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Item 6 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Scientific and technical needs to support the implementation
of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:
strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme
of work on forest biodiversity**

Conserving, restoring and sustainably managing forests for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: contributions of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests**

Note by the Secretariat

1. In its decision [16/35](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests and other relevant organizations, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization, and within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests,¹ to support the coherent implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (para. 23 (d)).
2. The present document was prepared by the Secretariat of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests with a view to informing discussions at the present meeting on the strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Framework, as contained in document [CBD/SBSTTA/27/5/Add.2](#).
3. The document contains a description of the joint contribution of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests towards the achievement of the goals and targets of the Framework, in alignment with the Global Forest Goals of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030. The document is provided in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention from the Secretariat of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

* CBD/SBSTTA/27/1.

** The present document is being issued without formal editing.

¹ Further information on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests is available at www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests.

I. INTRODUCTION

Members and the mandate of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

1. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), chaired by FAO, is a voluntary arrangement among 16 international organizations and secretariats² with substantial programmes on forests, established in 2001, in response to an invitation issued in the resolution 2000/35³ by the Economic and Social Council of the UN (ECOSOC) that established the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) and the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). The mission of the CPF is to help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to that end. Through its resolution 2015/33⁴, ECOSOC defined the core functions of the CPF, summarized as follows:

- a. Promote the implementation of the UN Forest Instrument and the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030⁵ (UNSPF) as well as the contribution of forests and trees to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other major forest-related agreements;
- b. To support the work of UNFF and its member countries;
- c. To provide scientific and technical advice to UNFF and governing bodies of CPF members, at their request;
- d. To enhance coherence, cooperation as well as policy and programme coordination at all levels among its member organizations, including through joint programming and the submission of coordinated proposals to members' governing bodies, consistent with their mandates.

2. The critical role of the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests for maintaining global biodiversity is well embedded in the overarching objectives of the UNSPF, its Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and associated targets, including for GFG 1: *reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide*; GFG 2: *enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits* and GFG 3: *increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests*.

3. The expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity (PoWFB) adopted in 2002 in Decision VI/22, invited the members of the CPF *"to support the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, recognizing that the CPF provides a mechanism for enhancing collaboration on activities addressing common goals of the CBD and the UNFF."*⁶ Since this time, guidance from the Parties to the CBD from subsequent COPs including inter alia, Decisions XIII/7⁷, XII/6,⁸ IX/5⁹, X/36¹⁰, IX/16¹¹ and VIII/19¹², have continued to emphasize the

² Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests: Center for International Forestry Research–World Agroforestry (CIFOR–ICRAF), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFFS), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the World Bank Group.

³ ECOSOC Resolution 2000/35 available at: https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/2000_35_E.pdf

⁴ ECOSOC Resolution 2015/33 available at: <https://docs.un.org/en/E/RES/2015/33>

⁵ United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 available at:

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n17/184/62/pdf/n1718462.pdf>

⁶ CBD COP Decision VI/22 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7196>

⁷ CBD COP Decision XIII/7 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-07-en.pdf>

⁸ CBD COP Decision XII/6 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-06-en.pdf>

⁹ CBD COP Decision IX/5 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=11648>

¹⁰ CBD COP Decision X/36 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop?id=12302>

¹¹ CBD COP Decision IX/16 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=11659>

¹² CBD COP Decision VIII/19 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=11033>

value of CPF support to Parties to achieve sustainable forest management and the conservation of biodiversity.

4. At the 16th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the CBD, Parties requested the CBD Executive Secretary in Decision 16/35 “*to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests and other relevant organizations, such as the International Tropical Timber Organization, and within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to support the coherent implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the Convention and the Framework.*”¹³

5. The present document has been prepared to inform Parties on the ongoing activities of the CPF in relation to forest biodiversity and to support Parties consideration of the “*Strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*” (CBD/SBSTTA/27/5/Add.2). It outlines how CPF member organizations are working jointly to develop and implement new knowledge and tools to enhance policy and programme coherence and coordination to assist Parties to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable forest management, consistent with the aims of goals and targets of the KMGBF and the UNSPF.

II. THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KMGBF

6. Forests are vital ecosystems that are home to the majority of terrestrial biodiversity,¹⁴ providing habitats for around 80% of amphibians, 75% of birds, and 68% of mammals.¹⁵ Tropical forests alone are home to 60% of all vascular plants.¹⁶ Forest biodiversity underpins forest ecosystem services, productivity, resilience and adaptive capacity and is critical for the maintenance of ecological processes such as the carbon and water cycles¹⁷. This includes cooling and rainfall generation benefits of forests, which help stabilize local and regional climate, protect human health, and contribute to agricultural productivity.^{18 19 20}

7. Forest biodiversity also supports an estimated 3.5-5.76 billion forest-adjacent people that use non-wood forest products to support food security and nutrition²¹ and the provision of medicinal plants²². It is imperative to engage these forest dependent indigenous peoples and local communities in forest management decision-making as they possess rich knowledge and deep understanding of the local forest ecosystems and biodiversity²³. The forest sector also accounted for approximately 1

¹³ CBD COP Decision 16/35 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-35-en.pdf>

¹⁴ Secretariat of the CBD. 2024. The Forest Factor: The role of protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/forest-factor-en.pdf>

¹⁵ Vié, J.-C., Hilton-Taylor, C. & Stuart, S.N. eds. 2009. Wildlife in a changing world: an analysis of the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Gland, Switzerland, IUCN.

¹⁶ Burley, J. 2002. Forest biological diversity: an overview. *Unasylva*, 209: 3–9.

¹⁷ CPF. 2012. SFM Factsheet 6 – SFM and biodiversity: available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/35c6a002-98c7-497e-9248-c238118e1cae/content>

¹⁸ Ellison, D., Morris, C.E., Locatelli, B., Sheil, D., Cohen, J., Murdiyarto, D., Gutierrez, V. et al. 2017. Trees, forests and water: Cool insights for a hot world. *Global Environmental Change*, 43: 51–61. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2017.01.002>

¹⁹ Lawrence, D., Coe, M., Walker, W., Verchot, L. & Vandekar, K. 2022. The Unseen Effects of Deforestation: Biophysical Effects on Climate. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2022.756115>

²⁰ Libert-Amico, A., Duchelle, A.E., Cobb, A., Peccoud, V. & Djoudi, H. 2022. Forest-based adaptation: transformational adaptation through forests and trees. Rome, FAO. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2886en>

²¹ FAO. 2022. The State of the World’s Forests 2022. Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies. Rome, FAO. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9360en>

²² FAO. 2020. *Forests for human health and well-being – Strengthening the forest–health–nutrition nexus*. Forestry Working Paper No. 18. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/250eccd3-d5e8-464a-81cd-a4dbde50a561>

²³ UNEP. 2019. *The Role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Climate Action*. United Nations Environment Programme.

percent of global employment (33 million people) and contributed (directly, indirectly and induced) more than US\$ 1.52 trillion to world gross domestic product in 2015²⁴.

8. As outlined in FAO's Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA), the world has a total forest area of 4.06 billion hectares (ha), which is 31 percent of the total land area.²⁵ Despite a decrease in the rate of deforestation from 15.8 million ha per year in 1990–2000 to 10.2 million ha per year in 2015–2020²⁶, forests continue to be degraded and lost at an alarming rate. An estimated 420 million ha of forest has been lost worldwide through deforestation since 1990.²⁷ In the context of climate change, forests are also increasingly subject to abiotic and biotic stressors such as wildfire and insect pests, which is leading to forest degradation of 70 million ha²⁸ and 35 million ha²⁹ respectively per year. The next edition of the FRA will be released in October 2025.

9. Reducing and ultimately halting deforestation – especially in high ecological integrity natural and/or primary forests – is the most important priority for conserving global biodiversity³⁰ and protected areas have been a key strategy and foundational element of biodiversity conservation. Currently, 18 percent (726 million ha) of the world's forest area is managed specifically for conservation in legally established protected areas.³¹ Yet protected areas alone cannot maintain biodiversity³² because most biodiversity resides in non-protected areas.³³ Approximately 30 percent (or 1.15 billion ha) is officially designated for production of timber and non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and 749 million ha is designated for multiple use, which often includes production purposes³⁴. Well-managed forests are not only able to support significant biodiversity and deliver critical ecosystem services³⁵, but they are also essential components of landscapes in which protected areas are embedded, providing corridors and enhancing connectivity among reserves.^{36, 37}

10. The implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM)³⁸ is a key lever for achieving global biodiversity conservation goals, while also enhancing the social, economic and environmental values of forests, such as climate adaptation and mitigation, addressing land degradation and desertification; livelihoods and economic development, food security and nutrition, cultural values and human health. Approximately 2.05 billion ha of forest are under management plans in 2020, a

²⁴FAO. 2022. The State of the World's Forests 2022. Forest pathways for green recovery and building inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies. Rome, FAO. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9360en>

²⁵ FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

²⁸ van Lierop, P., Lindquist, E., Sathiyapala, S. & Franceschini, G. 2015. Global forest area disturbance from fire, insect pests, diseases and severe weather events, *Forest Ecology and Management*, vol. 352, pp. 78–88. Also available at: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2015.06.010>

²⁹ FAO. 2010. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 – Main report. FAO Forestry Paper No. 163. Rome. Available at <https://www.fao.org/4/i1757e/i1757e.pdf>

³⁰ Harrison, R.D., Shono, K., Gitz, V., Meybeck, A., Hofer, T. & Wertz-Kanounnikoff, S. 2022. Mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry. FAO Forestry Paper, No. 188. Rome, FAO and Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2229en>

³¹ FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

³² Secretariat of the CBD. 2024. The Forest Factor: The role of protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/forest-factor-en.pdf>

³³ Anderson, E., and Mammides, C. 2020. The role of protected areas in mitigating human impact in the world's last wilderness areas. *Ambio*, 49(2): 434–441.

³⁴ FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Harrison, R.D., Shono, K., Gitz, V., Meybeck, A., Hofer, T. & Wertz-Kanounnikoff, S. 2022. Mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry. FAO Forestry Paper, No. 188. Rome, FAO and Bogor, Indonesia, CIFOR. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2229en>

³⁷ Senior, R.A., Hill, J.K. & Edwards, D.P. 2019. Global loss of climate connectivity in tropical forests. *Nature Climate Change*, 9(8): 623–626

³⁸ Brockerhoff, E.G., Jactel, H., Parrotta, J.A., Quine, C.P. & Sayer, J. 2008. Plantation forests and biodiversity: oxymoron or opportunity? *Biodiversity and Conservation*, 17(5): 925–951.

³⁹ The UNFF in Decision [E/2007/42 E/CN.18/2007/8](#) defines sustainable forest management as “a dynamic and evolving concept, aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations”.

figure which is increasing in all regions and has increased by 233 million ha since 2000.³⁹ The area of certified forest also reached 435 million ha in 2020 although this is mostly in boreal and temperate forests rather than in low-income tropical countries⁴⁰.

11. The 23 targets of the KMGBF provide a strong basis for Parties to implement actions on forest biodiversity. The majority – 75 percent – of proposed activities, measures, tools, policies and strategies to protect and enhance forest biodiversity in the submitted National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) (status as of June 2025), relate to the implementation and/or the improvement of SFM⁴¹. Hence, the strengthening of the implementation of SFM will support both, the KMGBF and its goals and targets as well as the UNSPF and its Global Forest Goals.⁴² Mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry is therefore an important action to ensure biodiversity consideration in forest management.

12. The CPF publication “*The Forest Factor: The role of protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*”⁴³ launched at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16) to the CBD in 2024, outlines the role of SFM in achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The report i) discusses the threats to forest biodiversity relative to recent global and regional trends and data on the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests and ii) identifies pathways (policies and recommended actions) to improve the implementation of the KMGBF in forests. It summarizes key analytical information and data and suggests recommendations for various stakeholders to: (i) assist governments to mainstream or update forest-related policies and commitments as planned in their NBSAPs, (ii) assist organizations and businesses to align their policies and practices with the KMGBF to reduce impacts on biodiversity, and (iii) provides increased understanding of the relationship between sustaining biodiversity and the associated goods and services from forests.

III. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CPF TO THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FORESTS 2017-2030 AND THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

13. As a central component of the IAF, the CPF has made substantial contributions to support the implementation of the UNSPF and other international forest related goals, including those of the KMGBF and other Rio Conventions. The CPF has actively promoted the implementation of SFM, provided scientific and technical advice and fostered international and cross-sectoral collaboration. Moreover, the CPF has played a key role in enhancing coherence, coordination and synergies on forest-related issues, thereby strengthening global efforts to address forest challenges in an integrated and impactful manner.

14. In line with its “Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030”⁴⁴ released at the SDG Summit in September 2023, the CPF has accelerated its global advocacy efforts to spotlight forests in discussions on biodiversity, climate change, agriculture and socioeconomic issues. This includes the organization of events and activities during the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to the three Rio

³⁹FAO. 2020. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Main report. Rome. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

⁴⁰ *Ibid*

⁴¹ The analysis will be made available on the following webpage once finalized: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/en>

⁴² For a mapping of the relationship between the KMGBF targets and other global processes and conventions please see Table 1, page 21 of: Secretariat of the CBD. 2024. The Forest Factor: The role of protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, available at: <https://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/forest-factor-en.pdf>

⁴³ Secretariat of the CBD. 2024: The Forest Factor: The role of protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/forest-factor-en.pdf>

⁴⁴ CPF. 2023. Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/170a3a50-7118-4f32-aae4-06dd7a74a731/content>

Conventions held in 2024.⁴⁵ At COP16 of the CBD, the CPF took the lead in organizing *Forests and Water Day* and *Restoration Day* in the KMGBF Pavilion⁴⁶. Events included sessions on “Forests in a changing climate: biodiversity as a safeguard for resilient forest landscapes”, “Sustainable forest-based economies: meeting the needs of people and biodiversity” and “Strengthening conservation of primary forests: the catalytic role of the GEF”, “The six-year race to restoration”, “Global restoration movement”, “Tracking progress and building capacity: new guidance and tools”, “Funding local restoration innovation” and “Scaling finance for the global restoration agenda”.

15. At COP29 of the UNFCCC, the CPF held a series of events at the Forest Pavilion⁴⁷ within the SDG Pavilion, hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, including a session on “Forests, nature and biodiversity”, led by UNEP, the CBD Secretariat and the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations. IUCN, FAO, GEF and the UNFF Secretariat also organized a session on “Mobilizing finance for climate and biodiversity in primary forests”. The event highlighted the urgent need for financing to protect primary forests given their vital contributions to biodiversity and climate and explored innovative financing approaches. Key messages of these sessions were included in the communiqué of the Forest Pavilion⁴⁸. At COP16 of the UNCCD, the CPF also organized side events including “Scaling up agroecology for restoration and conservation in mosaic landscapes”⁴⁹, led by IUCN, and the “Significance of dryland forests for achieving land degradation neutrality, combating biodiversity loss and climate change”, organized by the UNFF Secretariat jointly with Saudi Arabia.⁵⁰

16. The CPF Work Plan 2025-2028⁵¹, presented during UNFF20 in May 2025 outlines how the CPF aims to jointly exercise the unique mandates and capacities of its members to support the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests. In the new workplan, the Partnership seeks to address emerging issues and the interlinkages and relationships between the work of the Rio Conventions, including the KMGBF, and other forest-related international developments. A key modality through which the CPF delivers coordinated action is the development and implementation of Joint Initiatives (JIs)⁵². These are voluntary, collaborative efforts undertaken by two or more CPF members to address strategic forest-related challenges and advance global commitments. JIs strengthen collaboration and mobilize political, scientific, technical and financial support within and beyond the partnership. Four JIs that focus on, or significantly contribute to, the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, in alignment with to the UNSPF, the KMGBF and SDGs, are described below. It should be noted that several other JIs also contribute meaningfully to this area, even if biodiversity is not their primary objective.

CPF Joint Initiative

Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Forest Goals Harnessing Complementarities and addressing Fragmentation in the Global Forest Agenda⁵³

Timeline: 2025-2028

⁴⁵ E/CN.18/2025/3: <https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.18/2025/3>

⁴⁶ Further information on the programme of side events for the KMGBF Pavilion available at: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024/parallel-meetings/kmgbf-pavilion>

⁴⁷ Further information on the programme of side events for the Forest Pavilion available at: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/outreach/the-forest-pavilion-at-climate-cop29/index.html>

⁴⁸ COP29 Forest Pavilion Communiqué: https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Communique_Forest-Pavilion_UNFCCC-COP29.pdf

⁴⁹ Further information on the side event available at: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/events/scaling-up-agroecology-for-restoration-and-conservation-in-mosaic-landscapes/en>

⁵⁰ Further information on the side event available at: https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Concept-Note_Side-Event-on-Dryland-Forests_UNCCD-COP16.pdf

⁵¹ CPF. 2025. Collaborative Partnership on Forests Work Plan 2025–2028 – Strategic Directions for Collaborative Forest Action. Rome. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/c0b7b79a-4b1e-426e-b54b-93b2338a1375>

⁵² CPF Joint Initiatives: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/en>

⁵³ Joint Initiative – Biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/biodiversity-mainstreaming-in-forestry/en>

Led by CBD Secretariat, UNFF Secretariat and FAO

17. Led by Secretariats of the CBD and UNFF, and FAO, this JI aims to assist countries in understanding the role of conservation and sustainable use of forests in the KMGBF goals and targets and the interlinkages of the UNSPF, its GFGs and other forest-related instruments, as well as mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry. An information note⁵⁴ identifying areas of similarity between the UNSPF and the KMGBF, including in the areas of spatial land use planning; restoration of degraded forests; protected areas; trade in wild species; climate change; sustainable forest management; need for increased funding; cooperation, capacity-building training; monitoring and developing forest data; and stakeholder involvement in management processes has been released. As a part of the JI, regional analyses in Africa and Latin America, including in-depth case studies in six countries (three in each region), are being conducted to assess and identify opportunities, challenges, and ways forward for coherently and synergistically advancing the timely achievement of the GFGs of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the KMGBF. The assessment is expected to provide concrete pathways and recommendations to harmonize forest and biodiversity agendas at the national level, in order to support and strengthen the capacity of countries to raise the profile of, and accelerate actions on, the conservation and sustainable management of forests. This will contribute to the mutually reinforcing implementation of the KMGBF and the UNSPF.

18. The JI is also facilitating collaboration among countries and agencies to collectively elevate the recognition of natural forests, especially primary forests, within the framework of the three Rio Conventions, the UNFF and the SDGs to identify coherent actions towards forest biodiversity conservation including by enhancing the role of SFM. Under the leadership of the CBD Secretariat, FAO and the UNFF Secretariat, this work also led to the CPF flagship publication *The Forest Factor* (see paragraph 12), which supports the implementation of the KMGBF. In addition, two regional assessments, involving four in-depth country cases, to review national forest and biodiversity policies and strategic documents to identify best practices, barriers and solutions for coherent planning and implementation, are ongoing.

Preliminary analysis of forest-related commitments in NBSAPs and national targets

19. As part of this JI, an analysis⁵⁵ of 54 National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted by Parties as of 30 June 2025, was undertaken by the CBD Secretariat and FAO, to identify the extent to which they address forest biodiversity. The study focused on three key aspects: (1) threats to forest biodiversity; (2) actions and strategies to address these threats; and (3) implementation challenges and capacity gaps. All 54 NBSAPs analyzed incorporate measures for forest biodiversity conservation, outlining a broad spectrum of proposed actions, while approximately half also highlight challenges or capacity gaps. The outcomes of this study will inform CPF member organization actions to address more effectively the barriers and needs identified to promote aspects of SFM and strengthen the role of forests in national planning and implementation processes for biodiversity conservation. The complete analysis will be made available by the end of 2025.

CPF Joint Initiative: Strengthening the Conservation of Primary Forests⁵⁶ Timeline: 2025-2026

⁵⁴Secretariat of the CBD, Secretariat of the UNFF. 2024. Information Note: Towards a coherent forest agenda. Available at: https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Towards-a-coherent-forest-agenda_final.pdf

⁵⁵ The analysis will be made available on the following webpage once finalized. <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/en>

⁵⁶ Joint Initiative – Strengthening the conservation of primary forests: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/strengthening-the-conservation-of-primary-forests-through-enhanced-partnerships-and-coordination-of-support/en>

Led by IUCN, GEF, UNFF Secretariat and FAO

20. Led by IUCN, GEF, FAO and UNFF Secretariat, in collaboration with universities and other partners, this JI seeks to elevate the global importance of tropical primary forests by increasing awareness among governments, donors, and stakeholders about their critical role in addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. It responds to the urgent need for greater recognition of primary forests in international forest policy and finance mechanisms, emphasizing their ecological value and the support they provide to indigenous peoples and local communities. The JI aims to position primary forest conservation as a global priority, leveraging scientific knowledge, policy coordination, and capacity development to inform and strengthen decision-making.

21. To achieve its goals, the initiative focuses on four key areas: raising the global profile of tropical primary forests through advocacy and policy integration; promoting innovative forest financing strategies; building capacity for monitoring and reporting through training and guidance; and enhancing knowledge sharing and visibility. It reinforces efforts within the UNFF, CPF, and Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, to ensure that primary forests receive the visibility and support they urgently need across global environmental and development agendas. By the end of the 2025–2028 period, the initiative aims to mobilize resources, foster innovative financing approaches, and leverage the networks and reach of CPF member organizations to increase the amount of conserved primary forest.

CPF Joint Initiative:

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Tree Species Project

Timeline: 2025-2029

Led by: CITES Secretariat, FAO, ITTO, CIFOR and IUCN

22. This JI, led by the CITES Secretariat, seeks to strengthen sustainable forest management and ensure compliance with CITES by promoting legal and sustainable trade in CITES-listed tree species. It addresses the challenges of illegal, unregulated and unsustainable harvesting and trade, which contribute to deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss. Through a structured approach - including project proposal calls, webinars and direct support to Member States - the initiative aims to enhance conservation and management practices, ensuring international trade of CITES-listed timber species and related products is sustainable, legal and traceable.

23. Key activities include developing and disseminating guidance materials, conducting regional and taxon-specific workshops and building capacity in project development and implementation. The initiative also emphasizes knowledge sharing through briefs, explanatory materials and participation in major biodiversity events. It aims to improve forest governance, reduce over-exploitation and enhance compliance with CITES regulations. Outputs will include strengthened capacities of CITES authorities, increased availability of tools for legal and sustainable trade and improved communication and knowledge resources to support long-term conservation outcomes, including for biodiversity.

CPF Joint Initiative:

Streamlining forest-related reporting

Timeline: 2025-2028

Led by: FAO, UNFF Secretariat and supported by IUCN

24. This JI proposes ways to reduce forest-related reporting burden through reducing and streamlining reporting requests, synchronizing reporting cycles, harmonizing data collection methods, increasing data comparability and compatibility, and facilitating the accessibility and flows of existing information. It aims to guide ongoing international processes by sharing experiences and

lessons learned on different reporting frameworks and by seeking possibilities for common approaches for data and information collection, storage and reporting by international organizations. A key component of this effort is the development of a Global Core Set (GCS) of forest-related indicators, which focuses data collection on high-priority policy areas and minimizes duplication.

Other CPF Joint Initiatives

25. There are 10 additional JIs, categorized as enabling and thematic, which also support the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity even if this is not their overarching objective. Enabling JIs support coordination, policy development, science-based decisions, monitoring, finance, reporting, education and awareness. Six such JIs are ongoing, including on: Streamlining Global Forest-related Reporting; Forest Finance Facilitation⁵⁷; Forest Education⁵⁸; Global Forest Expert Panels⁵⁹; Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award⁶⁰; and Communication⁶¹. Thematic JIs address emerging priorities. These are typically time-bound but may evolve into larger projects. Current thematic JIs include: Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World⁶²; Turning the tide on deforestation⁶³; Integrated Fire Management in Tropical Forests⁶⁴; and Forests for food security and nutrition⁶⁵.

IV. CPF SUPPORT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY

26. In its “Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030”⁶⁶, the CPF reaffirmed its commitment to urgent and collaborative action to work towards a world in which all forests are managed sustainably for the benefit of people and the planet under the overarching roadmap of the SDGs, the UNSPF, its GFGs and other forest related international goals and targets. To this end, CPF member organizations are scaling up forest actions and strengthening efforts to unlock the contribution of forests towards globally agreed goals and forest-related commitments, including the KMGBF. These efforts are focused on four focal areas: implementation and action on the ground; data, science and innovation; finance for forests; and communication and awareness-raising.

27. Moreover, at the 19th Session of the UNFF in 2024, the CPF was invited to continue to enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on sustainable forest management by addressing the interlinkages of climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, among others. The CPF was also invited to focus its workplan on the implementation of the UNSPF and its GFGs, as well as other multilaterally agreed forest-related goals, including the KMGBF. The governing bodies of the CPF member organizations were also invited to integrate the UNSPF and its GFGs in their

⁵⁷ Joint Initiative – Forest finance facilitation: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/forest-finance-facilitation/en>

⁵⁸ Joint Initiative – Forest education: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/forest-education/en>

⁵⁹ Joint Initiative – Global forest expert panels: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/global-forest-expert-panels/en>

⁶⁰ Joint Initiative – Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/wangari-maathai-forest-champions-award/en>

⁶¹ Joint Initiative - CPF communicator’s network: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/communicators-network/en>

⁶² Joint Initiative – Sustainable wood for a sustainable world: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/sustainable-wood-for-a-sustainable-world/en>

⁶³ Joint Initiative – Turning the tide on deforestation: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/turning-the-tide-on-deforestation/en>

⁶⁴ Joint Initiative – Integrated fire management in tropical forests: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/integrated-fire-management-in-tropical-forests/en>

⁶⁵ Joint Initiative – Forests for food security and nutrition: <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/initiatives/forests-for-food-security-and-nutrition/en>

⁶⁶ CPF. 2023. Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030. Available at: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/170a3a50-7118-4f32-aae4-06dd7a74a731/content>

plans and operational programme of work, and to take mutually beneficial decisions to strengthen the CPF⁶⁷.

28. As reflected in Section I (particularly paragraphs 3 and 4) of this document, the CPF has a longstanding history of engagement in CBD processes, at the request of Parties including through the provision of technical advice and support. Since the adoption of the PoWFB in 2002, CPF members have leveraged their diverse mandates, technical expertise and comparative advantages to support its implementation and help to guide Parties in their policies and the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

29. The KMGBF adopted in 2022, provides a comprehensive framework for the conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing of biodiversity. The conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests is central to the KMGBF's ambitious vision of a world living in harmony with nature, as outlined by the pathway of its 4 broad goals by 2050 and 23 milestone targets for 2030. CPF members are engaged in multiple individual and collective efforts to promote sustainable forest management, including for biodiversity conservation, in alignment with the goals and targets of the KMGBF. This includes efforts to integrate forest priorities and solutions into the design, financing, implementation and monitoring of NBSAPs and to facilitate the sharing of such solutions within and across countries and regions through South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

30. With particular regard to document CBD/SBSTTA/27/5/Add.2 "Strategic review of and updates to the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework," the CPF is committed to supporting Parties towards the goals of the KMGBF through the provision of technical expertise, collaboration on joint initiatives, and coordinated actions to support the development of complementary guidance and technical advice to Parties, upon request, to implement forest-related KMGBF targets.

31. FAO, UNEP and partners are promoting integrated fire management (IFM) as a transformative approach that bridges diverse knowledge systems and moves from reactive firefighting to prevention and preparedness. The FAO-hosted Global Fire Management Hub (Fire Hub), which brings together key partners to assist countries in implementing IFM, promotes knowledge and data sharing, training and capacity building, wildfire-resilient communities, fire risk mapping, reduction and early warning systems and IFM policy development and implementation. The Fire Hub provides a "one-stop-shop" for data, guidelines, best practices, technologies and access to various networks and initiatives of the international fire community to promote cooperation and interoperability, and encourages parties to strengthen their implementation of integrated fire management, in recognition of its contribution to the achievement of the KMGBF. Fire Hub activities [in Latin America] focus on improving the conservation and restoration of ecosystems through active engagement of indigenous peoples and other local knowledge holders in IFM, in support of Targets 2 and 3 of the KMGBF. A forthcoming International Indigenous-led Fire Adaptation Network will enhance indigenous peoples' leadership in IFM and help promote indigenous knowledge and fire management practices globally.

32. Strong complementarity exists between forest-related indicators used in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the Global Forest Goals (GFGs), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This alignment suggests that shared indicators could be used across these processes, simplifying reporting requirements and enhancing coherence. Many forest-related statistics and data relevant to the GFG, KMGBF and SDG reporting processes are derived from FAO's Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA), which provides essential information for understanding the extent of forest resources, their condition, management and uses. The next edition of FRA will be released in October 2025. Where possible, countries are encouraged to integrate forest targets into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Voluntary National Forest Contributions, using cross-referenced indicators to streamline national and international reporting efforts. FAO is also the custodian agency for a range of indicators used to measure progress towards the implementation of the KMGBF, including Progress toward

⁶⁷ E/2024/42 E/CN.18/2024/9: <https://docs.un.org/en/E/2024/42>

sustainable forest management (SDG Indicator 15.2.1). The Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM), developed by FAO, assists countries in reporting on areas under restoration in alignment with Target 2 of the KMGBF.

33. The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN) was established in 2015 by the UNFF to assist members in mobilizing, accessing and effective use of financial resources for sustainable forest management. As of this writing, the GFFFN has supported 37 countries and three regional or sub-regional organizations with capacity-building and technical assistance for the development of national and regional forest financing strategies and project proposals. These capacity-building activities have included components on financing for forest biodiversity. The national and regional forest financing strategies and projects developed have incorporated biodiversity elements, as appropriate, in line with relevant national strategies and priorities.

34. In addition, the UNFF Clearing House on Forest Financing⁶⁸ provides a one-stop-shop for information and knowledge on forest financing. It contains three databases with information on financing opportunities, learning materials, and good practices related to financing for forests. Out of 323 entries, over a third are tagged as relevant to biodiversity conservation. These include 99 financing opportunities and 22 publications, including several directly referencing the goals and targets of the KMGBF. In addition, the UNFF Clearing House Quarterly Highlight brings further visibility to the latest developments in financing for forests, including updates on resource mobilization for the KMGBF, as well as calls for proposals and learning materials targeting forest biodiversity.

35. The UNFFS has developed a project “Innovative and digital technologies for forest monitoring and data-sharing by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and young people”. The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacities of a few countries to integrate scientific data and traditional knowledge of the indigenous peoples and local communities by identifying and applying user-friendly monitoring and assessment tools including user friendly digital technology for monitoring, assessment, and reporting on the implementation of sustainable forest management and the UNSPF.

36. IUFRO, under its science-business platform Teaming Up 4 Forest (TU4F) has recently started a scientific assessment focused on better understanding how to balance forest management and use with biodiversity goals and social expectations. The study is scheduled to be published in mid-2026.

37. The GEF, as the institutional structure operating the Financial Mechanism of the CBD, developed the Programming Directions of the GEF Trust Fund for the period 2022-2026 (GEF-8) to support the implementation of the KMGBF. In addition, the GEF established the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund in 2023 in response to CBD COP 15 guidance. Country-driven programming across these two funds has resulted in significant investments in forest landscapes globally, with \$1.7 billion invested in forest conservation and sustainable use related projects and programs between June 2022 and August 2025. These forest-related programs and projects are expected to make the following quantitative contributions to the KMGBF targets (note that these contributions may change until implementation):

- Target 1: Strengthen management effectiveness of 49.6 million hectares of forest landscapes benefitting biodiversity
- Target 2: 1.7 million ha of forest ecosystems under restoration
- Target 3: 114 million ha of protected areas and 8 million ha of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) created or under improved management
- Target 7: 14,000 metric tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced and 18,000 metric tons of residual plastic waste avoided
- Target 8 and Target 11: 919 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated (CO₂e)
- Target 10: 38 million ha of productive landscapes under improved practices

⁶⁸ Further information on the UNFF Clearing House on Forest Financing available at: <https://forest-finance.un.org/>

- Target 19: \$13.9 billion of co-financing, for a total investment of \$15.6 billion in biodiversity-relevant projects
- Target 22 and Target 23: 19.6 million people benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, including 50% women.

38. GEF-8 projects make important contributions to the achievement of Targets 20 (capacity building) and 21 (data/information/knowledge management). While not specifically measured by the GEF Trust Fund core indicators, most if not all projects actively support these targets to achieve program and project goals.

39. Similarly, Targets 22 and 23 refer to the way the KMGBF is implemented at the national level, with Target 22 focusing on equitable, inclusive, and gender-responsive participation and Target 23 focusing on gender equality. GEF's policy framework on indigenous peoples and local communities and gender ensures that all GEF investments contribute to these targets.

40. The CPF plans to support the organization of the Forest Pavilion at UNFCCC COP30 to be hosted by the Organizing Committee of the Forest Pavilion, co-chaired by the Government of Brazil and the Government of Canada, and hold a series of events at the pavilion, including those focused on forest biodiversity and above-mentioned Joint Initiatives of the CPF to share its experiences and best practices.

41. UNDP, at the request of the government of Brazil, is supporting country dialogues on tropical forests engagement in the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, expected to be launched at COP30. In addition, and as part of the broader Climate Promise initiative, UNDP will be featuring countries' progress on NDC design and implementation, including the contribution of the forests and land use sector.

42. IUCN, under its JI Strengthening the Conservation of Primary Forest, is organizing an event at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, convening stakeholders and decision-makers from governments, multilateral finance institutions, civil society, academia and UN agencies to advance the global dialogue on the conservation of primary forests. It will also showcase initiatives from the CPF and highlight what has been achieved so far and how these efforts can be further advanced.
