

Australia thanks FAO for its work during the 2024–25 biennium and welcomes the progress made in implementing forestry activities under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and the FAO Forestry Roadmap. Australia particularly values FAO's role in providing reliable forest information, monitoring, assessment and reporting. We welcome publication of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, which remains a critical foundation for evidence-based policy, planning and international reporting. Australia is grateful for the opportunity to report internationally through the FAO's *Global Forest Resources Assessment* using the data and information compiled and reported nationally in *Australia's State of the Forests Report*. We also welcome FAO's continued efforts to strengthen innovation and evidence-based solutions across the forest sector.

As global demand for timber, fibre and renewable forest products continues to increase, Australia highlights the importance of fibre security and informed policy and investment decisions. We welcome FAO's work to strengthen sustainable forest-based production systems, livelihoods, value chains and economic development and encourage FAO to continue its work on forest-sector outlooks, productive forestry and supply-demand analysis. Domestically, the Australian Government is investing through the Forestry Growth Fund and Australian Forest and Wood Innovations to strengthen productivity, value-adding and future timber and fibre supply.

We strongly value FAO's recognition that forests are increasingly viewed as strategic assets whose management will influence the resilience and sustainability of broader socioeconomic systems.

Australia commends FAO's leadership in advancing sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches. Australia was pleased to contribute to the FAO global webinar series, the Global Summit on Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches and supports the Vienna Call for Action.

Australia also welcomes FAO's work on legality, traceability and transparent markets. We see continued value in FAO supporting countries to strengthen legality and traceability systems and respond to evolving market requirements.

Finally, Australia encourages FAO to continue working through partnerships and existing mechanisms to strengthen delivery at country level, while avoiding duplication and unnecessary reporting burdens.