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FOREST BIODIVERSITY: ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORTING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. 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 ongoing review of the international arrangement on forests to be discussed at the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in May 2015 and invited other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 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.

2. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, has prepared a compilation of information on ways in which international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests are assisting in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This compilation is available as information document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/3. The Secretariat participated in the eleventh session of United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and organized a side event on the margins of that meeting to present a draft of the compilation and to discuss opportunities for further collaboration in supporting the achievement of the Aichi Targets with representatives of a number of organizations.¹

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/1.

¹The GEF, ITTO, UNCCD. The side-event was also attended by representatives from ICRAF, IUCN, IUFRO, UNEP, as well as from the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

3. The present note is organized as follows: section I describes the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other relevant international targets and objectives; section II provides an overview of the international arrangement on forests, including the recent review; section III provides an overview of the main findings of the study on ways in which international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests are assisting in implementing the Strategic Plan; while section IV considers options for further collaborative action to achieve the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

I. INTERNATIONALLY AGREED FOREST-RELATED TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES

4. Apart from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, there are a number of other multilateral forest-related commitments, which, at least in parts, substantively overlap with the content of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. To demonstrate some congruencies between international forest processes, three multilateral agreements—the four global objectives on forests, REDD+² activities and guidance, and the sustainable development goals—are introduced below and their overlaps with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are summarized in Table 1.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets of relevance to forests and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity

5. This study focuses on those Aichi Biodiversity Targets that are most directly related to forests or forest ecosystems services: Target 5 – to halve deforestation and reduce degradation and fragmentation; Target 7 – that all areas under forestry are managed sustainably; Target 11 – to conserve at least 17% of land through protected area systems; Target 14 – to restore and safeguard ecosystems that provide essential ecosystem services and Target 15 – to enhance resilience and carbon stocks and restore at least 15% of degraded ecosystems. These targets relate most closely to the other international forest commitments, and Targets 5, 11 and 15 contain quantitative elements (See Table 1).

6. Other Aichi Biodiversity Targets, though not reflected directly in the global forest objectives, reflect important dimensions of forest biodiversity, notably Targets 12 and 13 which address the species and genetic diversity components of biodiversity respectively. Also of particular relevance is Target 18 which addresses traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.

7. However, all of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are relevant in some way. For example, Targets 1 to 4 are also important in that they address the indirect drivers of forest loss and degradation. While the main driver of forest loss and degradation – land-use change – is addressed through Target 5, Targets 8 and 9 address other important drivers (pollution and invasive alien species, respectively). Some forest ecosystems (e.g. cloud forests), are among those most vulnerable to climate change, and therefore Target 10 can be relevant. Targets 16, 17, 19 and 20 address important enabling activities.

8. As noted in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020³ (including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets) is to be implemented through the relevant programmes of work. In decision VI/22, the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2002, adopted the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, consisting of three programme elements, 12 goals, 27 objectives and 130 activities.

The Global Objectives on Forests.

9. The global objectives on forests are a key part of the international arrangement on forests (described in section II of this note) and comprise:

Global Objective 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.

² REDD+ is used as a shorthand for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”, consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The acronym REDD+ is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

³ Decision X/2.

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

Global Objective 3: Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests.

Global Objective 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

10. In decision 1/CP.16 (the Cancun Agreements), the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC defined REDD+ activities and set out related guidance and safeguards. REDD+ comprises reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. These activities align very closely with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11, 7 and 15 (see Table 1). The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in decision XI/19, paragraph 6 acknowledged that there is a large potential for synergies between REDD+ activities and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The Sustainable Development Goals

11. The Member States of the United Nations are in the process of finalizing the post-2015 development agenda, and the General Assembly is expected to adopt a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and related targets in September 2015. Most elements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are very well reflected in the goals and targets. Goal 15 aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”.⁴ Targets under this goal that explicitly refer to forests include:

Target 15.1: By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

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.

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

⁴ Draft outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (12 August 2015); available at: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.85&Lang=E.

Table 1: Congruence among the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other forest-related multilateral commitments

Element	CBD: Aichi Biodiversity Targets	IAF: Global Objectives on Forests	UNFCCC: REDD+	UN: Sustainable Development Goals
Reducing deforestation and forest degradation	Target 5: by 2020, the rate of loss of forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced	Objective 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide...and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;	Element (a): Reducing emissions from deforestation Element (b): Reducing emissions from forest degradation	Target 15.2: By 2020...halt deforestation, restore degraded forests...
Sustainable forest management	Target 7: by 2020, all areas under forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity	Objective 3: Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests.	Element (d): Sustainable management of forests	Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests...
Forest conservation	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 Targets 12 (species) and 13 (Genetic diversity) are also relevant	Objective 3: Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests	<i>Safeguard 2 (e) provides that actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity...</i>	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
Forest restoration	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	Objective 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through... restoration, afforestation and reforestation...	Element (c): Conservation of forest carbon Element (e): Enhancement of forest carbon stocks	Target 15.2: By 2020...substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land

Benefits from forests	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	Objective 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>	
Elements of forest biodiversity and traditional knowledge	Targets 12, 13 and 18			
Supporting and enabling commitments	Targets 1 – 4, 16, 17, 19 and 20	Objective 4: ...mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.		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. Many other targets relate to supporting and enabling measures in a more general way

Target 15.3, is also relevant in this respect:

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.

In addition, a forest-related target is provided under Goal 6 on water and sanitation:

Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.

Congruence among the international forest commitments

12. There is a high degree of congruence among the international forest commitments described in Table 1. In essence, the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets are consistent with the other forest-related multilateral commitments. They also provide concrete, quantifiable targets, which are also largely reflected in the sustainable development goals. Moreover, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are developing national targets in line with the Aichi Targets in their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans. This congruence represents an opportunity to strengthen coordination among organizations that are leading, promoting and supporting achievement of the various interlinked targets and objectives. It may be emphasized that coordination among international organizations would also facilitate the implementation of all forest-related multilateral commitments at the national level.

Voluntary commitments

13. The New York Declaration on Forests, adopted by a number of countries, subnational authorities, companies, indigenous peoples' organizations and NGOs at the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2014, includes a number of targets that are broadly consistent with the aforementioned forest-related multilateral commitments, including to at least 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 2030.⁵ These commitments build upon those of the Bonn Challenge.⁶

II. THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ON FORESTS

14. In 2000, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in resolution 2000/35, established the international arrangement on forests (IAF) with the main objective of management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. There were six principal functions which were agreed upon in this resolution for IAF to promote the implementation of internationally agreed actions on forests at the national, regional and global levels, and to provide a coherent, transparent and participatory global framework for policy implementation, coordination and development. To carry out these functions and to achieve the objective of IAF, the United Nations Economic and Social Council established the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) as the intergovernmental body of IAF.

15. In the same resolution, the executive heads of relevant organizations in the United Nations system and other international bodies were invited to form a collaborative partnership that supports the work of UNFF and to enhance coordination and collaboration on forests. Therefore, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) was created in April 2001 with a mandate to support the work of UNFF, to enhance cooperation and coordination among its members, and to gather support from their governing bodies for

⁵ 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>

⁶ <http://www.bonnchallenge.org/>

its activities. Today the CPF consists of 14 member organizations: the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the World Bank. The CPF established a inter-agency network to enhance coordination and cooperation among its members, with tasks broken down according to the UNFF programme of work.⁷

16. Other international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests that are not members of the CPF include Bioversity International, Conservation International, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Forest Peoples Programme, Global Forest Watch, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the World Resources Institute.

17. In 2006, and based on the recommendations agreed upon by UNFF at its sixth session, the United Nations Economic and Social Council, through resolution 2006/49, decided to strengthen IAF through the addition of three new functions, by agreeing on the four shared global objectives on forests (GOFs) and agreeing to develop a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the seventh session of UNFF. It was also agreed that the effectiveness of IAF was to be reviewed in 2015, with due consideration of a full range of options. At its seventh session, the Forum negotiated and agreed upon a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/62/98. The Instrument contains the four global objectives on forests outlined in paragraph 9 above.

Assessment of the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests

18. Based on the decision of the tenth session of the Forum as well as previous resolutions, the member States of the Forum initiated the assessment of the effectiveness of IAF in 2013. This process was completed at the eleventh session of the Forum in May 2015, and a draft resolution to the United Nations Economic and Social Council was negotiated and agreed upon.⁸ The Council adopted this resolution in July 2015.⁹

19. In the preamble to the resolution, the United Nations Economic and Social Council stressed the need to strengthen the capacity of the international arrangement on forests and to foster coherency on forest-related policies, catalyze implementation of sustainable forest management, and promote coordination and collaboration on forest issues at all levels as well as welcomed the significant

⁷ Focal agencies, agreed in the 2002 CPF Policy document, are: Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes: FAO; Promoting public participation: UNFF (international) UNDP (national); Combating deforestation and forest degradation: UNEP; Traditional forest related knowledge: CBD; Forest-related scientific knowledge: CIFOR; Forest health and productivity: FAO; Criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management: FAO/ITTO; Economic, social and cultural aspects of forests: World Bank (Economic aspects of forests), CIFOR (Social and cultural aspects of forests); Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems: UNEP; Monitoring, assessment and reporting, and concepts, terminology and definitions: FAO; Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover: UNEP; Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands, and the promotion of natural and planted forests: FAO; Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs: UNFF; Financial resources: World Bank/ GEF; International trade and sustainable forest management: ITTO; International cooperation in capacity-building, transfer of and access to environmentally-sound technologies for the support of sustainable forest management: FAO; Forest biological diversity: CBD.

⁸ UNFF. May 2015. Draft resolution submitted by the Chair of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session, Noel Nelson Messone (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations: International arrangement on forests beyond 2015. Available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.18/2015/L.2/Rev.1

⁹ E/RES/2015/33.

forest-related developments in other forums, in particular in the context of the Rio conventions, their continued contribution to sustainable forest management and the importance of cooperation and synergies between these forums and the international arrangement on forests.

20. The Council also decided to strengthen the international arrangement on forests and extend it to 2030 (paragraph 1(a)). Similarly, the global forest goals were extended to 2030 and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests was renamed “the United Nations Forest Instrument” (paragraph 8).

21. It decided to enhance cooperation, coordination, coherency and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels (paragraph 1(d)(iii)); and to foster international cooperation (paragraph 1(d)(iv)). The Council emphasized that the objectives of the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 should be achieved through the actions, individually and collectively, of member States, international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, major groups and other stakeholders (paragraph 2).

22. According to the resolution, the Secretariat of UNFF should continue to promote inter-agency collaboration (paragraph 17(a)(iv)); to promote coherency, coordination and cooperation on forest-related issues, including by liaising with the secretariats of the Rio conventions (paragraph 17(b)(iii)); and to work within the United Nations system to support countries in aligning forests and the international arrangement on forests with their considerations on the post-2015 development agenda (paragraph 17(b)(iv)).

23. Further, it was decided that the Forum should develop a concise strategic plan for the international arrangement on forest, for the period 2017-2030, taking into account significant forest-related developments in other forums as well as identify the roles of different actors and the framework for reviewing implementation, to enhance the coherence of and guide and focus the work of the international arrangement on forests and its components (paragraphs 38 and 39). Through the resolution, the Council established a working group of the Forum with a mandate to develop proposals for the strategic plan, for consideration by the Special Session of UNFF by March 2017.

24. In the resolution, the Council also addressed the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The core functions of the CPF 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 (paragraph 20). Further, CPF was encouraged (paragraph 22):

(a) To strengthen the CPF 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) To identify ways to stimulate broader participation by existing member organizations in its various activities;

(c) To assess its membership and the potential added value of additional members with significant forest-related expertise;

(d) To identify ways to actively involve major groups and other stakeholders in activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

(e) To develop a workplan, aligned with the strategic plan, to identify priorities for collective actions by all of the Partnership’s members or subsets of members and the resource implications of such actions;

(f) To prepare periodic reports on the Partnership's activities, achievements and resource allocations suitable for a wide range of audiences, including potential donors; and

(g) To further develop and expand its thematic joint initiatives, taking into account the strengths and focuses of the Partnership's members.

25. In addition, the governing bodies of member organizations of the Partnership are invited to include in their work programmes dedicated funding to support Partnership activities, as well as budgeted activities supporting the Forum's priorities as outlined in the strategic plan, consistent with their mandates (paragraph 23).

26. The resolution is complemented by a ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the international arrangement on "the forests we want: beyond 2015". In the declaration, ministers welcomed what has already been achieved and invited international or multilateral institutions to continue supporting collaboration and scaling up action.¹⁰ They welcomed forest-related developments in other forums, including the Rio conventions, their continued contributions to sustainable forest management and the importance of cooperation and synergies between these forums and the international arrangement on forests (paragraph 11). Further, in the declaration, Ministers invited the Conferences of the Parties to CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC to consider outputs of the future international arrangement on forests, consistent with their mandates, and also invited their Secretariats to continue to actively participate, as appropriate, in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests as well as to continue their involvement in the work of the Forum and the Partnership (paragraph 15(d)).

27. This resolution and ministerial declaration further demonstrate the increasing understanding that more close collaboration and cooperation on forests issues is needed. The enhanced collaboration and cooperation among decision-making bodies of international organizations and secretariats with substantive programmes on forests is expected to augment achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the same time as other forest-related multilateral commitments. The clear congruence among the forest-related multilateral commitments outlined in Table 1, and the mandate to develop a IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 and related CPF workplan, provide useful opportunities to explore options for further collaborative action to achieve the forest-related multilateral commitments, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in a synergistic manner. Moreover, such options could build upon the work already undertaken by the members of CPF that is presented in the following section.

III. 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

28. This section provides an overview of information presented in document 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. Further details and examples of the work of the CPF members can be found in the information note.

29. Table 2 summarizes on which Aichi Biodiversity Targets the other 13 CPF member organizations have corresponding work. From Table 2, it can be summarized that all member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 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).

¹⁰ The declaration is available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.18/2015/L.1/Rev.1

Table 2 Indicative contributions of CPF member organizations to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
(most forest-relevant targets are shaded)

	1	2	3	4	5	7	9	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20
CIFOR	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FAO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
GEF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
ICRAF			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
ITTO	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IUCN	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
IUFRO	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
UNCCD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓			
UNDP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
UNEP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UNFF	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
UNFCCC					✓						✓	✓	✓		
World Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

30. The majority of organizations carry out work related to integrating biodiversity values (Target 2); reforming incentives (Target 3); increasing sustainable production and consumption (Target 4); increasing sustainable forestry (Target 7); preventing and controlling invasive alien species (Target 9); preventing species extinction (Target 12); maintaining genetic diversity (Target 13); respecting traditional knowledge (Target 18); and improving, applying and sharing scientific knowledge (Target 19). A few organizations work towards increasing sustainable financing (Target 20).

Mandates, goals and missions of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

31. A good indicator of an organization's support to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is the explicit consideration of the Targets in their strategies, plans and/or programmes of work. This is the case for seven CPF organizations: CIFOR, GEF, ITTO, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank:

(a) CIFOR's 2008-2018 Strategy is currently being revised and the updated version will specifically refer to the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(b) GEF in its GEF-6 Programming Directions prioritizes addressing three principal drivers—habitat loss, overexploitation and invasive alien species—which remain the most critical for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that are largely responsible for current trends in biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation;

(c) Through the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity, ITTO will focus on supporting efforts towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15;

(d) The IUCN Programme 2013-2016 also clearly states that it will be contributing to many of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, particularly Targets 5, 9, 11, 12 and 13 under Strategic Goals B and C;

(e) In alignment with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNDP developed the UNDP Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework 2012-2020, which

indicates how the organization intends to leverage its substantial portfolio of projects worldwide to help Parties meet the Targets, including Target 5 on habitat loss and Target 7 on sustainable forestry;

(f) UNEP, in its Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2017 and related bi-annual Programmes of Work makes explicit reference to all Aichi Biodiversity Targets and outlines how UNEP will address them;

(g) A Biodiversity Roadmap for the World Bank Group states that the post-2015 development agenda and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets offer a comprehensive framework for addressing poverty and development in an environmentally sustainable way; the roadmap also provides a breakdown of World Bank projects that have supported the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Goals and Targets;

(h) In addition, while it does not make direct reference to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, FAO's renewed strategic framework contributes to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 through its strategic objective 2.

32. In a few cases, CPF member organizations, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, have used their expertise to take on the role of the lead international organization for providing advice and where appropriate, capacity-building to countries in their efforts to achieve specific forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Specifically, FAO has formally agreed to assume the leading role as Biodiversity Champion in supporting the achievement of Targets 7 on sustainable agriculture, forests and fisheries and Target 13 on agricultural genetic diversity, while IUCN plays a similar role for Target 12 on extinction prevention. UNDP has the informal, de facto lead for Target 2 on the integration of biodiversity values into development strategies and planning.

Functions of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

33. The degree of support to the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets varies from one CPF member organization to another largely due to differences in their mandates and programmes of work:

(a) By their nature, the secretariats of UNCCD, UNFCCC and UNFF are not implementing agencies; their primary function is to service the meetings of their contracting Parties, or member States in the case of UNFF, and follow-up on the decisions of their Conference of the Parties and subsidiary bodies. In addition, FAO supports the biennial sessions of its Committee on Forestry (COFO) which brings together heads of forest services and other senior government officials to identify emerging policy and technical issues, to seek solutions and to advise FAO and others on appropriate action;¹¹

(b) Implementation responsibilities lie principally with contracting parties or member States, with support from supporting implementing agencies/organizations. These include FAO, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank, all of whom are implementing agencies for the Global Environment Facility. Among these, FAO and UNDP have a network of country offices, while FAO, IUCN and UNEP have regional offices;

(c) Scientific and highly technical organizations such as CIFOR, ICRAF, IUFRO and IUCN focus more sharply on research and analysis, the development of instruments and tools for policy implementation, and, in support of these ends, the implementation of projects and initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, often in concert with FAO, UNEP, the World Bank and other CPF members;

(d) Finally, GEF, ITTO and the World Bank are key organizations providing funding for sustainable forest management and sustainable use of biodiversity primarily at the national and regional

¹¹ More information on COFO and past sessions are available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/57758/en/>.

levels, but also at the global level. The former operates as the financial mechanism for several multilateral environmental agreements, including CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC.¹²

Activities of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

34. The members of CPF support country-level activities in a number of thematic areas, consistent with their mandates and programmes of work:

(a) Reducing deforestation, including through support to REDD+ related activities. For example, the World Bank has supported the reduction of deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon through long-term engagement with a range of financing instruments (grants, loans, analytical work). Many CPF members collaborate, including through the UN-REDD programme and the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, to support countries in developing and implementing national strategies for REDD+;

(b) Promoting sustainable forest management. UNDP and the World Bank are supporting countries in promoting community forest management. ITTO, GEF and the World Bank are supporting activities in tropical countries to promote certification of sustainable forest management;

(c) Promoting forest restoration. Many CPF members are promoting forest restoration, including through the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, together with other partners such as the World Resources Institute.

35. The members of the CPF also undertake a range of activities in developing technical guidance and in supporting monitoring and assessment. Notably, FAO prepares periodic issues of its Forest Resources Assessment which, based on country inputs, provides comprehensive information on the state of forest worldwide. Increasingly, such information is complemented by forest cover data obtained from remote sensing.

Collaborative partnerships and joint work programmes

36. The form and extent of support to the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets is also demonstrated in the form of collaborative agreements and joint work programmes. Table 4 below outlines some partnerships between CPF members and other organizations through collaborative efforts and joint work programmes. The table provides an indication of who is working with whom. From Table 4, it is evident that there are a number of collaborative partnerships, memoranda of cooperation and joint work programmes between international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests that can serve as a platform for enhancing cooperation, coordination, coherency and synergies of activities and that can support the implementation of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

¹² Funding for the Biodiversity Focal Area for the sixth replenishment period of GEF (GEF-6), from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018, increased to total allocations of approximately US\$ 1.8 billion. The GEF-6 Sustainable Forest Management Strategy funding envelope is US \$250 million, including maintained forest resources (US\$70 million), enhanced forest management (US\$80 million), restored forest ecosystems (US\$50 million), increased regional and global cooperation (US\$30 million) and contributing to integrated approach pilots (US\$20 million). Moreover, in the fifth replenishment (2010-2014) the GEF Sustainable Forest Management REDD+ Programme provided more than US\$700 million, compared with US\$470 million in the fourth replenishment. See Global Environment Facility (2014), *GEF-6 Programming Directions*, p. 161. Available at http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF_R.6_20.Rev_01,%20%20Programming%20Directions,%20Final,%20November%2026,%202013.pdf

Table 4 Example partnerships between CPF members and other organizations through collaborative efforts and joint work programmes

	CBD	CIFOR	FAO	GEF	ICRAF	ITTO	IUCN	IUFRO	UNCCD	UNDP	UNEP	UNFCCC	UNFF	World Bank	Others
Rio Conventions Joint Liaison Group	✓								✓			✓			
Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓				CITES, CMS, IIFB, etc. ¹³
Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		WWF, WRI, etc. ¹⁴
Landscapes for People, Food and Nature Initiative			✓		✓				✓		✓				CI, WRI, etc. ¹⁵
ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity	✓					✓									
The ITTO-CITES Programme for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species						✓	✓								
UN-REDD			✓							✓	✓				
World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)			✓							✓				✓	
World Bank's Programme on Forests (PROFOR)		✓	✓				✓				✓				

¹³ Full list of partners is available at: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership/en/>

¹⁴ Full list of partners is available at: <http://www.forestlandscaperestoration.org/our-partners>

¹⁵ Full list of partners is available at: <http://peoplefoodandnature.org/about/>

37. As a result of the creation and implementation of the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity, ITTO reported that funding for biodiversity conservation and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets increased by US\$ 12.5 million. Specifically, the Initiative provides support to ITTO producer member countries to reduce losses of biodiversity through the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity under the CBD, focusing on common objectives of both the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the ITTO Action Plan.

38. Results of the information document highlight that all CPF member organizations have expressed support for greater collaboration in aligning their efforts to support the achievements of the forest related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

IV. OPTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

39. Overlaps between the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other multilateral commitments present an opportunity to build coordination as implementation of one commitment will foster progress in the achievement of another (section I). The resolution resulting from the review of the international arrangement of forests promotes enhanced collaboration and cooperation among the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, through a workplan linked to the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 (section II). The CPF members (and some other international organizations) are currently implementing a range of activities that explicitly or implicitly contribute to the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including through joint work programmes, collaborative initiatives, as well as through project and programmes based on their own mandates, goals and missions. Furthermore, all CPF member organizations have expressed support for greater collaboration in aligning their efforts to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of relevance to forests (section III).

40. In the light of the foregoing, this is an opportune time to further enhance collaboration among members of CPF in order to better support countries' efforts to achieve forest-related multilateral commitments, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Elements of enhanced collaboration might include:

- (a) Working collectively to identify critical areas and to support countries in these areas;
- (b) Leveraging the comparative advantage of each of the CPF members such that work done in different areas (research, monitoring and assessment, policy norms, technical guidance, financing and investment) is mutually supportive;
- (c) Working with additional organizations that have substantive programmes on forests, where warranted;
- (d) Promoting open data platforms and interoperability to facilitate the sharing and synthesis of information.

41. These, and other, elements to enhance contributions to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets may be reflected in the revised workplan of CPF. In addition, the preparation of the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 offers an opportunity to further strengthen support for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the context of a coordinated approach to the achievement of the forest-related multilateral commitments. As noted in paragraph 23 above, proposals for the IAF Strategic Plan 2017-2030 will be developed during 2016 for consideration by UNFF in 2017.

42. Future individual and collaborative work by CPF and its member organizations to support countries in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other forest-related multilateral commitments will need to take into account, across the landscape, other land uses, notably agriculture, as well as the need for land management to contribute to climate-change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

V. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

1. *Takes note* of the information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the role of international organizations in supporting the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/8) and in the information note on the contributions of CPF member organizations to the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/3);
2. *Welcomes* the contribution of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to efforts to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular with regard to forests;
3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue working with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forest and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to contribute to the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2030 of the international arrangement on forests and the related workplan of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests with a view to ensuring consistency with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to further enhancing achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may also wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Noting the strong congruence among the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the four global objectives on forests, REDD+¹⁶ activities and guidance, and the sustainable development goals, and *emphasizing* their important role in the overall achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the long-term vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as for the post 2015 development agenda,

1. *Welcomes* the resolution of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on the international arrangement on forests beyond 2015 which strengthens the international arrangement and extends it to 2030;
2. *Invites* the United Nations Forum of Forests, in preparing the Strategic Plan 2017-2030 of the international arrangement on forests, to take into account the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, with a view to promoting a coordinated approach to the achievement of the forest-related multilateral commitments;
3. *Invites also* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in preparing its 2017-2030 workplan 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 commitment, and to this end, for example:

¹⁶ REDD+ is used as a shorthand for “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”, consistent with paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The acronym REDD+ is used for convenience only, without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or future negotiations under the UNFCCC.

- (a) To identify critical areas for support to countries;
- (b) To examine the roles of the Partnership member in order to leverage the comparative advantages of each of its members and to further enhance their joint contributions;
- (c) To improve monitoring of, and reporting, on progress.

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue working with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the implementation of this decision.
