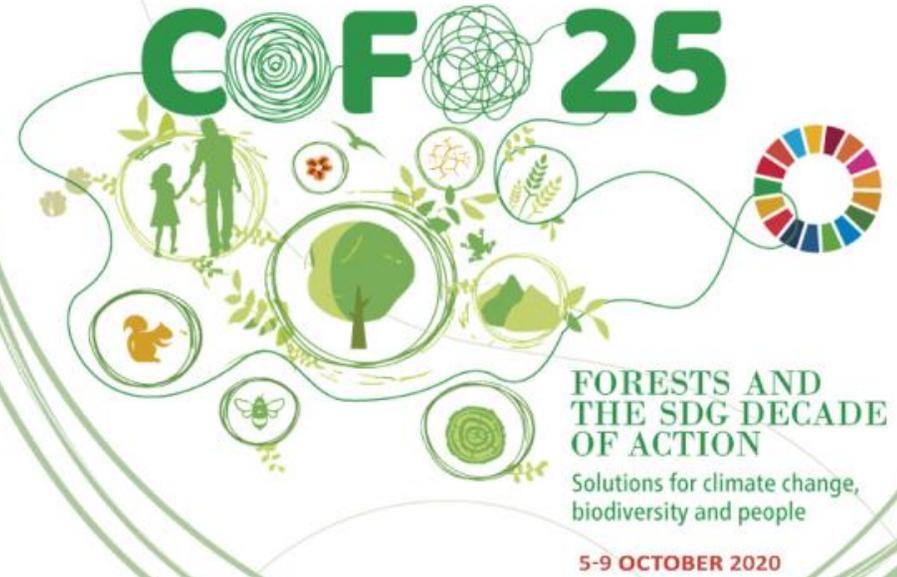




Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FORESTS

Nature based solutions for climate change



October 2020

Forest are a critical but underfunded element of the climate solution

- Nature based solutions can provide up to a third of cost-effective mitigation by 2030
- Avoiding deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is one of the most effective and robust options
- Although slowing down, still 10 million ha are deforested every year, mostly to commercial (40%) and subsistence (33%) agriculture
- Despite potential, forest only receive about 2% of climate finance
- FAO is supported mobilization of finance, including access to the GCF
- Need for private finance to be mobilized, including through carbon mechanisms

Interlinkages between climate crisis, COVID-19 and deforestation

- Climate change continues to exacerbate pressure on forests, including through forest fires, pests and disease
 - Fire: 370 million ha/year
 - Pests and disease: 35 million ha/yr
- COVID-19 generated additional risks and pressure on forests
 - weakened law enforcement, increased illegal activity
 - increased migration and job losses
 - disruptions in markets and supply chains
- Forest loss increased risk and vulnerability to disease

Addressing forest, climate change and post-pandemic recovery

- Pandemic created unprecedented socio-economic impacts and deepened inequalities
- How to better engage private sector (15% global GDP highly dependent on nature)
- Recovery packages with incentives towards low carbon sustainable options can produce multiple dividends
 - Protecting and restoring nature could produce almost 400 mill jobs over the next 10 years while reducing climate and health risks

Points for considerations:

The Committee may wish to invite countries to:

- Strengthen their efforts to unlock the vast mitigation potential of forests by reducing emissions through halting deforestation and forest degradation, as well as removing substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere through sustainable forest management, forest conservation and forest ecosystem restoration, by:
 - i) increasing forest-related commitments in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs);
 - ii) strengthening fire, pests, and disease management systems that enable to reduce risk, be prepared, act fast and safe, and recover;
 - iii) accelerating implementation of national REDD+ strategies and action plans, to address drivers of deforestation;
 - iv) deploying actions that trigger transformational changes in their economies and societies and a move to low-carbon economies, in particular, by ensuring that long-term stimulus packages to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic lead to sustainable decarbonization, multi-dimensional resilience and other co-benefits.

Points for considerations:

- The Committee may wish request FAO to:
 - Support countries to address drivers of deforestation and drivers of the expansion of agricultural land as part of the nature-based solutions to climate change, to enhance their NDCs;
 - Strengthen its collaboration with the private sector and facilitate dialogue aimed at mobilizing climate finance and enhancing the role of private sector in efforts to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation while contributing to job creation, livelihood resilience and poverty reduction;
 - Increase understanding of impacts that deforestation and forest degradation may have in increasing the risk of spread of zoonotic diseases, to help inform policy making for mutually beneficial recovery approaches;
 - Assist Members upon request in emergency and after-outbreak situations and in establishing long-term prevention strategies for both fire, and pests and diseases management; and strengthen the respective regional networks and availability of information at national and global levels;
 - Provide technical assistance and data to redesign and implement policies and actions to halt deforestation while building back better post COVID-19.

COF 25



Thank you.

**FORESTS AND THE SDG
DECADE OF ACTION**
Solutions for climate change, biodiversity and people
5-9 OCTOBER 2020