

Building Blocks/Options for the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030

I. Introduction

A. Importance of forests to people and the planet

Contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda:

1. As regards the 4th bullet, the merits of wood products are not limited to the recyclable nature. It may be worthwhile to refer to their contribution to sustainable consumption and production as resources that can be ~~permanently~~ produced as long as they are utilized within the renewable capacity of forests; functioning as reservoirs of carbon for a long period of time; and less energy being required for processing compared with other materials.

B. Trends and challenges

1. Under the 3

increasing pressure on forests for development into other land uses, inter alia, agricultural land, rather than the increasing demand for forest goods and services itself.

4. It would be helpful if the ~~citation~~ could be provided with regards to the citation that the annual demand for wood alone is expected to triple by 2050 in the 6th bullet. If that is the case, it is imperative that the Strategic Plan discuss the way forward for increasing the productivity of forest land including the possible intensified utilization of planted forests for wood production.

C. Opportunities for enhanced action

1. The Strategic Plan covers not only developing countries but also all member states including developed countries. While the enhanced access to financial resources such as GEF and GCF as well as the implementation of GFFFN are important elements of the Strategic Plan, universal perspective is required to describe ‘opportunities for enhanced action’.

2. 2nd bullet should be changed as follows.

Actions to improve productivity of existing agricultural land hold significant potential to reduce the conversion of forests to other land uses, while restoration of degraded landscapes can provide enhanced ecosystem services. Taken together, forests contribute to the achievement of SDG 15 and the

of non-carbon benefits is important.

The reason for change is that it is questionable whether the Paris Agreement opens the door to looking at forest benefits holistically in the climate context because substantial co-benefits associated with forest-related mitigation options had been recognized since before. The language should be consistent with the Paris Agreement as to ‘sinks and reservoirs’.

4. Under the 5th bullet, ‘and the GFFFN’ should be deleted because GEF is not supporting the implementation of GFFFN. This is the other way around because GFFFN is to facilitate access to existing and emerging financing mechanisms including the GEF (ECOSOC resolution para 13 (b)).

5. Under the 6th bullet, ‘The potential to mobilise GCF resources to support the GFFFN activities’ should be changed to ‘The potential of GFFFN to mobilise GCF resources to the implementation of SFM’ with the same reason above.

D. Value-added of the IAF

1. Under the 4th bullet, CPF member organizations are described as the key IAF partners, however, CPF and its member organizations is one of the components of IAF (ECOSOC resolution para 1(b)).

III. Strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets ² Options

1. Under the 2nd bullet, 'international' should be inserted before 'regional'.
2. While we shall reserve our submission on which option should be pursued at this stage, we would like to make some comments in view of appropriateness of languages and contexts.

A. Options for strategic approach/global goals/objectives/targets : Option 1

(1) Under the 5th bullet, 'Promote sustainable governance frameworks' is ambiguous, so it should be changed to 'Strengthen forest governance frameworks'.

B. Options for global targets/deliverables : Option 1

Examples/options of how SDG targets could be translated into forest-related targets

(2) It is not necessary to enumerate all the examples on forest-related aspects of SDGs, however, it should be considered to include at least one target under each goal of which forest sector contributes to the achievement in some way in view of its multi-functionality covering a wide variety of SDGs. In this regard, examples below should be added.

SDG 7.2: By 2030, increase the share of wood biomass as a source of renewable

(3) The targets below should be changed.

(a) SDG 13.1: strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity of forests and forest-dependent people to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

In terms of adaptation strategy on climate change, it is important to strengthen resilience of not only forests but also forest-dependent people including through better evacuation schemes in case of emergency.

(b) SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of forests, halt loss of forest biodiversity and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of forest-dependent threatened species.

The original text of SDG 15.5 is 'take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats' and the natural habitats include not only natural forests but also established planted forests.

(4) In relation to the means of implementation, SDG 15.b is more important than SDG 15.c.

B. Options for global targets/deliverables : Option 2

(5) 2nd bullet should be clarified as this seems to be inconsistent with the Bonn Challenge which is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

(6) Under the 4th bullet, in what carbon pools are targeted should be specified, i.e. forests, trees outside forests, harvested wood products, among others.

(7) Under the 5th bullet, careful consideration should be given with regards to the targets relating to forest biomass for cooking and heating for below reasons.

The utilization of forest biomass for energy is not only limited to household consumption for cooking and heating but covers industrial consumption including electricity in some countries.

The definition for 'population that rely on unsustainably produced forest biomass' is not clear and it is difficult to obtain reliable data on it.

Given that the world's population will continue to increase and the economy is expected to grow, reducing the share of those relying on wood biomass for their

regard, 3rd bullet should be deleted.

5. The 6th bullet should be changed as follows to be consistent with the ECOSOC resolution 6f (iii)(iv) and 14a.

The Forum will, during its odd year sessions, monitor and assess the work and performance of the GFFFN, review and advise on the availability of resources for SFM funding including GFFFN, and make decisions to further increase the effectiveness, efficiency and resources of GFFFN.

6. 7th bullet is not necessary since the performance of GFFFN should be evaluated through to what extent the access of developing countries to funds such as GEF and GCF is improved and hence it does not have to take too much time and energy for the discussion on indicators.

C.2. GEF, GCF and other Forest Funding Institutions

7. Under the 1st bullet, the subject 'Member States' should be changed to 'Eligible countries for GEF funding'. Regarding 'invite the GEF to consider establishing a new focal area on forests', our understanding is that it has already been done according to the report by the UNFF secretariat during AHEG 1. The part 'providing financial support to the GFFFN; and to Members of the Forum on preparation of their national reports to the Forum during its next replenishment' needs more clarification.

8. Under the 2nd bullet, the subject 'Member States' should be changed to 'Eligible countries for GCF funding'.

9. Under the 3rd bullet, clarification is needed regarding 'UNFCCC carbon pricing mechanisms'.

C.4 Global Forest Fund

10. This part should be deleted since it contains content to reopen the ECOSOC resolution.

V. Review Framework

A. Evaluating progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan

1. Under the 3rd bullet, ✓

The 4POW 2017-2020

1. According to the paragraph 6 (f) of the ECOSOC resolution, the summaries of the discussions of the odd-year sessions on implementation and technical advice for the purpose of focusing the attention of Member States on the specific tasks will be reported to the Forum at its subsequent sessions in the even years for further consideration and recommendations. In this regard, it should be clearly articulated how the outcomes of the odd-year sessions should be strategically linked to the subsequent even-year sessions in the 4POW 2017-2020 as it will provide the basis for the following 4POWs.
2. The illustrative format for the 4POW 2017-2020 should illustrate how national reporting should be utilized in the deliberations of UNFF sessions in a more explicit way given that national reporting should provide basis for policy dialogue for the Forum. Otherwise Member States will lose the incentive to submit their national report on the status of their forest management in accordance with UN Forest Instrument.
3. While the priority actions and resource needs in the 4POW should be geared toward meeting SDG 15 targets with a 2020 target date, it should become clear how the discussion on the subsequent targets would be organized.

(End)