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**Executive Secretary**

Enclosure



CBD Secretariat's views on the building blocks/ options for the United Nations Strategic plan for  
Forests 2015-2020 and beyond

Page 1/ introduction. Suggestion to state the purpose of the Strategic Plan, drawing on Resolution 2015/33 paragraphs 38 and 39 Section II. The normative basis for the Strategic Plan, related to the Convention and Protocol, should be mentioned. A cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to the forest-related goals and targets of other existing, - intergovernmental processes, such as the Rio Convention, should be reflected.

Page 2/ section 1. The importance of ecological functioning of forest systems and their benefits to people and the planet can be strengthened. Suggest a new bullet point on ecological diversity. Forests represent some of the richest biological areas on Earth, offering a variety of habitats for plants, animals and microorganisms. The interactions in biological diversity forest ecosystems allow organisms to adapt to continually changing environmental conditions and to maintain ecosystem functions that are critical to human well-being. The last bullet point on the role of forests and trees outside forests in reducing impacts to private forests, ecosystem functioning or carbon storage could be heightened.

Page 3/ 6. Contribution to the 2030 Agenda. Suggest a new bullet point on biodiversity. It is interlinked to socio-economic factors, providing an array of goods and services that range from timber and non-timber forest resources to mitigating climate change and genetic resources. At the same time, forests provide livelihoods for people worldwide and play important economic, social, and cultural roles in the lives of many indigenous communities. Therefore, forests and forest biodiversity are intrinsically linked to ecosystem and human well-being, constituting a fundamental aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In addition, a bullet point could underline the water-related benefits of forest ecosystem restoration to cities. For example, the contributions that forest ecosystems provide to planning and supporting sustainable cities, supporting the natural resources on which they rely, such as a reliable water supply, and providing cost-effective natural infrastructure against natural disasters, is essential to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Governance related aspects could also be considered. For example, the role of forest policies and legislation in view of sustainable public and private procurement policies can be a positive driver of good governance and also contribute to sustainable consumption and production practices and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Page 4/ Trends and Challenges. This section should shape the rationale for the Strategic Plan, to answer why a coordinated, cross-sectoral approach is needed.

In the fourth point, suggestion to revise that in addition, many forests are being degraded due to illegal logging, fire, disease, invasive tree species and insects, and forest fragmentation; all of which threaten



forest health and vitality, and the ecological functioning of forests which enable a productive forest sector.

In the second point suggestion to revise the final part of the sentence to state "...protect and restore the ecological functioning of forests as without this the future supply of forest products and services can be jeopardised."

Page 7. Opportunities for enhanced action. In the first point, suggestion to underscore the