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### SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

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Item 11 of the provisional agenda\*

### COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

*Addendum*

### COLLABORATION WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON FORESTS

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. In decision [XIII/7](#), paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), including the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), as well as other relevant organizations and initiatives, to fully respond to the requests of the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 21 of decision XII/6, to support the implementation of the present decision, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice or the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as appropriate, at a meeting prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

2. In paragraph 21 of decision [XII/6](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a study on the ways in which international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests are assisting in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of relevance to forests, and to report back to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, including on options for further action to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in a mutually supportive manner. In this context, the Conference of the Parties acknowledged the review of the international arrangement on forests which was discussed at the eleventh session of UNFF, in May 2015, and invited other members of the CPF to contribute to the study. The Conference of the Parties also emphasized the actions outlined in decision [X/36](#) which relate to cooperation with various forest-related bodies.

3. Furthermore, in decision XIII/7, paragraph 5, the Conference of the Parties also invited the members of CPF, in preparing the 2017-2030 work plan of the Partnership, to consider ways and means of further enhancing their individual and collective contributions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and support a coordinated approach to the achievement of the forest-related multilateral commitments and goals.

4. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the other members of CPF, prepared the present document, drawing on input gathered from member organizations of CPF<sup>1</sup> through a survey, primarily

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\* [CBD/SBI/2/1](#).

<sup>1</sup> The survey was answered by nine members of CPF: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Secretariat of the UN Forum of Forest (UNFF), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the United Nations

addressing congruence among the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other forest-related multilateral commitments, and options for further action to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in a mutually supportive manner. Details concerning the findings from the survey can be found in UNEP/CBD/SBI/2/INF/28. Other sources of information, including online reviews, were also used to complement the note.

5. The present document and the findings of the survey presented in CBD/SBI/2/INF/28 provide complementary information to that presented in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8, itself an analysis of information presented in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/3 on the contributions of CPF member organizations to the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity.<sup>2</sup> In UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/3, a number of tables were provided to summarize on which Aichi Biodiversity Targets the other CPF member organizations have corresponding work. The analysis showed that all member organizations conduct work that directly relates to reducing habitat loss and degradation (Target 5) and to safeguarding ecosystems and essential services (Target 14). Further, almost all organizations work towards increasing awareness (Target 1) and restoring and enhancing the resilience of ecosystems (Target 15).<sup>3</sup>

6. Rather than proposing a new review of how the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are taken into account by CPF members, the analysis of options for further action to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is framed around the same elements identified in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8 as areas of congruence between the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other forest-related multilateral commitments.

7. These areas of congruence are: the reduction of the loss, degradation and fragmentation of natural forests, including through REDD+ (of relevance for forest elements of Aichi Target 5), sustainable forest management (of relevance for Target 7); forest conservation, including under protected areas and other area-based conservation measures (of relevance for Target 11); benefits from forests (Target 14); forest restoration (of relevance for Target 15); elements of forest biodiversity and traditional and indigenous knowledge in the design of forest policy (of relevance for Target 18) and supporting enabling commitments (of relevance for Aichi Targets 1-4, 16, 17, 19, 20) (see table on p. 7).

8. Section II provides background information on CPF and reviews forest-related multilateral commitments before analysing their congruence with forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Section III provides options for further action to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in a mutually supportive manner, under two of these areas of congruence (reducing deforestation and forest degradation – subsection B – and forest restoration – subsection C) which relate to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15, respectively, and are areas of focus in advancing the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity. Under these areas of congruence, it seeks to identify where further action may be needed to ensure further alignment, including through support by joint initiatives under CPF. This analysis is particularly important with regard to the degree of congruence between the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030,<sup>4</sup> which provides a reference to achieve its global forest goals and targets. Section IV summarizes points for further consideration.

9. Document CBD/SBI/2/INF/28 presents further information on joint initiatives of CPF that support the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the other areas of congruence mentioned in paragraph 7. It also lists examples of individual support from CPF members to the achievement of forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets under these areas of congruence.

## I. BACKGROUND

### A. Collaborative Partnership on Forests

10. CPF is a voluntary partnership on forests established in April 2001 pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2000/35](#), in which the Council established the International Arrangement on

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Environment Programme (UNEP). Comments were also received by the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

<sup>2</sup> See decision [VI/22](#) of the Conference of the Parties.

<sup>3</sup> From UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8, table 2, page 10.

<sup>4</sup> See [E/2017/10](#). The strategic plan was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [71/285](#) of 27 April 2017.

Forests and UNFF. In 2015, the Council gave further guidance to CPF through its resolution 2015/33, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the principles and defining the core functions of CPF as a component of the International Arrangement on Forests. The core functions of CPF as defined by resolution 2015/33, paragraph 20, are: to support the work of UNFF and its member countries; to provide scientific and technical advice to UNFF, including on emerging issues; to enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates; and to promote the implementation of the United Nations Forest Instrument, including the achievement of its global objectives on forests, and the contribution of forests to the post-2015 development agenda.

11. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution [2015/33](#), paragraph 22, CPF and its member organizations were encouraged to: (a) strengthen the Partnership by formalizing its working modalities, including through consideration of a multilateral memorandum of understanding, and by developing procedures for its effective functioning and operation; (b) identify ways to stimulate broader participation by existing member organizations in its various activities; (c) assess its membership and the potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise; (d) identify ways to actively involve major groups and other stakeholders in activities of the Partnership; (e) develop a workplan, aligned with the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, to identify priorities for collective actions by all of the members of the Partnership or subsets of members and the resource implications of such actions; (f) prepare periodic reports on the Partnership's activities, achievements and resource allocations suitable for a wide range of audiences, including potential donors; and (g) further develop and expand its thematic joint initiatives, taking into account the strengths and focuses of the members of the Partnership.

12. By resolution [2017/4](#), the Economic and Social Council approved the strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and the quadrennial programme of work of UNFF for 2017-2020, invited CPF to support the Forum and its members in advancing the global forest goals and targets, including through cooperation and partnership among its members. It also invited CPF to implement a joint workplan aligned to the Forum's quadrennial programmes of work and to identify collective actions by all subsets of the partnership's members, as well as associated resources needs.<sup>5</sup> The Partnership is currently comprised of 15 international organizations, institutions and secretariats that have substantial programmes on forests.<sup>6</sup>

13. Since 2015, CPF has met on several occasions and published periodic progress reports on its website.<sup>7</sup> In March 2017, CPF formalized its working modalities through the adoption of a Policy document.<sup>8</sup> With regard to the active involvement of major groups and other stakeholders the Partnership has held consultations with representatives of various major groups, involving many new stakeholders, in particular with regard to the International Conference entitled "Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action", held in Rome in February 2018. CPF is also in the process of developing a potential CPF Forum to facilitate further interactions with major groups. A work plan for the Partnership for the period 2017-2020 was presented at the 13<sup>th</sup> session of UNFF, in May 2018. Several joint initiatives between CPF members are ongoing or planned, with a number of such initiatives supporting the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Joint initiatives are described in the sections below, with further details presented in CBD/SBI/2/INF/28.

## **B. Internationally agreed forest-related targets and objectives**

14. Since the issuance of UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8, the landscape of forest-related international commitments has advanced, in particular at the global level with the adoption of the United Nations

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<sup>5</sup> Resolution 2017/4, annex I, para. 39.

<sup>6</sup> The latest member to join CPF, as of April 2018, is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

<sup>7</sup> The full list of CPF meetings and, meeting reports and periodic progress reports can be consulted at <http://www.cpfweb.org/74837/en/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.cpfweb.org/47318-05366ac58ffc533300f705a3ef2533810.pdf>

strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, the Paris Agreement<sup>9</sup> under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>10</sup>

*1. United Nations strategic plan for forests - 2017-2030*

15. An agreement on the first-ever United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 was forged at a special session of UNFF held in January 2017. The strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 was adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 20 April 2017, together with a quadrennial programme of work for UNFF for the period 2017-2020.<sup>11</sup> These were subsequently adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/285 of 27 April 2017.

16. The strategic plan provides a global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. At the heart of the strategic plan are six global forest goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030, which are voluntary and universal (see box below).

**Box. Text of the Global Forest Goals**

*Global Forest Goal 1:* 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.

*Global Forest Goal 2:* Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.

*Global Forest Goal 3:* Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.

*Global Forest Goal 4:* Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.

*Global Forest Goal 5:* 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.

*Global Forest Goal 6:* Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.

17. In accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4 concerning the United Nations strategic plan and quadrennial programme of work of UNFF for the period 2017-2020, Member States may, on a voluntary basis, determine their contributions towards achieving the global forest goals and targets, taking into account their national circumstances, policies, priorities, capacities, levels of development and forest conditions. These voluntary national contributions may include the forest-related contributions members of the Forum intend to make with regard to other international forest-related commitments and goals, such as the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and actions to address climate change under the Paris Agreement.

18. UNFF at its 13<sup>th</sup> session, which was held in New York in May 2018, received the first five communications on voluntary national contributions to UNFF from Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Jamaica and Liberia.

19. The voluntary national contribution from Jamaica, in particular, lays out how the four actions proposed to contribute to the global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan for forests link to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This voluntary national contribution provides an example of the type of

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. I-54113.

<sup>10</sup> See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

<sup>11</sup> Economic and Social Council resolution 2017/4 on the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and quadrennial programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests for the period 2017-2020.

contribution to global forest goal 2.5,<sup>12</sup> which could represent another way to further alignment between the achievement of the global forest goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. One consideration is to explore how Parties to the Convention that are also members of UNFF could consider actions under their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in the design of their voluntary national contributions towards achieving one or more global forest goals and targets of the strategic plan for forests, and vice-versa to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

### *2. Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

20. At its twenty-first meeting, held in Paris, in 2015, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted, in decision 1/CP.21,<sup>13</sup> a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future. The Paris Agreement builds upon UNFCCC and brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. As such, it charts a new course in the global climate effort.

21. In its Article 5, the Paris Agreement encourages its Parties to take action using policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), for which a framework had been defined in previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties,<sup>14</sup> as well as alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests.

22. Article 5 of the Paris Agreement also reaffirms the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, associated non-carbon benefits, including the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services from forests. This is in line with previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which highlight the potential for synergies between REDD+ activities and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision XI/19, para. 6).<sup>15</sup>

### *3. Sustainable Development Goals*

23. The United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015. The 2030 Agenda contains the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets.

24. Some elements of forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets are reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Goal 15 in particular is aimed at protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss. Targets under this Goal that explicitly refer to forests are shown in the table on page 7.

### *4. Voluntary commitments*

25. The New York Declaration on Forests, adopted by a number of countries, subnational authorities, companies, indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2014, includes a number of targets that are broadly consistent with the above-mentioned forest-related multilateral commitments, including to at least

<sup>12</sup> Global Forest Goal (GFG) 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests mandates that "the contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments". This indicates that countries should bear in mind other forest-related goals and frameworks in seeking to achieve the global forest goals, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

<sup>13</sup> See [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#).

<sup>14</sup> See UNFCCC decision 9/CP.19, Work Programme on Results-based Finance to Progress the Full Implementation of the Activities Referred to in Decision 1/CP.16, Paragraph 70, UN Doc. FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1, 31 January 2014; Decision 12/CP.17, Guidance on Systems for Providing Information on how Safeguards Are Addressed and Respected and Modalities Relating to Forest Reference Emission Levels and Forest Reference Levels as Referred to in decision 1/CP.16, UN Doc. FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2, 15 March 2012.

<sup>15</sup> Other reports relating to forests and climate include UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/15, which highlighted the importance of joint planning under CBD and UNFCCC policy processes and provided a review of current guidance and national efforts, and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/30, which presented further information on the potential contribution of REDD+ to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

halve the rate of loss of natural forests globally by 2020 and strive to end natural forest loss by 2030, as well as to restore 150 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020 and at least an additional 200 million hectares by 2030.<sup>16</sup>

26. These commitments build upon those of the Bonn Challenge,<sup>17</sup> a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030. The Bonn Challenge is a voluntary initiative to strengthen political engagement to achieve many existing international commitments, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 15.

27. Underlying the Bonn Challenge is the concept of forest landscape restoration (FLR), which aims to restore ecological integrity at the same time as improving human well-being through multifunctional landscapes. To date, the Bonn Challenge has generated 47 pledges from national and subnational jurisdictions as well as other actors totalling 160.2 million hectares of deforested and degraded land to be brought under restoration by 2020.

### **C. Congruence among the international forest commitments**

28. An updated version of table 1 from UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8 is presented below (see page 7) in order to further explore the potential for congruence among the international forest commitments, particularly opportunities to build consistency among the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other forest-related multilateral commitments. This congruence represents an opportunity to strengthen planning, guidance, other types of tools and financial mobilization among organizations that are leading, promoting and supporting the achievement of various interlinked forest-related goals, targets and objectives.

## **II. OPTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION TO ACHIEVE THE FOREST-RELATED AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS IN A MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE MANNER**

29. The present section examines two of the elements presented in the table — reducing deforestation and forest degradation in subsection B, and forest restoration in subsection C — which relate to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15, respectively, and are therefore areas of focus in advancing the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity. It seeks to identify where further action may be needed to ensure further alignment, including through support by joint initiatives under CPF. This analysis is particularly important with regard to the degree of congruence between the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030, which CPF is invited to support.

30. Since the issuance of UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8, additional Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have adopted NBSAPs, which define national targets that are specific to their national context. CPF members were therefore consulted about how they take into account these targets, as defined in NBSAPs rather than the generic text of the targets in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Prior to a detailed analysis of the contribution of CPF member organizations under each of the two elements, subsection A provides information on how CPF member organizations take into account NBSAPs in their work on forests.

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<sup>16</sup> The declaration is available at <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/07/New-York-Declaration-on-Forest-%E2%80%93-Action-Statement-and-Action-Plan.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.bonnchallenge.org/>

**Table. Congruence among the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other forest-related multilateral commitments**

<i>Element</i>	<i>CBD: Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>	<i>United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030: Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>UNFCCC: REDD+</i>	<i>United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals (15 and 6)</i>
<b>Reducing deforestation and forest degradation</b>	Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced	<p>Global Forest Goal 1: 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.</p> <p>1.1 Forest area is increased by 3% worldwide</p> <p>1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p>	<p>Element (a): Reducing emissions from deforestation</p> <p>Element (b): Reducing emissions from forest degradation</p>	<p>Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> <p>Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.</p>

<i>Element</i>	<i>CBD: Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>	<i>United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030: Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>UNFCCC: REDD+</i>	<i>United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals (15 and 6)</i>
<b>Sustainable forest management</b>	Target 7: by 2020, all areas under forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity	<p>Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests</p> <p>3.2. The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased</p> <p>3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased</p>	Element (d): Sustainable management of forests	Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
<b>Forest conservation</b>	<p>Target 11: by 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas .... and integrated into the wider landscapes</p> <p>Targets 12 (species) and 13 (Genetic diversity) are also relevant</p>	<p>Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests</p> <p>3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased</p>	<i>Safeguard (e) provides that actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity...</i>	<p>Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests...in line with obligations under international agreements</p> <p>Target 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.</p>



<i>Element</i>	<i>CBD: Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>	<i>United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030: Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>UNFCCC: REDD+</i>	<i>United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals (15 and 6)</i>
<b>Forest restoration</b>	Target 15: by 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification	<p>Global Forest Goal 1: 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.</p> <p>1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide</p> <p>1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced</p> <p>1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</p> <p>1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide</p>	<p>Element (c): Conservation of forest carbon</p> <p>Element (e): Enhancement of forest carbon stocks</p>	<p>Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests...in line with obligations under international agreements</p> <p>By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p> <p>Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.</p>

<i>Element</i>	<i>CBD: Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>	<i>United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030: Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>UNFCCC: REDD+</i>	<i>United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals (15 and 6)</i>
<b>Benefits from forests</b>	Target 14: by 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.	GFG 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people	<i>Guidance 1 (d) provides that REDD+ activities “take into account the multiple functions of forests and other ecosystems”</i>	Target 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.  Target 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
<b>Traditional and indigenous knowledge</b>	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.	N/A	<i>Safeguard c): Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities [...] Safeguards d) The full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in [REDD+] actions;</i>	Target 15.c. Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.  Target 6.b. Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

<i>Element</i>	<i>CBD: Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>	<i>United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030: Global Forest Goals</i>	<i>UNFCCC: REDD+</i>	<i>United Nations: Sustainable Development Goals (15 and 6)</i>
<b>Supporting and enabling commitments</b>	Targets 1 – 4, 16, 17, 19 and 20	GFG 4: Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.	Warsaw Framework on REDD+	<p>Target 15.a. Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.</p> <p>Target 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.</p> <p>Many other targets relate to supporting and enabling measures in a more general way.</p>

### **A. Consideration of national biodiversity targets in the work of CPF member organizations**

31. All CPF member organizations that responded to the survey (see para. 4 above) indicated actions that take into account NBSAPs and the national targets that these contain as part of reviews of relevant national policies, laws and regulations. A few noted this as part of the actions undertaken prior to funding or implementing forest-related projects. Some, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), also indicated their direct involvement in supporting the development and/or implementation of NBSAPs in certain countries.<sup>18</sup>

32. Among the biodiversity targets reported, several members indicated as critical the ability to easily consult restoration targets committed under different processes to establish better coherence among processes. This was also noted important in contributing to the identification of synergies in planning, implementation and progress reviews. A review of national targets under Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5 and 15 has been conducted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as part of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.<sup>19</sup> Work is underway to integrate the results of this analysis into the IUCN country profiles on forest landscape restoration (FLR) presented on its website InfoFLR.<sup>20</sup>

33. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) indicated that it also encourages countries to assess synergies that may exist with the implementation of NBSAPs, in view of activities supporting the development of national strategies for REDD+ implementation, through the UN-REDD Programme. UNEP/CBD/COP/12/INF/15 presents examples of this work and its relevance to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

34. With regard to other barriers to the inclusion of national biodiversity targets in REDD+ planning, UNEP noted challenges with outdated or near final, yet not validated NBSAPs, and lack of communication between teams working on REDD+ and NBSAPs.

### **B. Reduction of deforestation and forest degradation**

35. As noted in the table on page 7 under the element of reducing deforestation and forest degradation, global forest goal (GFG) 1.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 calls for forest area to increase by 3 per cent worldwide, while GFG 1.3 calls for halting deforestation by 2020. Both of these goals relate to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. There are differences however in the wording of these goals and targets. For example, Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 calls for at least halving the rate of deforestation by 2020, rather than halting it. Also, Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 focuses on all natural habitats, including forests as a habitat for species, thereby connecting the benefits of achieving this Target to the achievement of other Aichi Biodiversity Targets, such as Targets 11 and 12. The strategic plan for forests, by contrast, does not make a distinction between different types of forests.<sup>21</sup>

36. A further difference of importance between the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 under this element of reducing deforestation and forest degradation stems from the fact that Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 is a target for the reduction of gross deforestation and degradation, while GFG 1.1 is a target for a net increase in forest cover. Thus, a positive net change of forest cover, such as the 3 per cent increase mandated by GFG 1.1, may not necessarily contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Natural forest cover may be replaced by planted forests or recently restored forests, which do not provide the same quality of habitat for

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<sup>18</sup> IUCN provided a number of references which can be consulted in CBD/SBI/2/INF/28.

<sup>19</sup> [UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/12](https://www.unep.org/cbd/cop13/inf12).

<sup>20</sup> <https://infoflr.org/countries>

<sup>21</sup> A subset of natural forests of particular importance for Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 is primary forests, which, in addition to being naturally regenerated, are characterized by the absence of significant human disturbance and by the presence of old-grown stands. Primary forests are of particular importance for the conservation of biodiversity as they provide an irreplaceable habitat for certain species.

species or the same range, quality or quantity of ecosystem benefits but, instead, focus on one or a few functions (e.g. wood provision, carbon sequestration or even soil erosion control).

37. Moreover, even where natural forests are lost and replaced by regenerating natural forests over the same area, long lag times are necessary for ecosystems to recover their full composition and structure, creating a “recovery debt” with significant impacts on biodiversity.<sup>22</sup> Therefore, success in meeting GFG 1.1 alone would not necessarily support the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 5, if significant progress is not also achieved on GFG 1.3 which calls, among other objectives, for halting deforestation.

### *1. Voluntary national reporting to UNFF*

38. At its thirteenth session, in May 2018, UNFF considered the cycle and format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the work on forest indicators.<sup>23</sup> The reporting format proposed for the sections related to GFGs 1-3 contained questions on legislative, policy, institutional, financial and technical questions. However, it did not specify separate reporting under GFGs 1.1 and 1.3.

39. The reporting format further indicated that assessment of progress towards achieving GFGs 1-3 will be supplemented, to a large extent, by quantitative data derived from a variety of global and regional data providers, including databases from the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), member organizations of CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and the process led by the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

40. This highlights the importance for data providers to include indicators of gross loss of natural and primary forests, and to foster continued action and collaboration among CPF member organizations to reduce deforestation, fragmentation and the degradation of natural forests and to make more explicit the distinction between planted, natural and primary forests.

41. The survey conducted for the present document therefore asked CPF member organizations to indicate how members account for natural forests and distinguish between net and gross forest targets in their decisions, knowledge products, technical assistance and/or financing, with regard to the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, including their work on REDD+. Further details are provided in CBD/SBI/2/INF/28.

### *2. Related Joint Initiatives by CPF member organizations*

42. In February 2018, in Rome, CPF and its member organizations held an international conference entitled “Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action”. The conference brought together a wide range of stakeholders representing government institutions from forestry, agriculture, livestock and environment, as well as the private sector, small producer organizations, civil society, indigenous peoples’ groups, and researchers, to discuss the challenges of halting and reversing deforestation, and to jointly explore ways to accelerate progress towards achieving forest goals and targets, in particular Sustainable Development Goal Target 15.2 and GFG Target 1.1. The opening keynote speech by Christina Figueres, former Executive Secretary of UNFCCC, highlighted the singular value of primary forests at the nexus of the climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation agendas.<sup>24</sup>

43. Throughout the three days of discussions participants highlighted the need to address the drivers of deforestation and degradation while providing sustainable alternatives to local communities for fuel, fibre, fresh water, and food. Land use competition between forests and agriculture was stressed with attention on how it could be solved by introducing diversified agricultural production systems that integrate trees, crops and livestock with a landscape approach. Examples presented

<sup>22</sup> Moreno-Mateos D, Barbier EB, Jones PC, Jones HP, Aronson J, Lopez-Lopez JA, McCrackin ML, Meli P, Montoya D, and Rey Benayas JM. 2017. Anthropogenic ecosystem degradation and the recovery debt. *Nature Communications* 8: 14163.

<sup>23</sup> See “Monitoring, assessment and reporting on progress towards implementing the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, including the United Nations Forest Instrument and voluntary national contributions”

<sup>24</sup> Co-chairs summary report (2008). Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action, a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), available at <http://www.cpfweb.org/47129-080cab460fd2563e8b388f642b811133.pdf>

included agroforestry systems in which harvestable trees or shrubs are grown among or around crops or in silvo-pastoral systems, combining agriculture, forestry and grazing of domesticated animals in a mutually beneficial way. Others highlighted the need to underpin the stability of livelihoods and the role of forests as providers of ecosystem services by recognizing the many “hidden” values of forests, such as pollination, and by enhancing simple and direct systems of payments for ecosystem services.

44. The final document of the conference stressed the vital role of corporate responsibility of agribusinesses in halting deforestation. Different measures of support were noted, including international trade instruments favouring deforestation-free commodities and provisions of better access to services, finance and markets for small producers. The conference noted that scaling up finance and investment for sustainable land use and forests requires positive incentives, improved governance, public-private partnerships and innovative financing instruments. The extent to which finance and investments will also focus on innovative measures for forest conservation will need to be further explored and included in follow-up work on green finance by CPF. Outcomes of the conference have been channelled to UNFF and, through it, will be made available to the United Nations 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which will review progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 15, in July 2018.

45. Another CPF joint initiative relevant to the element under discussion relates to the development of a Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators. At its 12th session, in May 2017, UNFF noted the ongoing work led by CPF to develop a global set of forest indicators for use in assessing progress on, inter alia, the global forest goals and forest-related Sustainable Development Goals. CPF was invited to present its proposal for the Global Core Set of Forest-related Indicators at the thirteenth session of the Forum. The resulting proposal, which contains 21 indicators, incorporates many indicators based on data generated by the FAO FRA, with the intention of streamlining reporting on forests. Several of the proposed indicators, however, require further work to ensure that sufficient data and appropriate methodologies exist to report on them. Indicator 5 of the Global Core Set is “change in area of primary forests” and explicitly links to measurement of progress under Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. The data supplier for this indicator would be the FAO FRA. A footnote to the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 also indicates that the increase of 3 per cent in GFG 1.1 will be measured on the basis of the FAO FRA.

46. Discussions at the Expert Consultation on Global Forest Resources Assessment: Towards FRA 2020, held in Joensuu, Finland, in June 2017, concluded that national reporting on “primary forests” under the FRA was inconsistent in terms of the methodologies used, leading to difficulties in aggregating figures. Given the importance of this data to measure the degree of congruence between efforts to achieve the global forest goals and efforts to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 5, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is collaborating with the FRA team at FAO and other agencies and FRA national correspondents that were present at the FRA 2020 expert consultation, to support capacity development activities for countries, while also elaborating on more operational criteria for the definition of primary forests to improve global data on this key indicator.

### **C. Forest restoration**

47. Forest restoration is mentioned in GFG 1 — “Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation [...]” — and 1.3 — “By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.” GFG 1.2 — “The world’s forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced” — is also relevant as forest restoration may be one way of enhancing forest carbon stocks.

48. Ecosystem restoration, including forests, is a central objective of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 calls for the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks by 2020 to have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems [...]. A significant milestone was reached at the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the adoption, in decision XIII/5, of the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, as a

flexible framework and adaptable to national circumstances and legislation for immediate action towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 12, 14 and 15.

49. The section below presents options for further action to achieve forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets in a mutually supportive manner with other forest restoration commitments and actions supported by CPF member organizations. It also examines support from CPF member organizations to the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, and presents information relative to other joint initiatives between CPF member organizations on restoration.

*1. Options to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the work of CPF through forest restoration*

50. One key difference in scope between the provisions of the GFGs on restoration and Aichi Biodiversity Target 15 is that the latter is concerned with the restoration of all ecosystems, whereas the GFGs only concern forests. Attention should therefore be given to situations in which gains in forest cover could cause the loss of other natural ecosystems, including in cases where they are wrongly perceived as degraded. This issue has been raised in the context of REDD+<sup>25</sup> as well as in the context of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR).<sup>26</sup>

51. Since its inception, the concept of FLR has relied on a set of “guiding principles” defined by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR).<sup>27</sup> Most recently, the Secretariat of the Convention took part in the review of the principles initiated by the GPFLR steering committee after its meeting in Bonn in December 2017. The review resulted in amendments to the text of the principle: “Avoid further reduction of natural forest cover”. The changes align the text of this principle more closely with Aichi Biodiversity Target 5 by including the non-conversion of all natural ecosystems.<sup>28</sup> This inclusion is important given concerns that FLR may be misinterpreted as allowing or facilitating the conversion of certain areas of natural grassland.<sup>29</sup>

52. To be eligible for results-based payments for REDD+ under UNFCCC, developing countries are expected to submit a summary of information on how the safeguards are taken into account<sup>30</sup>, among other conditions provided for by the Warsaw Framework for REDD+. National and subnational authorities, or any other organization implementing FLR, are thus likely to consider REDD+ finance as a means to capitalize on the climate mitigation benefits and may therefore wish to bear in mind the conditions for eligibility for results-based payments for REDD+ whenever developing FLR programmes.

53. Accordingly, IUCN, which is a member of both the CPF and the GPFLR, indicated in its response to the survey that REDD+ safeguards were at the centre of its forest-related activities, and that FLR could be understood as a bridge for the integrated deployment of national land-based mitigation and adaptation strategies that can maximize co-benefits. This could include carrying out assessments of forest ecosystem rehabilitation potential at the landscape level that consider a range of variables of relevance to biodiversity, including the identification of areas of opportunity for the restoration of natural forests landscapes for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, for example within protected areas of Key Biodiversity Areas.

<sup>25</sup> Miles, L. & Kapos, V. (2008). Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation: global land-use implications. *Science*, 320, 1454–1455.

<sup>26</sup> Veldman J. W. et al. (2015) Tyranny of trees in grassy biomes, *Science*, Vol. 347, Issue 6221,

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/what-forest-and-landscape-restoration>

<sup>28</sup> The updated text of the principles is still under consideration by the GPFLR steering committee. Principle 4 now reads: “4. Conserve and enhance natural ecosystems within landscapes – FLR stops further deforestation and degradation of natural forests and other ecosystems, and enhances the recovery, conservation, and sustainable management of forests and other natural ecosystems. It improves the quality and resilience of forests and other natural ecosystems, particularly with regard to species and genetic diversity.”

<sup>29</sup> See Veldman et al. (2015) at note 26 above and Veldman J. W. et al. (2015). Toward an old-growth concept for grasslands, savannas, and woodlands, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, Vol. 13, Issue 3 Pages 154–162.

<sup>30</sup> Decision 12/CP.17, Guidance on Systems for Providing Information on How Safeguards Are Addressed and Respected and Modalities Relating to Forest Reference Emission Levels and Forest Reference Levels as Referred to in Decision 1/CP.16, UN Doc. FCCC/CP/2011/9/Add.2, 15 March 2012.

54. More information about the inclusion of biodiversity considerations in assessments of opportunities for forest and landscape restoration can be found in CBD/SBI/2/INF/19 entitled Biodiversity Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessments. These guidelines were developed by IUCN to inform the application of the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology which IUCN developed and has been applied in several countries. Although developed in the context of FLR, the guidelines are relevant for Step A – Assessment of opportunities for restoration of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration. Further details are noted in the next section.

55. Another member of the GPFLR, the Society for Ecological Restoration has proposed a set of International Standards for Ecological Restoration, which can be consulted in CBD/SBI/2/INF/30 “International standards for the practice of ecological restoration”. The international standards provide a framework for guiding the development and implementation of ecological restoration projects, in forests and other ecosystems, and are relevant to the implementation of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, especially with regard to its section on guidance for integrating biodiversity considerations into ecosystem restoration.

## 2. *Support from CPF members to the implementation of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration*

56. Document CBD/SBI/2/INF/28 presents the results of a part of the survey that mapped the contribution that CPF member organizations could make to the implementation of various steps of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration, be it in terms of knowledge products, technical assistance *in situ* or financing. This is intended to help to identify from which CPF members support is available, and the type of support, based on each step of the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration.<sup>31</sup> For example, of relevance to the first section of the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, the World Agroforestry Centre in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen and national partners, developed interactive decision support tools for agroforestry, restoration, afforestation and biodiversity conservation planning.<sup>32</sup>

57. A main conclusion derived from the results of the survey is that, commensurate with the early stages in which many national policies and programmes on restoration find themselves, support from CPF members is stronger on the earlier steps of the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration such as those connected to the “Assessment of opportunities for ecosystem restoration” and “Improving the institutional enabling environment for ecosystem restoration”. As restoration actors proceed from planning, governance reviews, resource mobilization to implementation, and monitoring, CPF members could examine ways to accompany such actions by focusing technical assistance, knowledge products and financing for implementation and monitoring efforts, guided by the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration. This could be beneficial since less than half of the nine respondents indicated making use and/or referencing the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration in their work/products on restoration. This may simply reflect how recently the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration has been adopted in comparison with other frameworks for the planning of restoration actions.

58. Further efforts will be required to inform, assist and finance the steps under the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration and with support of relevant organizations. Until 2020, with support from the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, funded by the Korea Forest Service, the Secretariat of the Convention is developing further outreach communication materials and direct support to implement the steps of the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration, as well as to publish companion guidance documents that draw on the resources available from CPF partners identified as part of this exercise.

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<sup>31</sup> Decision XIII/5 key steps: (a) assessment of opportunities for ecosystem restoration; (b) improving the institutional enabling environment for ecosystem restoration; (c) planning and implementation of ecosystem restoration activities; (d) monitoring, evaluation, feedback and disseminating results.

<sup>32</sup> In addition to web-based maps, smart phone apps are available from the Google Play Store. See Kindt et al. 2017, Africa Tree Finder, <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icraf.gsl.africatreefinder>.



### *3. Related joint initiatives by CPF member organizations*

59. In May 2017, the CPF agreed to work on FLR as a joint initiative of its 2017 work plan. The objective of this initiative is to enhance the collective response of CPF to current and evolving global forest-related issues through FLR. Coordinated efforts are envisaged to address REDD+ policies, climate change, desertification, biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to facilitate the mobilization of additional and needed finance for FLR. This initiative also responds to the invitation to CPF member organizations under Conference of the Parties decision XIII/7 on forest biodiversity.

60. This joint initiative could also bring opportunities to engage more closely with GPFLR in a coordinated manner to strengthen national and international support and engagement on elements of the Short-Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration.

61. Since 2015, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been working together with FAO in numerous capacity-building workshops on ecosystem restoration, in a number of regions, with support from the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative. This collaboration extends to direct support projects for forest ecosystem restoration actions in several countries and is expected to continue in 2018, as described in the document entitled “Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative - review of implementation 2015-2017 and outlook 2018-2020” (CBD/SBI/2/INF/18).

### **III. POINTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

62. As defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/33, a core function of CPF is to enhance coherence as well as policy and programme cooperation and coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to their respective governing bodies, consistent with their mandates. Member organizations of CPF continue to perform a key role, including through the integration of relevant global forest goals and targets into their forest-related plans and programmes, where appropriate, and consistent with their respective mandates. The importance of such type of action was also underlined in the outcome document from the International Conference “Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action”, held in Rome in February 2018.

63. With the adoption of the CPF 2017- 2020 workplan and the start of several joint initiatives, as well as individual initiatives undertaken by CPF member organizations, there is an opportunity for targeted input from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to better account for the value of forest biodiversity and ecosystems in supporting the implementation of the global forest goals, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and other forest-related multilateral commitments and goals, and to garner greater support from CPF members in the lead-up to the review of progress made on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by 2020 and the preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework could also examine ways through which CPF and the other 14 members could support continued implementation of forest and land use related actions with a stronger connection to forest conservation and sustainable use objectives. Commitment from CPF member organizations to continue addressing forest biodiversity priorities after 2020 will remain critical to maintain and expand such priorities within its work plan.

64. Moreover, the content of the present document could also be used by CPF in reporting to UNFF at its fourteenth session on its contribution to global forest goal 6, namely to enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across CPF member organizations. Therefore, the Executive Secretary will transmit the present document and CBD/SBI/2/INF/28 to the UNFF Secretariat and to FAO as Chair of CPF.

65. The adoption of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 by UNFF in 2017 provides a renewed framework for the work of CPF. Aside from the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the global policy landscape for forests includes the Paris Agreement, under which forest accounting rules are still being refined, and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals, which include targets specific to forests and biodiversity. In addition,

the Bonn Challenge has generated significant pledges for FLR, with several regional ministerial processes building political weight around the issue.

66. While this context creates strong momentum for forests, the achievement of forest-related biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity will require that, in the design and implementation of forest-related national actions to implement these goals, careful attention be given to options for further action to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets in a mutually supportive manner.

67. One of these options pertains to the importance of indicators of gross loss of natural and primary forests, and a more nuanced understanding of the status of forest biodiversity. Such indicators are key to measuring and enhancing the contribution that progress under other forest-related goals, including through CPF member organizations, can make to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the preparations for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

68. Collectively, CPF members already provide Parties to the Convention with a wide range of support on forest issues in terms of knowledge products, technical assistance and/or funding. However, further guidance could be developed by the Secretariat of the Convention, in cooperation with CPF, in order to better inform Parties on the type of support that may be available from CPF member organizations with regard to specific areas of implementation of the Convention, including on the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration.

69. The efforts deployed, respectively, by UNEP and IUCN to develop spatial assessments for the implementation of REDD+ and FLR, which accounts for the multiple benefits of biodiversity, described in CBD/SBI/2/INF/28, may gain from further coordination on the data used, national partners involved and cross-referencing. The relevance of the ICRAF Vegetation and Climate Change in East Africa (VECEA) mapping product to these spatial assessments should also be underlined, in particular its inclusion in future spatial planning work.

70. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat of the Convention could facilitate further exchanges on the type of technical support provided by CPF members to countries with regard to the indicators of loss and degradation of primary forest and forest biodiversity metrics as well as to identification of FLR opportunities, harnessing the outputs generated to complement the quality of national reporting of progress on the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

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