



RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

ITEM 9/9.1 FAO's WORK IN FORESTRY UNDER THE FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2022-31

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION (MEGJC)

JAMAICA DELEGATION

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

Item 9.1

FAO

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022

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

Jamaica thanks the FAO for this document on its work in Forestry under the Strategic Framework 2022-31. The country acknowledges the achievements of the FAO's work in forestry and welcomes its continued commitments to driving the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and strengthening its contributions to the International Arrangements on Forests including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

We note and fully support the Framework and guidance which are aligned to the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable agrifood systems which will lead to the "four betters", **better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life**, leaving no one behind. We also note the recommended actions under the twenty Programme Priority Areas and applaud new actions under the Office of Innovation and especially the new Office of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which seek to foster stronger and coordinated approaches towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With more than 40% forest cover, Jamaica not only recognizes the importance of protecting our forests but has elevated them to being a critical part of our Nationally Determined Contributions given their importance in Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. This recognition reinforces our efforts to build capacity on means of implementation, monitoring, assessment and reporting, to facilitate our participation in global forest reporting. Targeted interventions by the FAO to further support these undertakings are encouraged.

In alignment with the FAO strategy "Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products" and with the support of the EU Budget Support Programme, Jamaica has since 2019 spent over US 2,000,000 to support the development and implementation of sustainable livelihoods programmes within forest dependent communities. These actions promote the Sustainable Forest Management agenda, reduce the impact of uncontrolled extraction of forest resources and contribute to the achievement of the "*four betters*". To date these initiatives which support gender inclusiveness, have impacted the livelihoods of over 2000 beneficiaries (directly and indirectly).

Further, Jamaica continues to promote a "No Net Loss" programme, as stipulated in our Forest Policy (2017). Consequently, the Forestry Department has developed a guideline document for the implementation of tree planting in Urban and Peri-Urban landscapes commencing in the upcoming financial year. This will not only improve our national tree cover but will also contribute to promoting the FAO Strategy on "Green Cities".

Jamaica, at the 17th session of the UNFF, reported strong achievements on the four actions and six associated targets which sought to improve governance systems, enhance sustainable livelihoods, and restore forest ecosystems. Reaffirming its support for the FAO and its work in forestry, the country in preparation to announce new commitments for 2023 -2026 will work to ensure alignment with the Strategies and Priority Areas identified for the 2022-23 biennium.

I thank you