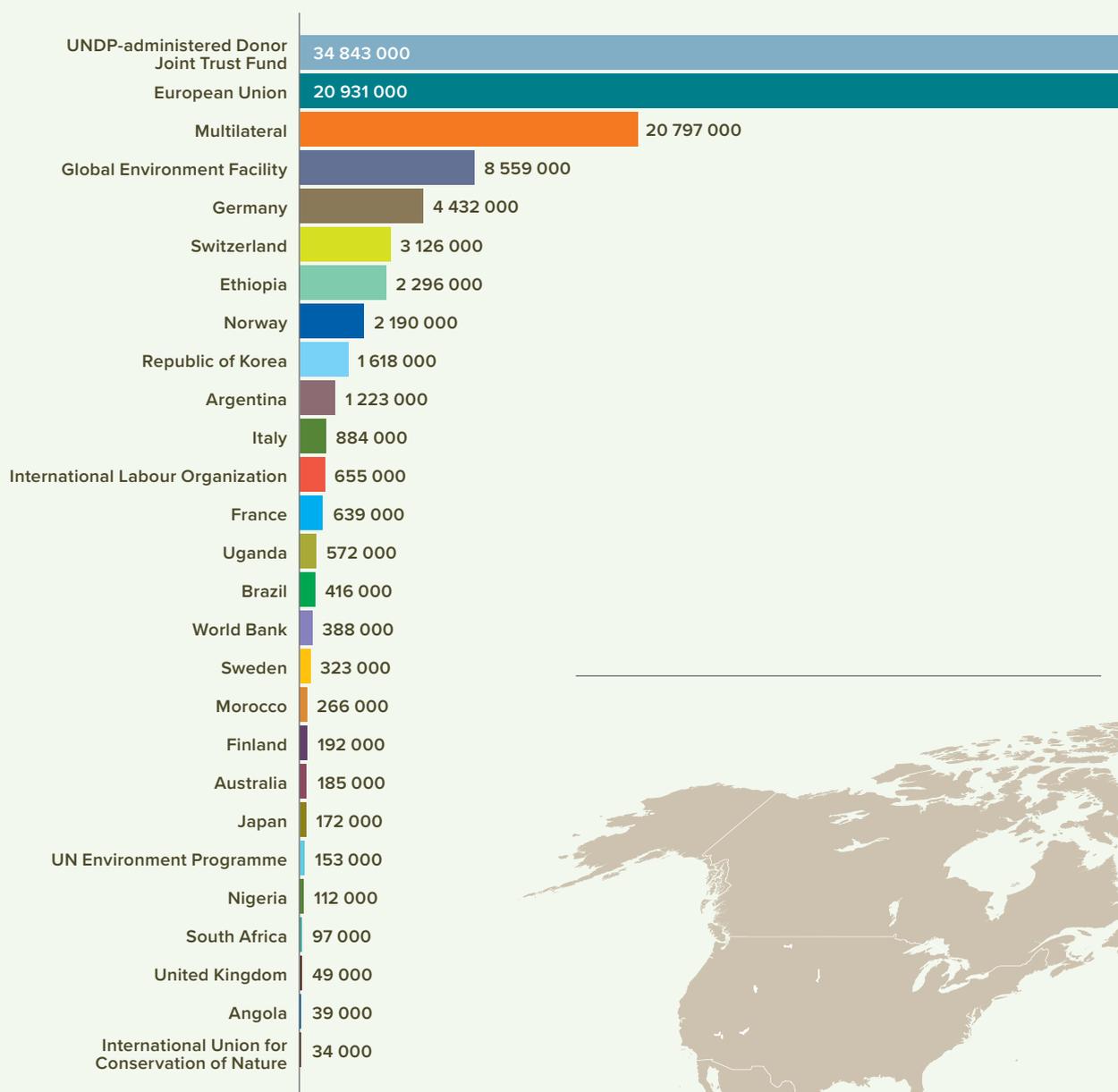
Of the regions, Africa (USD 18 million) had the highest share of project delivery by value in the biennium, followed by Latin America (USD 8 million) and Asia (USD 3 million). About 50 percent of the total project budget was allocated to interregional and global projects, which were implemented mainly by headquarters for the benefit of all countries.



THE FAO FORESTRY PROGRAMME HAD MORE THAN 170 ONGOING PROJECTS IN OVER 60 COUNTRIES IN THE 2016–2017 BIENNIUM

© Fundación CoMunidad

DELIVERY OF FAO FORESTRY PROJECTS, BY DONOR (USD) 2016–2017 BIENNIUM



Only includes projects in the 2016–2017 biennium for which the FAO Forestry Department was the lead technical officer (LTO)

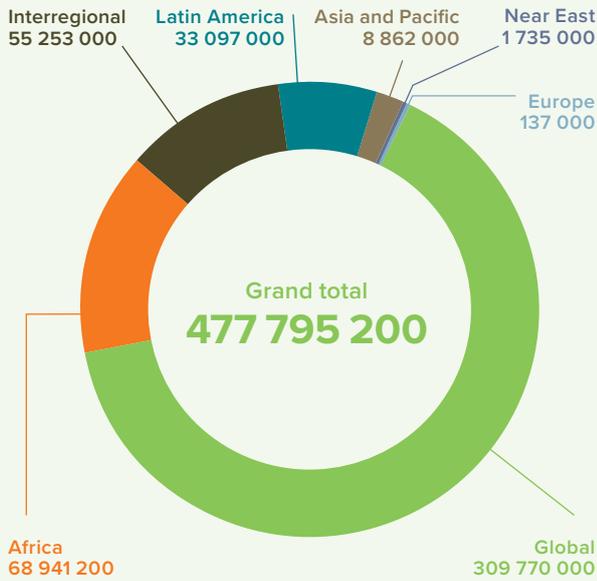
RECIPIENT COUNTRIES 2016–2017 BIENNIUM

Projects active in the 2016–2017 biennium for which the FAO Forestry Department was the LTO

Map: © FAO

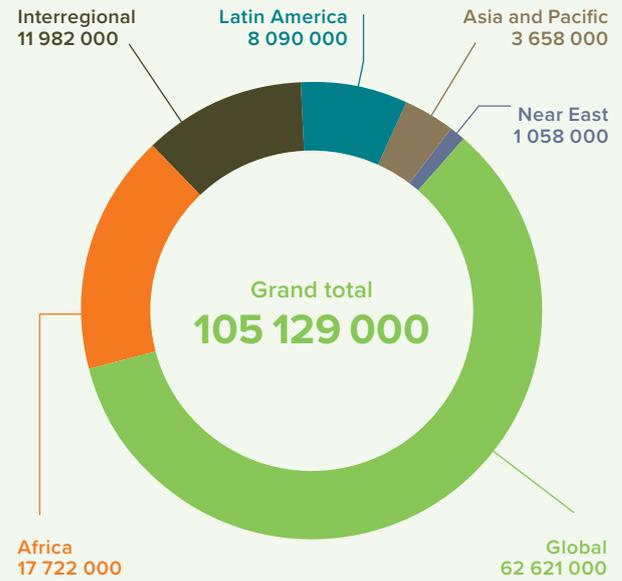


TOTAL BUDGET OF PROJECTS IN FAO FORESTRY PORTFOLIO (USD) 2016–2017 BIENNIUM

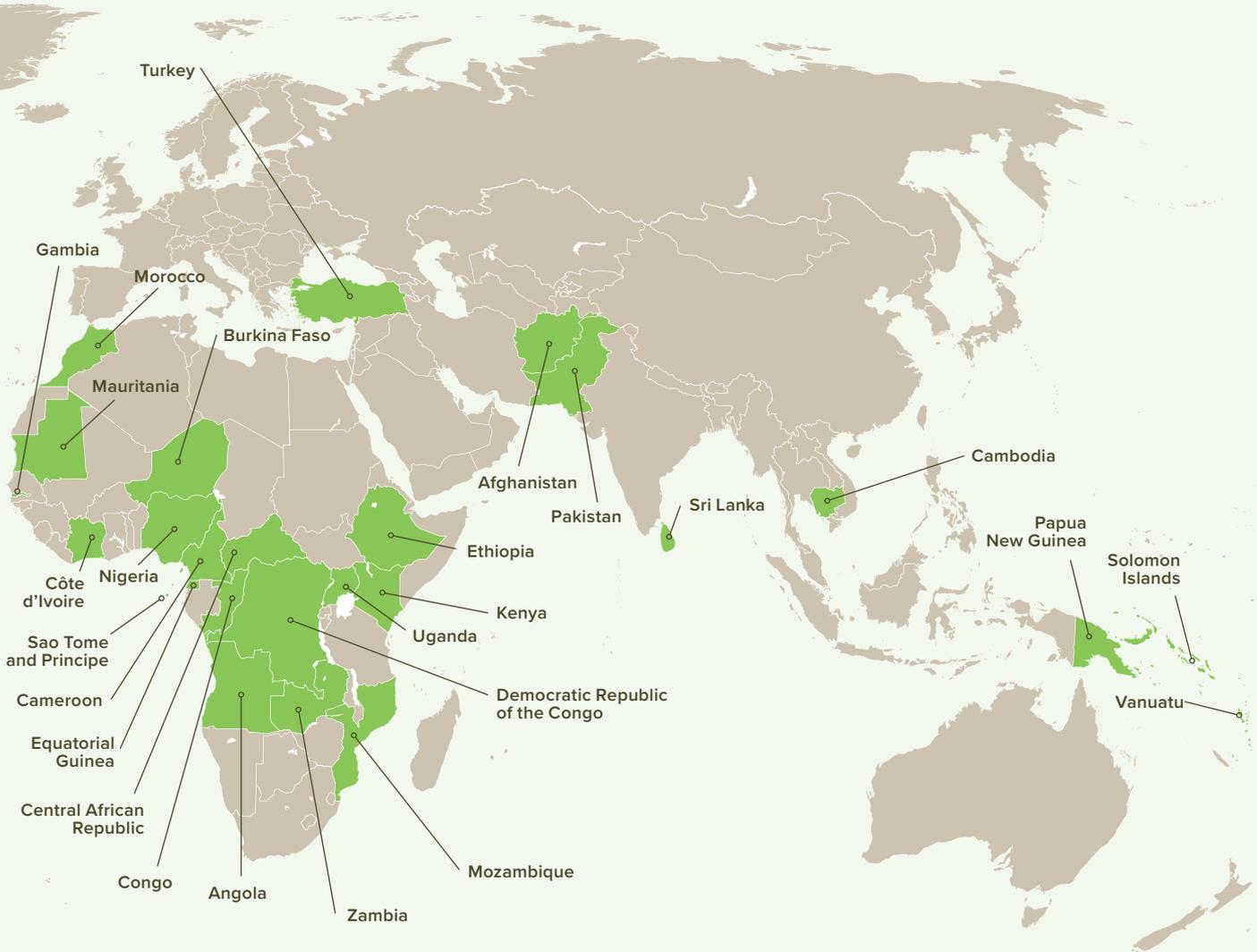


Projects active in the 2016–2017 biennium for which the FAO Forestry Department was the LTO

DELIVERY OF FAO FORESTRY PROJECTS, BY REGION (USD) 2016–2017 BIENNIUM



Projects active in the 2016–2017 biennium for which the FAO Forestry Department was the LTO





Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: FAO-HQ@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/about/en

Forestry Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome, Italy
E-mail: fo-library@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/forestry/en

FAO Regional Office for Africa
FAO Building
2, Gamel Abdul Nasser Road
GP 1628
Accra, Ghana
E-mail: FAO-RAF@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/africa

FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
39 Phra Athit Road
Phranakorn District
10200 Bangkok, Thailand
E-mail: FAO-RAP@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/world/regional/rap

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
Benczur utca 34
1068 Budapest, Hungary
E-mail: REU-Registry@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/europe/en

FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3241
Vitacura Santiago, Chile
E-mail: FAO-RLC@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/americas

FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa
11, El Eslah El Zerai Street
Dokki
12311 Cairo, Egypt
E-mail: FAO-RNE@fao.org
Web address: www.fao.org/neareast/en

UN Economic Commission for Europe/FAO
Forestry and Timber Section
Forests, Land and Housing Division
Palais des Nations
CH-1211, Geneva 10, Switzerland
Email: info.ece-faoforests@unece.org
Web address: www.unece.org/forests

ISBN 978-92-5-130707-6



9 789251 307076

CA0123EN/1/06.18