

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language

Item 8.3 The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry (COFO/2024/6.3)

| Member Name                                                                                    | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <p><b>European Union and its 27 Member States</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>09:03 (CET)</p> | <p>In response to the written correspondence procedure, we are honoured to share with you a statement on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We welcome and recognize the importance of the FAO’s work, together with UNEP, in relation to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, including their involvement in related regional-level initiatives and activities, and as regards monitoring progress through the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform. This work is essential for implementing target 2 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).</li> <li>• Biodiversity mainstreaming within and across all policies and sectors is crucial, and the contribution of sustainably managed forests and trees outside of forests to biodiversity conservation, management and sustainable use needs to be enhanced. Biodiversity conservation is an integral part of Sustainable Forest Management.</li> <li>• We welcome the proposal by the FAO in developing a comprehensive Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry. We will be happy to share success stories and lessons learned of the European Network Integrate, that focuses on how to align biodiversity conservation and sustainable wood production.</li> <li>• We recognize the alignment of the Action Plan of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors with the GBF. We encourage FAO to continue to collaborate with CBD in the mainstreaming of biodiversity in forestry, including on data and monitoring, and in the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (paragraph 9). We also encourage FAO to cooperate within its mandate with the CMS, the CITES, and the Convention of Wetlands.</li> <li>• We underscore that developments in forest genetic resources are crucial for biodiversity protection and climate change adaptation. We recognize that in response to the GPA-FGR, several countries have developed various mechanisms, programmes, and strategies to enhance the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources. We encourage FAO to make further efforts and continue supporting countries in this area. We also stress the need for relevant activities to be implemented in an integrated manner. Furthermore, we encourage the dissemination of species-specific data in order to</li> </ul> |

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|                                                                                 | <p>overcome the challenges encountered in these efforts. Furthermore, these actions can positively contribute to achieve relevant targets under the Global Biodiversity Framework, including targets 4 and 8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We also agree that human-wildlife conflicts are a pressing issue in particular in rural and peri-urban communities and that needs to be addressed. It is of crucial importance that stakeholders affected by the presence of wildlife are efficiently and effectively supported with appropriate awareness raising, prevention and compensation measures. In this light, we support the development of a global programme to monitor and pilot human–wildlife conflicts and coexistence management practices across a wider range of landscapes (as referred to in the document), as well as the proposed action for the FAO to continue to collaborate with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, to strengthen country capacity for adopting policies and legal frameworks.</li> <li>• We believe that zoonotic risks remain an increasing threat also for human health, and in this regard, the “One Health” approach is essential to address zoonotic risks. Therefore, we are happy to support FAO in working to improve work on zoonotic risks.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Japan</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>11:11 (CET)</p>                    | <p>We express appreciation for FAO's report on the progress of implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across the agricultural sectors.</p> <p>Japan shares the view that sustainable forest management plays an essential role in achieving the goals of the KMGBF. Japan is working on forest management that contributes to biodiversity conservation through sustainable forest management.</p> <p>In mainstreaming biodiversity, we believe that each country needs to take the initiative in advancing efforts according to its own circumstances, keeping in mind that not only pure preservation but also sustainable forest management and sustainable wood use including planted forests and sustainable use of forest resources are important. We expect FAO to promote and support each country's efforts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>United States of America</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>17:03 (CET)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The United States welcomes the GBF adopted by Parties to the CBD and we support ambitious efforts to implement the framework. We welcome FAO contributions to achieving the goals and targets of the GBF as well as continued coordination between the CBD and FAO, within their respective mandates.</li> <li>• We encourage the FAO to provide more information during the session on how FAO will develop the Global Programme for Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry.</li> <li>• The United States supports the proposed actions in Document COFO/2024/6.3.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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|                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We do not see the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors as a mechanism, but recognize its importance in supporting FAO and country actions.</li> <li>• We strongly support cooperation through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, recognizing the respective mandates of the organizations relating to CBD in advancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in forestry.</li> <li>• We note that CBD voluntary guidance on sustainable wildlife management through the wild meat sector may only be applicable to certain terrestrial subtropical and tropical ecosystems.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p><b>Canada</b><br/>Friday, 28 June 2024<br/>20:36 (CET)</p> | <p>With respect to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Canada welcomes FAOs achievements. We note that not all countries use the FERM system and therefore suggest adding “as appropriate” to the end of the first recommendation so that it reads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Welcome FAO’s achievements in supporting the UN Decade as its co-lead, and encourage Members to continue their support to the implementation of the UN Decade and enhancing ecosystem restoration implementation and monitoring efforts, including by using the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform [add: as appropriate];</i></li> </ul> <p>Canada believes that urgent action is needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework provides an ambitious path forward for doing so at the global level. In response, Canada introduced the <i>Nature Accountability Act</i> in June 2024, which includes a <i>2030 Nature Strategy</i> to chart a path for how Canada will implement the Framework. The Strategy builds on existing initiatives in all regions and sectors across the country and recognizes that harnessing the transformative change needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss requires a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach built on inclusive, adaptable, and evidence-based partnership and collaboration.</p> <p>A vision to 2050 will serve as a guide for our actions: nature is healthy, thriving, and sustaining and enriching the lives of current and future generations, and all Canadians have re-established their relationship with and are honouring their responsibilities to nature.</p> <p>The Government of Canada remains committed to the ambitious goal of planting two billion trees. The 2 Billion Trees program continues to make significant progress, having signed over 200 agreements since the launch of the program and, as of March 2024, has agreements committed or under negotiation to plant over</p> |

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|                                                                       | <p>553 million trees. Every tree planted brings important benefits to Canadians, whether to store carbon, enhance biodiversity, improve physical and mental well-being or cool our cities.</p> <p>As party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Canada is committed to contributing to the attainment of the GBF and to the fulfillment of the vision of a world living in harmony with nature by 2050. To that end, Canada supports the suggested mainstreaming actions in document COFO/2024/6.3, which align well with the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Through the actions and initiatives mentioned, FAO's work could play an important role in particular for several important KMGBF targets (incl. but not limited to T2, 4, 5, 9, 10) both in terms of monitoring but also disseminating/scaling up/implementing good practices and we encourage FAO's continued collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>Addressing species at risk is another important element of biodiversity conservation. Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service (CFS) has been carrying out research to help sustain and rehabilitate critical habitats, especially for woodland caribou by developing knowledge, data and tools to help restore critical caribou habitats and minimize industrial impact, especially from mineral extraction, and oil and gas exploration.</p> <p>In collaboration with industry, academia, provinces, Indigenous Peoples, and non-governmental organizations, the Government of Canada also works to identify elements of critical habitat that are key to sustaining resilient caribou populations and has developed tools for assessing the future effects of disturbances on caribou habitat, while the <a href="#">National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium</a> is a forum for sharing information and lessons learned about conservation, wetland best practices, land restoration and land reclamation in Canada.</p> |
| <p><b>New Zealand</b><br/>Wednesday, 03 July 2024<br/>12:32 (CET)</p> | <p>In the process of developing a comprehensive Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry, we would encourage FAO to provide guidance on how indigenous and forest communities can be included in each of the four overarching components (policy, institutions, and governance; practical approaches, tools, and instruments; landscape approaches and implementation; and knowledge management and innovation).</p> <p>From implementation of the Global Plan of Action-Forest Genetic Resources, are there any examples of how countries are protecting indigenous knowledge and forest resources of significance to forest communities? E.g. location of high-value forest resources like medicinal herbs.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Mexico</b><br/>Thursday, 04 July 2024<br/>12:36 (CET)</p>       | <p>Mexico recognizes the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry for the conservation and sustainable use of our natural resources. It is essential for the wellbeing of our communities and the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|                                                                  | <p>Mexico reiterates its commitment to continue supporting the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030.</p> <p>Mexico also acknowledges the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and commits to working with FAO and other Member Nations to strengthen this initiative.</p> <p>In this context, Mexico also supports the recommendation that FAO continue to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity in advancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in forestry, including in the data and monitoring domains. We recognize that evidence-based management practices to effectively address human-wildlife conflict are essential, and support the collection and dissemination of management practices that can serve as a model for other countries.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p><b>Australia</b><br/>Friday, 05 July 2024<br/>14:12 (CET)</p> | <p>Australia was pleased to have provided funding to the recent Forest Dialogue in Indonesia delivered by FAO and its partners, which focused on pathways for the private forest sector to further contribute to ecosystem restoration efforts globally.</p> <p>Given the differing land management contexts globally for integrating biodiversity outcomes, we highlight that there is no ‘one size fits all’ approach. Australia suggests that both ‘land sharing’ approaches, where biodiversity is integrated into production landscapes, and ‘land sparing’ approaches, where certain land is intensively-managed to free up other land for biodiversity, are relevant to efforts to mainstream biodiversity in forestry. In particular, we note that intensively-managed timber plantations have a role in providing high yields from relatively little land, and should be viewed as part of the greater land management context.</p> <p>We are interested to hear about the FAO’s development of a Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry, and would welcome further details on this.</p> <p>We note that not all platforms and frameworks are applicable or used by all Members, for example the FERM platform, and their use should be qualified ‘as appropriate’.</p> |
| <p><b>Brazil</b><br/>Wednesday, 17 July 2024<br/>14:06 (CET)</p> | <p>In line with previous written comments, Brazil would request further clarification on the steps to develop the comprehensive Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry. At this stage, it would be important to understand the added value of this proposal and to what extent it might duplicate efforts in the context of implementation of the FAO Biodiversity Mainstreaming Strategy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

In any case, we would highlight the importance of a fully inclusive and transparent process. Though we acknowledge the important role of CIFOR, we would strongly encourage FAO to consult with different regional intergovernmental organizations, such as the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). We would further highlight the importance of equitable geographical representation along the different steps of development of the new program. This would ensure the effective participation of research institutions from developing countries, including megadiverse countries, and of representatives of IPLCs that rely on forest resources.

Concerning suggested action "a", Brazil would suggest adding "where appropriate", as follows:

a. welcome FAO's achievements in supporting the UN Decade as its co-lead, and encourage Members to continue their support to the implementation of the UN Decade and enhancing ecosystem restoration implementation and monitoring efforts, including by, where appropriate, the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform."

We understand that countries may have developed different methodologies and monitoring systems to track restoration modalities. While we appreciate the ongoing efforts by FAO to further refine FERM, the uptake of those tools should consider the different national circumstances and priorities.

With regard to suggested action "e", although Brazil appreciates FAO's engagement with the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, we fear that the paragraph provides a rather unbalanced approach to this topic as it frames the discussions on sustainable wildlife management primarily around the need to address human-wildlife conflict. In doing so, it does not capture the important topics that cut across the agenda of wild species within the KMBGF, such as targets 4, 5 and 9.

That said, to achieve a more balanced approach and building on agreed language from Target 9, we would suggest the following additional bullet:

(e)bis. invite FAO to collect and disseminate evidence-based practices related to the sustainable management and use of wild species that provide social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and that contribute to protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.