

## 27th Session of the Committee on Forestry

### **Item 8.3. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry**

This document presents FAO's recent work related to the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry.

FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are co-leading the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. FAO leads the support to Members globally in enhancing their ecosystem restoration efforts on the ground, sharing information and knowledge on successful restoration initiatives, and monitoring progress. Through the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, FAO supports countries by providing policy advice and technical assistance. FAO is custodian of Indicator 2.2 (“Area under restoration”) of Target 2 (“Restore 30 percent of all degraded ecosystems”) of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).

Globally, biodiversity continues to decline at an alarming rate. FAO supports biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry and integrated land management approaches, in line with the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors. FAO is in the process of developing a comprehensive Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry, with a planned duration of five years (2024-2028). Its purpose is to enhance the role of sustainably managed forests and of trees outside forests in biodiversity conservation, management, and sustainable use. This programme builds on the recommendations of the FAO and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) global review of biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry.

FAO continues to support countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR), adopted by the 38th Session of the FAO Conference in 2013. FAO is in the process of finalising the Second Report on The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources and a new global information system on forest genetic resources.

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme supports countries in developing their capacity to adopt policies and legal frameworks to achieve KMGBF Target 5 (“Ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species”) and Target 9 (“Manage wild species sustainably to benefit people”).

The Committee is invited to:

- a. welcome FAO's achievements in supporting the UN Decade as its co-lead, and encourage Members to continue their support to the implementation of the UN Decade and enhancing ecosystem restoration implementation and monitoring efforts, including by using the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform;
- b. welcome the progress made in the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (“the Strategy”) through the completed 2021–2023 Action Plan and current 2024–2027 Action Plan, and take note of the alignment of the 2024–2027 Action Plan with the KMGBF;
- c. stress the role of the Strategy as a coordination mechanism for activities through which FAO supports countries' efforts to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, including in the forest sector;

- d. recommend that FAO continue to collaborate with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in advancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in forestry, including on data and monitoring, and in the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; and
- e. invite FAO to collect and disseminate evidence-based management practices to effectively address human–wildlife conflict; and recommend that FAO continue to collaborate with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management, to strengthen country capacity for adopting policies and legal frameworks, including by implementing Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Programme tools and good practices to achieve sustainable wildlife management in alignment with the KMGBF.

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