

Australia welcomes this paper and supports the proposed actions before the Committee. We appreciate FAO's continued work highlighting the important contribution that forests and trees make to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and resilient agrifood systems.

Australia strongly supports continued strengthening of cross-sectoral collaboration between the agriculture and forestry sectors. We consider that sustainable and resilient production systems depend on a biodiverse and well-managed natural resource base, and that forests and trees have an important role in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and food security challenges.

The Australian Government has incorporated forests and the forestry sector into a range of cross-cutting policy frameworks, including Australia's Strategy for Nature, the Agriculture and Land Sector Plan, and the development of the National Food Security Strategy. We recognise the multiple values forests provide to agricultural systems, including biodiversity, soil and water outcomes, climate resilience and farm productivity. Through mechanisms such as the Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme and the Nature Repair Market, landholders are supported to invest in landscape restoration, biodiversity enhancement and carbon sequestration.

We acknowledge the value, and increasing importance, of non-wood forest products. Australia's forests provide a range of products including honey, native bush foods, essential oils and animal products which support regional economies and livelihoods. Australia, like many countries, continues to face challenges in collecting comprehensive data on the production, economic and social value and use of non-wood forest products.

Australia emphasises the importance of maintaining future timber and fibre supply alongside food production objectives. Australia's Timber Fibre Strategy identifies opportunities for farm forestry and agroforestry to complement broader production systems while supporting productive, resilient and sustainable landscapes.