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ATTACHMENT

Views from UNFCCC secretariat on the Building Blocks/Options for the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and 4POW

Page/Section	Text in the SP	Views/Proposal by UNFCCC
3/Contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda	Forests sequester more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem. Sustainable management and use of forest products present a highly effective and cost-competitive natural carbon capture and storage system.	Since this bullet refers to the role of forests as carbon sinks, it may be more appropriate to use terms found in IPCC assessment reports. Supply-side mitigation options are not limited to sustainable management and use of forest products (which may include other non-wood forest products). <i>“Sustainable management of forests, reducing deforestation and forest degradation, enhancement of forest carbon stocks, conservation and use of forest wood products are economically viable and cost effective mitigation options, with many economic, social and environmental co-benefits. Mitigation actions and associated co-benefits in the forest sector may also contribute to a broader global sustainability agenda”</i>
3/Trends & Challenges	The most important challenge is to address the drivers of forest loss and degradation, including economic development, shifting agriculture, conversion to other land use, climate change, population growth and poverty.	Climate change need not be a “driver” of forest loss per se, like other socio-economic, land use change (agriculture, infrastructure development), technological or policy related drivers. Climate change could exacerbate biophysical drivers such as fires, pest, droughts, floods (which could be worsened by underlying causes relating to demographic, economic, political, institutional and cultural factors) which in turn hasten forest loss and/or degradation. Measures to address drivers will relate to these latter events rather than addressing climate change itself.
4/Opportunities for enhanced action	The landmark Paris Agreement of 2015 “aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty” and opens the door to looking at forest benefits holistically in the climate context, building on existing REDD+ initiatives under the UNFCCC ⁹ . Forests are expected to feature in many of the Parties’ intended “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) to the aim	The Convention also recognizes the importance of sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of terrestrial ecosystems, including forests, for the mitigation of climate change in its Article 4.1(d) on commitments. The Paris Agreement in its Article 5 recalled this Article in the Convention and enhanced the political significance of the role of forests in addressing climate change.

Page/Section	Text in the SP	Views/Proposal by UNFCCC
	SDG 13.3: Improve education, awareness and human and institutional capacity on forest-related climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction. (Contributes/links to SDG 16.6, provisions of Paris Agreement)	
12/ IV. Implementation Framework	Proposed action area/thematic area: Climate change mitigation and adaptation (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UNFCCC secretariat will be pleased to share its knowledge and experiences relating to our Parties' actions on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.</p> <p>In Paris, the COP requested the secretariat to support and further strengthen the technical examination process on mitigation and adaptation. The purpose of the technical meetings conducted under this process is to promote implementation of best practice mitigation and adaptation policies/actions that could lead to significant emission reductions and strengthened resilience and reduced vulnerabilities and also have significant sustainable development co-benefits. The process also encourages increased international cooperation and coordination and identification of opportunities that enable developing countries to effectively implement these actions on the ground. One of the thematic areas in the process relate to land use and forests. In addition, UNFCCC Parties also report on their mitigation and adaptation policies and actions, including the land use, land-use change and forestry sector in national communications, biennial reports/biennial update reports and national adaptation plans.</p> <p>The UNFCCC secretariat looks forward to collaborating with the UNFF secretariat, share relevant information and experiences pertaining to the role of land use and forest in mitigation and adaptation to climate change as being reported by the Parties.</p>
16-17/B. Roles and responsibilities	The Strategic Plan will be implemented by the UN wide system, The Strategic Plan is intended to enable UN system organizations, their secretariats and partners to work more coherently and collaboratively on forests with a shared strategic approach/toward a shared set of global goals/objectives/targets.	<p>AHEG may need to define more clearly which aspects of the SP that will be implemented by the UN wide system.</p> <p>While it is important and there is agreement that UN system organizations should work more coherently and collaboratively to address issues relating to forests at all levels</p>

Page/Section	Text in the SP	Views/Proposal by UNFCCC
	UN organizations and partners are encouraged to implement the Strategic Plan, consistent with their mandates, to help ensure forest policy coherence and program coordination and to more effectively	