Country:	AUSTRALIA
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General information

National focal point

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forestry bodies.

The following Federal Government Agencies contributed to this report:

- The Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE)

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

- The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Non-Governmental Agency contributions included:

- The Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA)

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Global forest goal 1 and associated targets

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

(ii)   Institutional actions

List of actions and description:

- (1.4) **Australian Government Climate and Disaster Resilience Reference Group** (in progress)
  - ○

Readiness Fund supports countries to design and prepare activities and polices for reducing emissions, and the Carbon Fund provides performance based payments for the emissions reductions achieved by implementing those activities. Australian officials work with The World Bank to manage these funds, including through playing a key role in the Carbon Fund assessment process to ensure that country proposals are technically robust and transparent.

- o (1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **The Indonesia MRV program** (in progress)

  Australia provides direct support to the Government of Indonesia to develop a robust and flexible national forest monitoring system and to develop policies to establish capacity in the MRV of greenhouse gas emissions from the land sector. This work supports Indonesia to improve and maintain capacity to enable effective reporting on priority land sector emissions reduction commitments.

  This support builds on work that began under the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership (2009-2014).

- o (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Partnership (RAFT)** (completed 2019)

  The Australian Government worked with the RAFT Partnership to build the capacity of

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) **20 Million Trees Program**

  o The Australian Government has committed AU$70 million over six years to deliver the program[9].

- (1.1, 1.2) **The National Landcare Program** (see 1(a)(i))

  o The Australian Government is investing more than AU$1 billion for phase two of the National Landcare Program, being delivered from July 2017 to June 2023.

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **Research and development** (see 1(a)(i))

  o Since 2014–15, the Australian Government has provided AU$25.2 million towards research and development to the FWPA, matching voluntary contributions and industry levie

- (1.3) **Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund**

  o Australian Government commitment of AU$200,000 to the Leadership in Agricultural Industries Fund provided to the Institute of Foresters of Australia in 2017.

  o This funding has gone to supporting youth and young professionals to develop skills in leadership, for example as sponsorship to attend international and domestic conferences and workshops

- (1.3) **Communications surrounding forestry**

  o 2018-19 has seen the significant mobilisation of public and private funding towards increasing community understanding of forestry practices in Australia. (See 2(a)(i)) - Federal Government funding, Question 3(b) on FWPA work).

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **International policy and financing** (completed)

  o In May 2019, the Australian Government contributed AU$50,000 to the UNFF Trust Fund for the development of the 2021 UNFF Flagship Publication.

  o In May 2019, the Australian Government contributed AU$25,000 to the UNFF Trust Fund to support the participation of Pacific officials in future UNFF events.

- (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4) **National Development Assistance and Aid projects** (in progress/completed) (see 1(a) (ii) for project information).

  o The Australian Government has invested in a range of MRV and foreign aid programs. Contributions include:

    ACIAR Forestry Program (continuous)

    - Approximately AU$9.8 million expenditure in 2018-19.

(b)   How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

- Demonstrated national policy towards sustainable forest management, reforestation and afforestation.

- Demonstrated framework for national action through the National Forest Industries Plan.

- Demonstrated international support of sustainable forest management, contributing towards agreed development goals and Australia's international commitments.

- Commitment to ongoing research and development to support sustainable forest management, including projects to increase forest cover and condition.

(c)   What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

- **Environmental challenges:**

  o Drought is a recurrent feature of Australia's naturally variable climate, exacerbated by climate change. Forests must compete with other land uses for water use. Forest carbon stocks therefore vary naturally over time, decreasing during periods of drought and increasing during wetter period.

  o Fire is a recurrent feature of Australia's forest ecosystems and is an essential part of the health of the landscape (e.g. ensuring seed germination) in many regions. However, it is also exacerbated by climate change and anthropogenic ignition such as arson. Forest carbon stocks therefore vary naturally over time, decreasing rapidly after fire and increasing more slowly during periods of regrowth.

  o Pests and weeds pose an ongoing threat to the health and condition of Australia's forests and forest resources.

- **Competing land-use challenges:**

  o Competition and changes in land uses and land management practices, including farming and forestry systems as well as urban expansion, which compete for space with natural systems, may impact on forest cover and distribution, ecosystem function, and the provision of ecosystem services.

(d)   If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

- Australia's voluntary national contribution (VNC) outlines Australia's commitment to the achievement of the

the greatest uptake, accounting for over 65% of contracted emissions abatement (as at October 2019).

Australia remains committed to supporting foreign governments take action to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through bilateral and regional forest monitoring initiatives. (See Goal 1 (a) for more detail.)

o combatting illegal logging and associated trade

Australia's *Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012* promotes the trade of legal timber products, obligating wood and wood product importers to undertake due diligence requirements to ensure timber and timber products imported into Australia are legally harvested.

- The Australian Government worked with research institutions to develop new technologies

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions and description:

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **Regional Forestry Hubs** (in progress)
    - Establishment of nine Regional Forestry Hubs to drive investment and jobs growth for forest industries and the rural communities that support them (in progress – five pilot hubs were established in 2019, with four to follow in 2020).
- (2.1, 2.4, 2.5) **National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI)** (in progress)
    - See 1 (iii) for more information.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions and description:

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **Regional Forestry Hubs** (in progress) (see 2(a) (ii))
    - In 2018, the Australian Government allocated AU$9 million over four years to support the establishment and operation of 9 Regional Forestry Hubs.
- (2.1, 2.4, 2.5) **National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI) centres** (in progress)
    - See 1(iii) for more information.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions and description:

- (2.2, 2.3 2.4) **The National Forest Industries Plan's National Resource Inventories** (in progress)
    - Development of a national resource inventory of private native forests, farm forests, and Indigenous forests to determine the potential for these to supply wood for the processing sectors. This process may shed light on potential areas for multiple land-use management, tree resource expansion, and environmental and social co-benefits.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **National Forest Industries Plan** (in progress)
    - The National Forest Industries Plan includes actions to encourage Indigenous communities to participate in commercial forestry, including identifying, improving and using existing forest resources on Indigenous owned and managed land.
- (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5) **Capacity-building through multi- and bi-lateral work** (in progress) (see 1(a))
    - Capacity-building projects are managed through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and such capacity-building is integral to all ACIAR forestry projects. For example:

        Activities in the Madang province of Papua New Guinea, focused on promoting participatory land use management planning by local communities and community-based organisations to better manage their environment and forest resources (DFAT).

        Supporting Indonesian land users and policy makers to address the drivers of forest and land fires through better land management practices (DFAT).

Australia is co-sponsoring a Chinese Government project to review progress against APEC's aspirational goal of 'increasing forest cover in the region by at least 20 million hectares of all

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(e) **If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.**

- Australia's voluntary national contribution outlines Australia's commitment towards:

  o increasing our productive forests

    Delivery of the 2018 National Forest Industries Plan, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth* supports the expansion of plantation forests and provides options for other forest products through additional investment in research and development. Delivery of this plan is on track, including implementation of AU$20 million associated funding.

  o ecologically sustainable forest management

    Reviewing and implementing long-term extensions to Regional Forest Agreements to ensure the sustainable management and conservation Australia's native forests.

Progress towards target 4.4

(e)   **Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?**

Yes   No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

2–5 years

5–10 years

10–20 years

More than 20 years

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets

promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1

○

Progress towards target 5.1

(c)   In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes   No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

National sustainable development plans and/or

Poverty reduction strategies

The Australian government is committed to actions to progress the Sustainable Development Goals, and considers sustainable forest management as an integral component in meeting these goals.

Progress towards target 5.2

(d)   Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes   No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation

Improved enforcement of existing legislation

Export controls

Import controls

Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

See 1(d) for information regarding Australia's illegal logging laws; 5(a) for information surrounding traceability program support; and 1(a) (ii) for information on Government engagement with multilateral platforms including ITTO, and Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership, which contributes to the prevention and reduction of illegal trade. Australia also implements the CITES framework and implements the Federal

- A range of state and regional level meetings occur regularly. For example, Australian Forest Products Association Board Meetings and National Timber Council Association's Local Government Forest and Timber Industry Conference[14].

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[14]   https://ausfpa.com.au/event/national-timber-councils-association-2018-local-government-forest-and-timber-industry-conference/

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c)   **Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?**

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If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources

8. **Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.**

Success Story 1
TIWI ISLANDS – SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY THROUGH SFM

The Tiwi Islands, located off Australia's Northern Territory, are home to the indigenous Tiwi people and are governed by the Tiwi Land Council. The Tiwi people have a culture, language, and history distinct from mainland Indigenous people, and have occupied the islands for between 8,000 to 12,000 years. As traditional custodians of the land, the Tiwi people actively manage the region's natural resources. These resources have been traditionally used for food, shelter, medicine, weapons, tools, and spiritual purposes, and forestry operations have been ongoing on the islands since the 19th century.

The vision of the Tiwi Land Council (TLC) includes an independent and resilient Tiwi society that is economically self-sufficient and does not rely on external welfare support. In 2003, the Tiwi Land Council produced the Tiwi Islands Regional Natural Resource Management Strategy. The Tiwi leaders decided to use up to 10% of their land to create an economy to provide jobs for future generations and ensure long-term protection of Tiwi natural resource and cultural values. From that strategy, Tiwi leaders established a number of commercial businesses and enterprises in order to create jobs and income for their people, including the Tiwi Plantations Corporation.

The Tiwi Plantations Corporation employs local Tiwi people and engages in ecological research to ensure the best environmental, social and economic outcomes for the plantations. Such work includes trialling different tree species (such as eucalyptus hybrids) and conducting ongoing soil and water studies.

In March 2014, Tiwi Plantations Corporation signed a sales and purchase agreement to supply woodchips and market quality *Acacia mangium* to overseas paper manufacturers. This action speaks to an ongoing commitment to the sustainability of the forestry operations, as new and emerging markets are identified and capitalised upon. Since October 2018, under the guidance of an independent forest management organisation, Tiwi Plantation Corporation is going from strength to strength. They have secured an increased price for woodchip sales and have scheduled nine shipments per year until 2023 securing the future of the community and its industry.

'It is not enough to hope that the land will look after itself. Using the land for jobs and our own economy requires us to manage the land properly. We must bring together our knowledge of the past with the new scientific information about the land. Why the soils behave like they do; how the water reserves work; the way the animals and plants work

References:
Tiwi Land Council, http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com//index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=128
[1] http://www.tiwilandcouncil.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=244&l=2&id=64&smid=135

Goals and targets addressed / achieved:
1.1 - plantation expansions
1.3 - promoting the implementation of sustainable forest management
2.1, 2.4 - increased social and economic resilience
3.3 - contribution of increased forest products from sustainable managed forests
4.5 - collection of forest-related information is improved
5.1 - natural resource management is identified as a means to reduce financial dependency/welfare, and increase social/economic resilience
5.4 - forest management fully integrated into land use planning and management for the islands

Success Story 2
MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COOPERATION – MRV AND THE SLEEK INITIATIVE

The System for Land-based Emissions Estimation in Kenya (SLEEK) is the result of a nearly decade long partnership between the Australian Government and the Government of Kenya. The program has utilised the expertise of many partners, including the Clinton Climate Initiative and the Mullion Group. SLEEK is a robust and credible system that allows for effective monitoring of forest area change within Kenya, as well as the measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions associated with these changes. These data are designed to assist Kenya to meet their emissions reduction commitments under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As a result of the development of SLEEK, there has been significant advancements in the data, process, tools and capacity available in Kenya. This supports land use planning and decision-making on forestry, agricultural and food security, and ultimately drives sustainable development in the country. SLEEK is