

27th Session of the Committee on Forestry - Written Correspondence Procedure

Item 8.3 The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry (Document COFO/2024/6.3)

Secretariat response to written inputs from Members

The secretariat noted with gratitude the appreciation of various elements of its work, expressed by the EU and its Member States (EU), Japan, the United States of America and Canada. The secretariat also took note of the proposal of the United States of America, Canada and Mexico to continue coordination and collaboration with the CBD secretariat.

The secretariat appreciated the support by the United States of America and Canada to the actions contained in document COFO/2024/6.3.

The secretariat duly noted the comment by Canada and Australia on the language related to the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform.

The secretariat noted the comment of the EU on the relevance of activities for implementing Target 2 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The secretariat noted the support for the development of the Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry and the offer to share success stories and lessons learned from the European Network Integrate. The secretariat noted with appreciation the recognition by EU and its 27 Member States of the alignment of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors with the GBF, as well as the guidance on further collaboration with the CBD, within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and with related international entities. The secretariat noted the observation on the importance of national actions and the encouragement for supporting countries at country level. The secretariat further noted the need for implementing activities in an integrated manner; the encouragement to disseminate species-specific data; and the recognition that these actions can positively contribute to achieve relevant targets under the GBF, including Targets 4 and 8.

The secretariat noted the comment on the importance of efficient and effective support with appropriate awareness raising, prevention and compensation measures for stakeholders affected by the presence of wildlife. The secretariat noted the support to the development of a global programme to monitor and pilot human-wildlife conflicts and coexistence management practices across a wider range of landscapes; and to the proposed action for FAO to continue to collaborate with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), as well as to FAO's efforts to improve work on zoonotic risks within the One Health approach.

The secretariat noted Japan recognizing the role of sustainable forest management and sustainable use of wood and forest resources in achieving conservation of biodiversity, and the achievement of the goals of the GBF.

The secretariat noted the comments of the United States of America on the nature and role of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors and the CBD voluntary guidance on sustainable wildlife management through the wild meat sector. In relation to the latter, the secretariat would like to share that the CPW is contributing to conducting a gap analysis, within the Partnership's mandate and scope, to identify areas that are not adequately covered by existing guidance developed under relevant multilateral environmental agreements and by competent intergovernmental organizations, in line with the mandate of the CBD and the goals and targets of the GBF. The results of the further gap analysis, including the revised list of areas that might require complementary guidance, are planned to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties of the CBD for consideration at its sixteenth meeting. The secretariat also noted the strong support to the cooperation

through the CPF recognizing the respective mandates of the members' organizations relating to CBD in advancing the mainstreaming of biodiversity in forestry.

The secretariat noted Canada's view that FAO's work could play an important role in particular for several important GBF targets (including, but not limited to Targets 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10) both in terms of monitoring but also disseminating/scaling up/implementing good practices.

The secretariat noted the recommendation by New Zealand for FAO to provide guidance on how Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) can be included in the different components of the Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry when further developing this initiative. Overall, the programme recognises the fundamental role of IPLCs in the sustainable use of forest biodiversity. In the global components of the programme, experiences with and requirements for the involvement of IPLCs will be prominently considered and documented. In the national components of the programme, IPLCs will be included in all activities, be it at policy as well as at field level.

The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources recognizes the importance of documenting and protecting traditional knowledge on forest genetic resources and encourages countries to promote the participation of IPLCs in the management of these resources. However, measures of countries for protecting traditional knowledge and collecting georeferenced information on forest genetic resources are beyond the current monitoring framework of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.

The secretariat noted Mexico recognizing the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and its reiterated commitment to continue supporting the implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. The secretariat further noted Mexico's commitment to working with FAO and Member Nations to strengthen the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.

The secretariat appreciated Australia's support to the recent Forest Dialogue in Indonesia delivered by FAO and its partners, which focused on pathways for the private forest sector to further contribute to ecosystem restoration efforts globally. The secretariat noted Australia suggesting that both "land sharing and "land sparing" approaches are relevant to efforts to mainstream biodiversity in forestry and that intensively-managed timber plantations have a role in providing high yields from relatively little land, and should be viewed as part of the greater land management context.

Taking note of the request of the United States of America and Australia for further information on the development of a Global Programme on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Forestry, the secretariat wishes to inform that FAO is currently working on resource mobilization.