



RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

ITEM 8/8.3. Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Remote Sensing Survey 2021-2022

JAMAICA DELEGATION

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION (MEGJC)

26th SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY (COFO26) and 8th WORLD FOREST WEEK (WFW2022)

FAO

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2022

Thank you, Mr Chair
Distinguished Delegates, International Observers
Ladies and Gentlemen

Jamaica commends the FAO's continued commitment to technical and financial support to improve country reports on Forest Resources Assessments. Participating in the Global FRA country reporting process provides a tremendous opportunity for halting deforestation and degradation; through the strategic implementation of informed nature-based climate solutions.

Jamaica recognises and appreciates the value of conducting detailed assessments to facilitate sustainable management. Towards these goals, Jamaica has completed Interim National Standards for certification, which have been submitted for the approval of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Significant strides have been made, and we are proud to report that deforestation rates in Jamaica continue to fall, averaging ~ 0.5 % per annum, over the past 20 years. As we progress towards fully implementing the REDD+ mechanism, the need for a complete national policy alignment to give security of tenure and long-term commitment to carbon capture is evident.

Jamaica applauds FAO's efforts in helping countries develop robust National Forest Monitoring Systems (NFMS), which will facilitate transparent comparative assessments. This approach has allowed Jamaica to participate in the collaborative initiative on harmonising the National Forest Inventory through the NFI-LAC regional group. We encourage further support and capacity building for countries, especially SIDS, in the latest forest monitoring technologies to tackle deforestation drivers and strengthen efforts to track land use and forest cover change. Jamaica is in the process of acquiring imagery resources to complete our 2024 LULC-A. Technical support on this initiative to minimise reporting duplication and increase transparency would add value to the Global FRA reporting process. We further encourage FAO to continue harmonising methods and definitions for forest data collection, data sharing and reinforcing FRA capacity development initiatives. Therefore, we recommend that the following considerations be incorporated into the programme of the Committee:

1. FAO to continue strengthening the FRA National correspondents' network and provide technical and financial support to countries in compiling their country reports through the organisation of appropriate regional and subregional capacity-building workshops.
2. FAO to continue complementing the FRA country reporting process with remote sensing-based analysis, especially at the ecozone level, and to support countries using the latest forest monitoring technologies through online expert-driven sessions.
3. FAO to continue consultations with key stakeholders on a flexible FRA reporting process that allows voluntary updates of critical indicators while ensuring data quality and transparency.

Thank you