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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

Twenty-seventh Session

Rome, 22–26 July 2024

The FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2031

Executive summary

At its 26th Session in 2022, the Committee on Forestry (COFO) discussed and endorsed FAO's priority areas of work in forestry for 2022–2023 and beyond. It encouraged FAO to continue pursuing its reinvigorated business model, including by better interlinking technical and operational work, fostering partnerships, and strengthening responsiveness to Members' needs. At its 171st Session in 2022, the FAO Council requested that FAO continue to identify beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry. In response, FAO has developed the FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2031 to guide its work in 2024–2031. The FAO Forestry Roadmap has been developed through an open and transparent process involving wide-ranging consultations, including with FAO Members and partners. It presents FAO's vision and action on forestry in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- welcome and endorse the FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2031 (as presented in this document in Annex 1); and
- recommend FAO to implement the FAO Forestry Roadmap through the Programme Priority Areas under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, impactful partnerships, including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and relevant programmes and projects.

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I. Development of the Roadmap

1. At its 26th Session in 2022,¹ the Committee on Forestry (COFO) discussed FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31² and encouraged FAO to "continue to pursue its reinvigorated business model, including by better interlinking technical and operational work, fostering partnerships and strengthening responsiveness to Members' needs and delivery at country level". The FAO Council, at its 171st Session in 2022,³ endorsed the proposed priority areas of work in forestry and welcomed their strong alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. It also requested that FAO actively continue to identify the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry.

2. In response, FAO developed the FAO Forestry Roadmap: From Vision to Action 2024–2031 (the Roadmap) through an open and transparent process. Internal consultations were held with FAO Decentralized Offices and units within headquarters. Updates on the development process of the Roadmap were provided and inputs solicited at FAO Regional Groups' meetings, all six Regional Forestry Commissions, and COFO 27 Steering Committee meetings. The FAO Programme Committee, at its 137th Session, welcomed the information document⁴ on the development of the Roadmap, noted the importance and relevance of the role of forests and forestry in addressing the challenges of climate change, food insecurity, poverty and biodiversity loss, and took note of the process for its development. The FAO Council, at its 174th Session, noted the consideration of the FAO Programme Committee on this topic.⁵ An informal consultation to seek guidance from FAO Members was held in hybrid modality on 26 January 2024, at which Members were invited to provide written comments. FAO has also consulted with partners, including member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The latest version of the Roadmap has incorporated comments provided by Members and partners (see Annex 1).

II. The way forward

3. The Roadmap is designed to operationalize FAO's reinvigorated, fit-for-purpose business model in forestry to ensure an inclusive and agile organization that is transparent, open, innovative, responsible, effective and impactful – and that serves its Members in achieving the *four betters*. Operationalization will follow the standard procedures through the Medium Term Plans and Programmes of Work and Budget. FAO's seven core functions⁶ will guide the means of action to achieve results. Work will also draw on and contribute to FAO's thematic strategies and initiatives. Operational planning and implementation will be guided by FAO Governing Bodies and supported by other relevant United Nations (UN) and non-UN bodies.

4. The Roadmap presents FAO's vision and action in forestry in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. It is included in this document as an annex (see Annex 1) for the Committee's consideration and endorsement.

¹ FAO Committee on Forestry. Twenty-sixth Session. Rome, 3–7 October 2022. COFO/2022/REP: <https://www.fao.org/3/nk728en/nk728en.pdf>.

² FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, C 2021/7: <https://www.fao.org/3/ne577en/ne577en.pdf>.

³ Report of the Council of FAO. Hundred and Seventy-first Session 5–9 December 2022. CL 171/REP: <https://www.fao.org/3/nl148en/nl148en.pdf>.

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/3/nn075en/nn075en.pdf>.

⁵ Report of the Council of FAO. Hundred and Seventy-fourth Session 4–8 December 2023. CL 174/REP: <https://www.fao.org/3/no069en/no069en.pdf>.

⁶ FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, page 13 paragraph 43.

The FAO Forestry Roadmap

From vision to action 2024–2031

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
Nations (FAO)

June 2024



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

The FAO Forestry Roadmap

**From Vision to Action
2024–2031**

Introduction

FAO recognizes that forests and trees¹ play irreplaceable roles in responses to climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, disasters, hunger, poverty, malnutrition and other global challenges. Through FAO Governing Bodies such as the Committee on Forestry,² FAO Members have requested scaled-up efforts in forestry and close collaboration and cooperation at all levels. They have invited FAO to further strategize its work to maximize the contributions of forests and trees to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other globally agreed goals and targets and to support the transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

Accordingly, FAO developed this roadmap for its work on all types of forests, in line with FAO's Vision and three Global Goals,³ to support Members, upon request, in their efforts to scale up actions to implement good practices in a no-one-size-fits-all approach. The roadmap sets out forest-related contributions to the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and the four betters (better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life), leaving no one behind, as well as to the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and its six Global Forest Goals. The roadmap also encompasses FAO's forest-related contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement;⁴ the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and the UN Convention to Combat



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- ¹ In general, the terms “forestry”, “forests” and “forests and trees” in this document pertain to “forests”, “other wooded land” and “other land with tree cover” (as per definitions in FAO, 2023), thus encompassing trees outside forests, among others. FAO. 2023. *Terms and definitions*. FRA 2025. Forest Resources and Assessment Working Paper No. 192. Rome.
- ² For example, the 26th Session of the Committee on Forestry identified the following priority areas of FAO's work in forestry: halting deforestation and enhancing resilience; mainstreaming biodiversity and restoring forest ecosystems; enhancing sustainable production, use and livelihoods; and data, statistics, and analytics.
- ³ The FAO Vision is “a world free from hunger and malnutrition where food and agriculture contribute to improving the living standards of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner”. FAO's three Global Goals are: (1) eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, progressively ensuring a world in which people at all times have sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life; (2) elimination of poverty and the driving forward of economic and social progress for all, with increased food production, enhanced rural development and sustainable livelihoods; and (3) sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, including land, water, air, climate and genetic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.
- ⁴ For example, in draft decision -/CMA.5, “Outcome of the first global stocktake”, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change president proposed emphasizing the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

Desertification and its Land Degradation Neutrality targets.⁵ It also aligns with global wetland initiatives; the Bonn Challenge; the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030; the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use;⁶ and other commitments and initiatives.

Forests and trees as a solution to global challenges

Global forest area and functions

Covering 4.06 billion hectares,⁷ or more than one-third of the Earth's land surface, forests play fundamental roles in food security and nutrition and the provision of renewable biomaterials, energy and many other services. They are essential for biodiversity and functioning ecosystems, help regulate carbon and hydrologic cycles, and can reduce the risks and impacts of drought, desertification, soil erosion, landslides and floods. Forests and trees, including those located in agricultural and urban areas, are relevant to and closely interlink with the One Health approach and have positive impacts on human physical and mental health. Forest degradation, in contrast, is a major landscape-level contributor to disease emergence, and deforestation and forest degradation are drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss.⁸

Agrifood systems

Forests and trees are vital for sustaining and transforming agrifood systems and integral to water security.⁹ The removal of forest cover increases local temperatures and disrupts weather patterns in ways that compound the local effects of global climate change, with potentially severe consequences for agricultural productivity.¹⁰ Forests harbour most of the world's terrestrial biodiversity: in addition to having intrinsic value, this biodiversity is essential for the resilience of agroecological systems in the face of shocks and stresses, including those caused by climate change, and for efforts to increase food production.¹¹ Wild-harvested forest foods are important for the food security and nutrition of many forest-adjacent communities, especially in remote areas and when agricultural production falls, such as during drought. Agroforestry and other diversified production systems tend to be more resilient than monocultures to environmental shocks and can increase food security and nutrition as well as crop productivity.¹²

Almost all people on Earth use wood products, for example in buildings, furniture and paper products. It is estimated that 2.6 billion people generate energy from wood, and almost 6 billion people use non-timber forest products.¹³ The latter includes a vast range of products, such as foods, medicines and other biomaterials and biochemicals.

⁵ In the context of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and SDG 15.

⁶ For example, shared effort 1 in the Glasgow Declaration is to "Conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration".

⁷ Other wooded lands and other land with tree cover are not included in this estimate, which is from: FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report*. Rome.

⁸ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome.

⁹ FAO, IUFRO & USDA. 2021. *A guide to forest-water management*. FAO Forestry Paper No. 185. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6473en>

¹⁰ Seymour, F., Wolosin, M. & Gray, E. 2022. Not just carbon: capturing all the benefits of forests for stabilizing the climate from local to global scales. *World Resources Institute*. <https://doi.org/10.46830/wripr.19.00004>

¹¹ FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. Rome.

¹² FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome.

¹³ FAO. 2024 in press. *The State of the World's Forests 2024*. Rome.

Climate and biodiversity

Forests contain an estimated 662 billion tonnes of carbon worldwide in soils and vegetation.¹⁴ Conservation and sustainable management of forests can maintain and increase this carbon stock, including in sustainably produced wood products, thereby helping mitigate climate change. Halting deforestation and increasing forest cover offer cost-effective means for cutting emissions by an estimated 5 GtCO₂^{eq} per year.¹⁵ Forests do more for the climate than store and sequester carbon. The cooling benefits provided by forests through evapotranspiration and other biophysical processes¹⁶ are complemented by their ability to regulate rainfall and stabilize local climate, thus helping minimize extreme weather and making forests essential for climate-change adaptation and resilience.¹⁷ Resilient forests are more multifunctional, more productive and deliver more ecosystem services and are therefore key for climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

A large share of the world's forests is vulnerable to climate-change-driven risks. Faced with this unprecedented challenge, climate risk assessment and management must become an essential element of forest planning and management, and urgent steps are needed to strengthen forest disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Deforestation poses a serious threat to biodiversity because it leads to a disproportionate loss of species' distributions, increasing the risk of extinctions.¹⁸ Conservation and sustainable management of forests are crucial, therefore, for maintaining and enhancing terrestrial biodiversity. There are important synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate-change adaptation and mitigation, which can be promoted and strengthened through sustainable forest management.

Global, regional and national efforts to halt deforestation and maintain forests have produced innovations for enhancing sustainable forest management, such as major advances in



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¹⁴ FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report*. Rome.

¹⁵ Nabuurs, G.-J., Mrabet, R., Abu Hatab, A., Bustamante, M., Clark, H., Havlík, P., House, J., Mbow, C., Ninan, K.N., Popp, A., Roe, S., Sohngen, B. & Towprayoon, S. 2022. Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU). In IPCC, 2022, *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of climate change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz & J. Malley, (eds.)]. Cambridge, UK and New York, USA, Cambridge University Press. Doi: 10.1017/9781009157926.009

¹⁶ Lawrence, D., Coe, M., Walker, W., Verchot, L. & Vandecar, K. 2022. The unseen effects of deforestation: biophysical effects on climate. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, 5: 756115. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2022.756115>

¹⁷ Libert-Amico, A., Duchelle, A.E., Cobb, A., Peccoud, V. & Djoudi, H. 2022. *Forest-based adaptation: transformational adaptation through forests and trees*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2886en>

¹⁸ Hill, S.L.L., Arnell, A., Maney, C., Butchart, S.H.M., Hilton-Taylor, C., Ciciarelli, C., Davis, C. et al. 2019. Measuring forest biodiversity status and changes globally. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, 2: 70. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2019.00070>



forest monitoring that are helping clarify carbon governance and tenure, and in some cases enabling greater access to climate finance. Experience has shown the importance of recognizing and building on existing good practices and innovations and avoiding one-size-fits-all approaches to addressing deforestation, which can impede the implementation of countries' environmental policies and programmes.

There is strong interest in agroforestry to promote climate-change mitigation and adaptation benefits, with agroforestry mentioned in the national climate policies and plans of many countries.¹⁹ In light of escalating climate-change challenges, the use of space data and services is becoming increasingly important for effective forest monitoring and climate-change mitigation strategies, underscoring their crucial role in safeguarding the planet's ecosystems. Strategic partnerships in forest monitoring and management are required to pave the way for good practices and innovations.

Forest and landscape restoration

Of the more than 2 billion ha of land estimated to be degraded worldwide, 1.5 billion ha may be best suited to mosaic restoration²⁰ combining trees with agriculture, which would enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services.²¹ A further 1 billion ha of croplands could benefit from adding trees to increase productivity and the provision of ecosystem services.²² Restoration with trees can therefore increase landscape productivity, enhance biodiversity and conservation outcomes, produce green, low-carbon products, and generate jobs, especially in rural and peri-urban areas as a response to rural out-migration.

Forest value chains and the bioeconomy

Multifunctional forests and trees, including associated products and services, can contribute to a sustainable bioeconomy,²³ help substitute the use of non-renewable resources, which today account for 75 percent of total material demand,²⁴ and provide a wide range of ecosystem services. Creating forest-based value-added products and services and developing innovative value chains will enhance the contributions of forests to a sustainable bioeconomy, and reducing waste and promoting re-use will help meet future demand for renewable materials. The substitution of carbon-intensive materials with wood, especially long-lived wood products, will assist climate-change mitigation efforts and underpin carbon-neutral economies. This will generate decent employment and livelihoods for millions of people, particularly in rural areas.

¹⁹ Crumpler, K., Abi Khalil, R., Tanganelli, E., Rai, N., Roffredi, L., Meybeck, A., Umulisa, V., Wolf, J. & Bernoux, M. 2021. 2021 (Interim) *Global Update Report: Agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the nationally determined contributions*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7442en>

²⁰ FAO. 2020. Position paper on "ecosystem restoration" of production ecosystems, in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. COFO/2020/Inf.7. 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry. Rome.

²¹ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome.

²² FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome.

²³ The term "bioeconomy" has no multilaterally agreed definition and may comprise multiple approaches, sectors and economic activities according to national contexts, priorities and capacities.

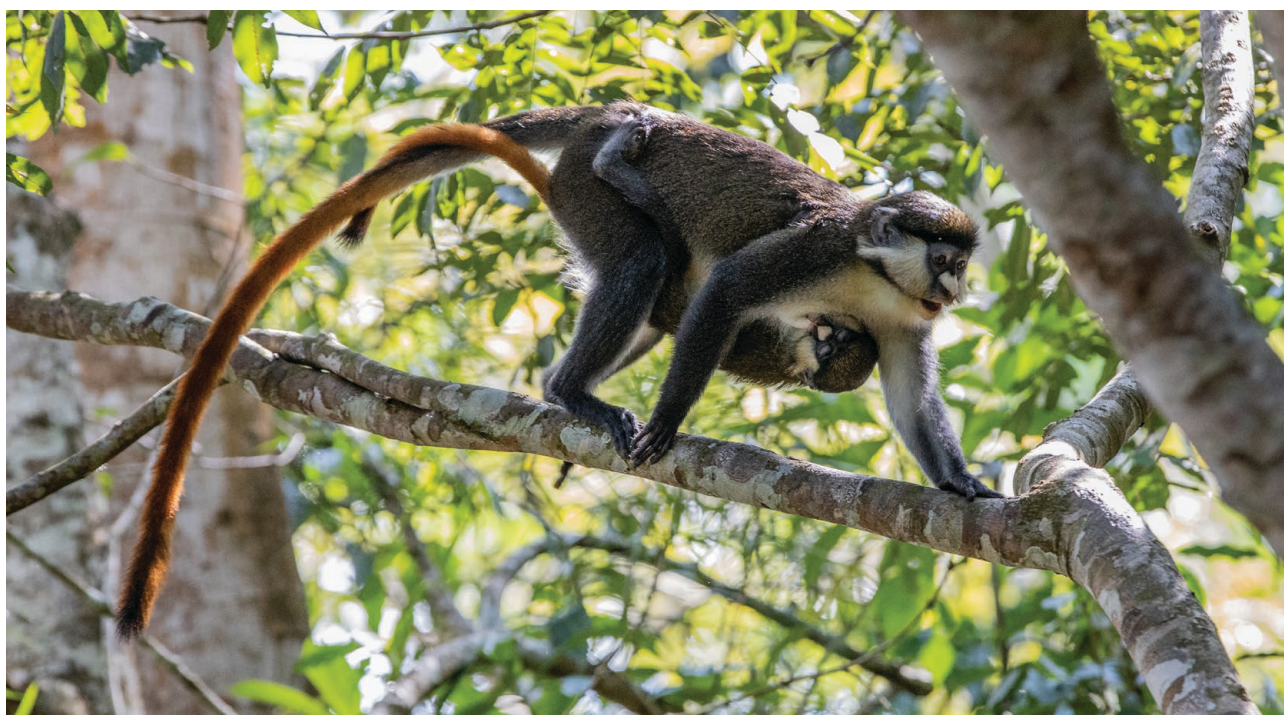
²⁴ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome.

Pressures on forests

An estimated 420 million ha of forest were lost to deforestation between 1990 and 2020,²⁵ with the annual rate slowing from 16 million ha in the 1990–2000 to 10 million ha in 2015–2020.²⁶ Land-use change continues to be a main driver of deforestation and forest degradation and the associated loss of forest biodiversity.²⁷ On average, at least 35 million ha of forest are affected by pests (including diseases) each year and about 70 million ha are affected by wildfires.²⁸ The severity of pest attacks and wildfires is likely to increase under climate change. Moreover, it is clear that, in some places, conflicts continue to hamper efforts to address deforestation and forest degradation. Although some countries are making progress towards Global Forest Goal 1 to increase forest area by 3 percent by 2030, globally this goal will not be achieved unless urgent and strategic actions are taken to address both anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic major drivers of continuous forest loss and to restore degraded forest ecosystems.

Forest pathways

FAO has built on SDG 15 and other SDGs to work²⁹ on three interrelated forest “pathways” as means by which forest-based solutions can be applied to global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, desertification, disasters, hunger, poverty and malnutrition. These are: (1) halting deforestation and maintaining forests (“conservation”); (2) restoring degraded lands and expanding agroforestry (“restoration”); and (3) sustainably using forests and building green value chains (“sustainable use”).



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²⁵ Forest loss and degradation have contributed significantly to the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and therefore to climate change.

²⁶ FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report*. Rome.

²⁷ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome.

²⁸ FAO. 2020. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report*. Rome.

²⁹ FAO. 2022. *The State of the World's Forests 2022*. Rome; FAO. 2022. FAO's work in forestry under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31. COFO/2022/7.1. Rome.

FAO's work on forestry in the context of the FAO Strategic Framework and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests

As the UN specialized agency in food and agriculture, including forestry, and with its comprehensive mandate to work globally – with both normative and field-level interventions – on food security and nutrition, poverty elimination and sustainable management and utilization of natural resources, FAO is well-placed to support Members to achieve forest-related goals. It has broad experience in partnerships with governments, donors, civil society, academia, community-based organizations, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth worldwide. It also has expertise and experience in major land-use sectors and places equal emphasis on conservation and sustainable production in landscapes. FAO implements thousands of field projects, including in forestry and on the agriculture–forestry nexus and has strong entry points and relationships with Members, including through its extensive network of units in headquarters and Regional, Subregional and Country Offices.

FAO's work on forestry, and thus this roadmap, is guided in general by the “five Ps” – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership – set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrated into the following seven principles. FAO's work on forestry must (1) be Member-driven, (2) adopt an integrated agrifood systems approach, (3) be strategically focused, (4) be data- and evidence-based, (5) be inclusive and participatory, (6) be innovative and impactful, and (7) provide countries with tailored support.

The theory of change underpinning FAO's work on forestry, presented visually in the figure below (next page), derives from and serves the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 and the UNSPF within the overarching framework of the SDGs, especially SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 10 (no inequality), 13 (climate action), 15 (life on land) and SDG 17 (partnerships).

Theory of change for FAO's work on forestry in 2024–2031



FAO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

UN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS



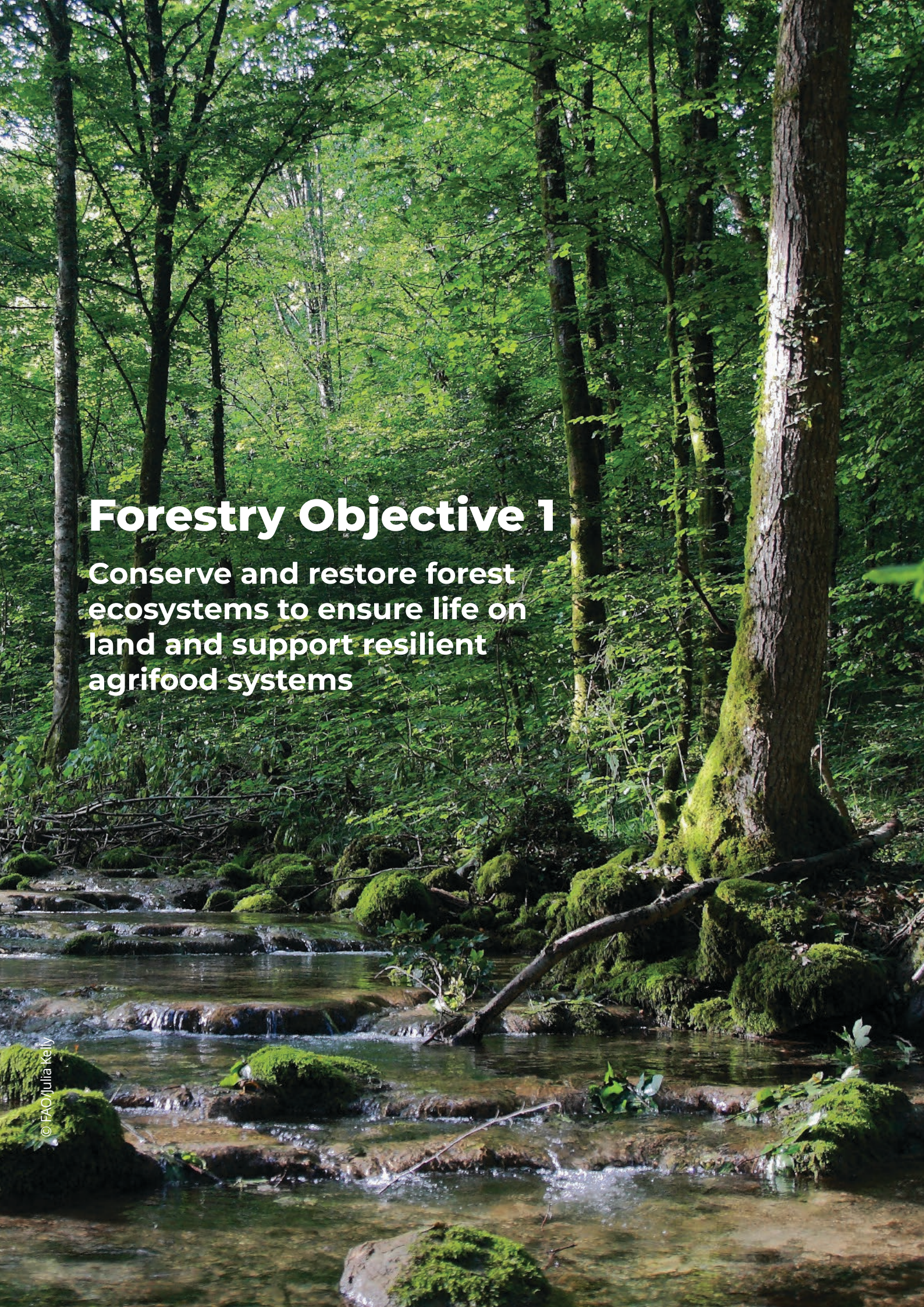
FAO FOUR BETTERS AND PRIORITY PROGRAMME AREAS

FAO VISION FOR FORESTRY	A world in which forests fulfil their vital roles in ensuring efficient, inclusive and resilient forest ecosystems to support agrifood systems, prosperous societies and a healthy planet		
FORESTRY OBJECTIVES	1 CONSERVE AND RESTORE FOREST ECOSYSTEMS	2 ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION	3 SCALE UP SCIENCE-BASED INNOVATION
PRIORITY ACTIONS	6 priority actions	5 priority actions	5 priority actions
CHALLENGE DIAGNOSIS	Forests, themselves under threat, offer pathways for addressing global crises through their conservation, restoration and sustainable management and use		

Forestry Objectives and priority actions

The three Forestry Objectives stated below have been developed to highlight FAO's dual emphasis on the protective and productive functions of forests as well as the role of innovation as a driver for scaling up forest solutions. The Forestry Objectives embody existing global forest-related goals and targets, encompass the three forest pathways enumerated above, and build on FAO's comparative advantages. For each Forestry Objective, corresponding priority actions are identified for FAO to accelerate progress in achieving the objective and therefore the globally agreed goals and targets. Each priority action will contribute to one or more Programme Priority Area (PPA),³⁰ as established in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31. The annex indicates the relationship between the Forestry Objectives, the PPAs, and targets associated with the SDGs, the Global Forest Goals and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It also shows the alignment between the Forestry Objectives and indicators of the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators, as developed within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

³⁰ Explanations of the PPAs are available in: FAO. 2022. *The Director-General's Medium Term Plan (Reviewed) 2022–25 and Programme of Work and Budget 2024–25*. Rome.

A photograph of a dense forest with a small stream flowing over mossy rocks. The water is clear and the rocks are covered in bright green moss. The trees are tall and thin, with green leaves. The scene is peaceful and natural.

Forestry Objective 1

Conserve and restore forest ecosystems to ensure life on land and support resilient agrifood systems

RATIONALE

This objective focuses on maintaining and restoring forests and improving their quality as an essential resource base for sustainable agrifood systems, livelihoods, bioeconomy and life on land. It will be achieved by supporting countries in their efforts to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation and enhance the role of forests in landscape restoration, agrifood systems transformation, clean and sustainable water supply, biodiversity conservation, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and implementing One Health.

Priority actions

1. Provide policy, legislative, technical and resource mobilization support for **halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030** associated with unsustainable land-use practices, land-use change and biotic and abiotic disturbances to provide a solid basis for life on land and sustainable agrifood systems, leaving no one behind. PPAs: BP3, BE1, BL3
2. Provide an enabling environment for **accelerating forest and landscape restoration** to enhance biodiversity conservation outcomes and ecosystem functions and services (including preventing and combating desertification, soil erosion and land degradation) and contribute to the transformation of agrifood systems. PPA: BE3
3. **Support the role of forests and sustainable forest management in climate-change mitigation and adaptation actions** at all levels towards climate-resilient agrifood systems as a basis for sustainable livelihoods, in line with the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031, through initiatives to conserve and restore forest carbon sinks, promote other climate benefits of forests and forest-based products for mitigation and adaptation, develop relevant methodologies and standards, and enhance national capacities in related measurement, reporting and verification. PPA: BE1
4. Support countries to **mainstream biodiversity in forestry**, in line with the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, with a view to restoring, maintaining and enhancing forest biodiversity in agrifood systems, including inland and coastal fisheries, and conserving and restoring forests and related fragile ecosystems, such as those in dryland, mountain, wetland and coastal areas. PPAs: BP2, BP4, BE3, BN1
5. Support the implementation of appropriate governance frameworks for the integrated management of forest risks and disturbances such as wildfire, pests and illegal activities and the inclusion of forests in **national and local disaster-risk-reduction and One Health policies and strategies**. PPAs: BP3, BE3, BL3
6. Promote **implementation of the FAO Green Cities Initiative** to establish urban–rural linkages, reduce the impacts of climate change, optimize the provision of goods and services provided by urban and peri-urban forests and trees and other green spaces, and improve the well-being and livelihoods of people living in urban and peri-urban areas. PPA: BE4

Forestry Objective 2

Enhance sustainable production and build sustainable and resilient livelihoods, value chains and bioeconomy

RATIONALE

This objective focuses on increasing and diversifying sustainable agrifood production and supply from forests, including by enhancing the productivity and planting of forests and trees in agrifood systems. It will support countries to increase sustainable forest-based and agricultural value-added production based on local resources, create inclusive, decent, forest-related green employment and livelihoods, and develop a sustainable bioeconomy, while also providing solutions for substituting fossil resources.

Priority actions

7. Support countries to **enhance the productivity and sustainable production of forestry and agroforestry systems** and create value-adding and income-generation opportunities, including for small-scale producers and Indigenous Peoples. PPAs: BP1, BP4, BN1, BE1, BE2, BL1, BL2
8. Provide policy, legislative, technical and resource mobilization support to create an **enabling environment for small-scale producers, family farmers and local communities**, as well as their access to resources, information and finance, to empower them and enhance their capacities to scale up sustainable agrifood systems transformation, leaving no one behind. PPA: BP4
9. Support countries in efforts to strengthen **equitable access** by local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and vulnerable and marginalized groups to **secure ownership and user rights, promote gender-responsive actions, strengthen social protection**, and promote the fair and equitable **sharing of benefits** derived from the use of forests. PPAs: BP4, BE1, BE2, BL1
10. Support countries to increase the **production of sustainably sourced, diverse and healthy foods** – including wildlife, nuts, mushrooms and berries – from forests and trees to enhance food security and nutrition, particularly for vulnerable and marginalized groups. PPAs: BP1, BN1, BN2, BE4
11. Promote a **sustainable bioeconomy** by further enhancing the efficient and sustainable use, supply and value-adding of legal and sustainable forest products and related value chains as well as ecosystem services while avoiding deforestation and forest degradation, safeguarding primary forests and the rights of local communities, Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable and marginalized groups, encouraging inclusive investment, markets and trade, preventing unjustified trade restrictions and distortions, eliminating and not creating unnecessary and unjustified barriers to trade, ensuring fibre security, and promoting green employment and long-lived products. PPAs: BE2, BL6

A photograph of an indigenous man in a forest, wearing a headdress with colorful feathers and face paint. He is holding a tablet computer. The background is a lush green forest. The text 'Forestry Objective 3' is overlaid on the image.

Forestry Objective 3

Scale up science- and evidence-based innovation to increase the forest sector's contributions to global solutions and accelerate sustainable agrifood systems transformation

RATIONALE

Drawing on the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy, as well as on science and the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers, this cross-cutting objective will promote scalable technological, policy, institutional, social and financial innovations that boost forest-related conservation, restoration and sustainable use and thereby contribute to livelihoods and food security, including those of vulnerable and marginalized groups.³¹

Priority actions

1. Advance **technological innovation and digital public goods** to improve forest-related standards, data and statistical systems, including their transparency, and ensure equitable and inclusive access to data and information on the biophysical, socioeconomic and environmental aspects of forests, including through inclusive capacity development and by ensuring equal access to training, tools, technologies and materials, enabling evidence-based analysis and decision-making.
2. Support the **responsible and inclusive scaling up of forest-sector innovations** and enable the development of demand-driven policy guidance and practical tools.
3. Support countries to drive innovations through **transformative partnerships**, including enhanced North–South, South–South and triangular collaboration, involving forest research and knowledge institutions, the private sector, and Indigenous Peoples and other holders of traditional knowledge, as well as the increased use of knowledge-exchange mechanisms that are accessible to all.
4. Support countries to **strengthen forestry education, training and capacity development** on value-adding innovations and technologies, leaving no one behind, including through forest and farmer field schools.
5. **Develop and scale up innovative finance solutions**, including those associated with forest-related carbon markets, payments for ecosystem services and climate finance, and support countries to obtain access to these on equal terms to enable sustainable production, promote value-added products and improve livelihoods, particularly for small-scale forest and farm producers, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, older people, and vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Accelerators and cross-cutting themes

The FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 defines four accelerators: technology, innovation, data and complements (governance, human capital, and institutions). FAO has also identified the cross-cutting themes of gender, youth and inclusion to be of critical importance to the 2030 Agenda. These accelerators and cross-cutting themes will be built into all FAO forestry programmes and activities.

³¹ Through its cross-cutting measures, Forestry Objective 3 will contribute to all PPAs indicated for Forestry Objectives 1 and 2.

Implementing the Forestry Roadmap

The three Forestry Objectives identified in this roadmap will be operationalized through standard procedures and the Medium-Term Plans and Programmes of Work and Budget. FAO's seven core functions³² will guide the means of action to achieve results. Work will also draw on and contribute to FAO's thematic strategies and initiatives.³³

Operational planning and implementation will be guided by FAO Governing Bodies and supported by other UN and non-UN bodies involved in implementation of the UNSPF, particularly the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and its members, and by the decisions of FAO Members on the implementation of the Rio Conventions and others. Roadmap implementation will consider country-, regional- and global-level arrangements, following FAO's governance structure, and the need to support Members in materializing synergies among the forest-related goals of the Rio Conventions.

At the **country level**, implementation will be pursued through an enhanced emphasis on the systematic integration of forests and the three Forestry Objectives in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and FAO's Country Programming Framework. Implementation at the **regional level** will continue to be guided by the Regional Forestry Commissions and Regional Conferences, including through the enhanced integration of forest contributions to agrifood systems transformation in the context of regional initiatives.



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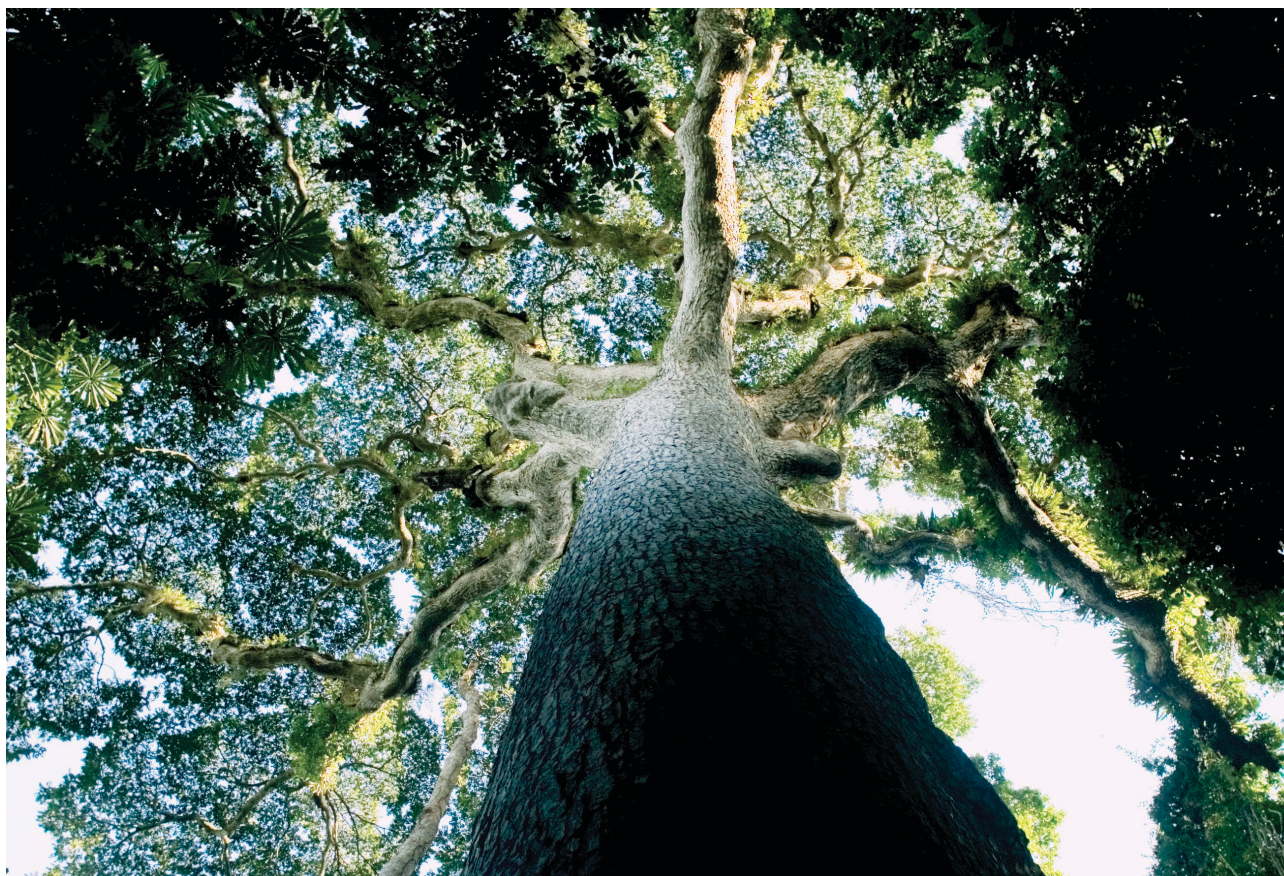
³² FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31, page 13 paragraph 43.

³³ E.g. Science and Innovation Strategy; Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031; Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition; FAO Strategy for Private Sector Engagement 2021–2025; FAO Strategy for Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations; FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Agricultural Sectors; Hand-in-Hand Initiative; COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme; The Global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products: One Country One Priority Product; 1000 Digital Villages Initiative; Green Cities Initiative; and Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

Implementation at the **global level** will focus on FAO's role in supporting forestry aspects of the SDGs and the UNSPF and on assisting Members, including in the context of Rio Convention negotiations and implementation, as well as other global agreements with significant forestry dimensions. A two-way approach based on inclusive multistakeholder participation, with a special focus on gender equality, will be followed to ensure that good practices on the ground are turned into components of global forestry policies and that, in turn, such policies are translated into impactful, gender-responsive, ground-level actions.

FAO will seek further integration of forest-related contributions in monitoring and reporting frameworks to better reflect the contributions of forests and trees to food, people, planet and climate aspects of the SDGs and agrifood systems transformation and remain agile and adaptive to needs. Periodic reviews and adjustments are foreseen, in line with FAO planning cycles, to integrate lessons learned in implementing the roadmap.

Monitoring and reporting of the priority actions outlined in this roadmap will follow standard corporate processes and procedures, including through the Mid Term Review and the Programme Implementation Report. Work will be undertaken to more closely integrate forestry in the FAO monitoring and reporting system and to better involve stakeholders in the monitoring and evaluation of the roadmap.



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Annex

Alignment of the Forestry Objectives with FAO Programme Priority Areas, targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, Global Forest Goals and Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and indicators in the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators

Forestry Objective	Relevant FAO Programme Priority Areas	Relevant targets of the Sustainable Development Goals	Relevant targets of the Global Forest Goals	Relevant targets of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework	Relevant indicators in the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators
1 Conserve and restore forest ecosystems to ensure life on land and support resilient agrifood systems	BP2, BP3, BP4, BN1, BE1, BE3, BE4, BL3	1.1, 1.4, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 3.d, 10.2, 11.7, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.8, 15.9, 15.b	1.2, 1.3, 2.3, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2, 6.3, 6.4	1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16,
2 Enhance sustainable production and build sustainable and resilient livelihoods, value chains and bioeconomy	BP1, BP4, BN1, BN2, BE1, BE2, BE4, BL1, BL2, BL6	1.1, 1.3, 1.b, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.a, 3.1, 5.1, 5.5, 6.4, 8.3, 8.5, 9.3, 10.1, 10.2, 10.b, 12.5, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.6	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2	1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 21, 22, 23	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21
3 Scale up science- and evidence-based innovation to increase the forest sector's contributions to global solutions and accelerate sustainable agrifood systems transformation	This objective is crosscutting, and all the above therefore apply				

