



COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

WORKING GROUP ON DRYLAND FORESTS AND AGROSILVOPASTORAL SYSTEMS

Inaugural Session

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GEF-7 SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IMPACT PROGRAMME ON DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Drylands extend over some 41 percent of the earth's surface, containing some of the most fragile and threatened ecosystems on the planet, including over one quarter of global biodiversity hotspots and many threatened species.
2. Recognizing the global challenges and drivers of environmental degradation, GEF-7 recently approved their biggest programme of actions on drylands -Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes¹ (SFM-DSL). A GEF Impact Programme sets out to tackle the causes and drivers of environmental destruction in an integrated way, rather than just deal with its symptoms, as many projects have in the past.
3. Concentrating on southern and western Africa and Central Asia, SFM-DSL aims to avoid, reduce and reverse further deforestation, degradation, and desertification in the drylands, envisaging their sustainable management on a global scale. Countries that will have projects--the so-called "Child Projects" in GEF terminology--include Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, (where project implementation is supported by FAO), Kazakhstan and Mozambique (supported by the World Bank), Burkina Faso and Kenya (supported by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN), and Mongolia (supported by FAO and the World Wildlife Fund). FAO leads the global component of the SFM-DSL.
4. Responding to the differing needs and conditions in each of the participating countries, Child Projects will aim at (1) creating conditions for innovative and integrated approaches to be applied to dryland management which address inter-sector interactions, stakeholder diversity, inclusiveness and

¹ <https://www.thegef.org/news/gef-council-approves-largest-ever-single-batch-projects-and-programs>

system complexity; (2) enhancing investment in sustainable dryland management; and (3) monitoring progress on sustainable dryland management.

5. The global component of the SFM-DSL is to improve the coordination and collaboration across the dryland forest landscape sectors. It will support monitoring, assessment, and knowledge management efforts toward achieving the objectives of the Impact Programme, including sustainable forest management, land degradation neutrality, resilience of forests and agro-ecological systems in the drylands.

6. FAO will leverage the convening power and deploy the policy setting of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) and its Regional Forestry Commissions. Specifically, the COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems will advise, guide, and facilitate the SFM-DSL implementation, to ensure its overall coherence, to pursue consistent Programme-wide outcomes on the ground, and to amplify its results of well beyond the participating countries.

II. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE WORKING GROUP

7. The Working Group may wish to:

- Advise and guide the SFM-DSL implementation to enhance overall coherence of the programme;
- Strengthen dialogue with relevant regional actors;
- Facilitate the development of knowledge products, outreach and engagement at national and regional levels, and knowledge sharing of the results and lessons learned from SFM-DSL; and
- Enhance South-South Cooperation, including with countries and regions that are not directly involved in the SFM-DSL.