

countries, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests² and relevant stakeholders, a concise “flagship” publication on progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals, for release by the end of 2021.

4. The Forum adopted the reporting format ([E/CN.18/2018/4](#), annex I) for initial voluntary national reporting to the Forum on progress towards implementation of the strategic plan at its thirteenth session, in May 2018.

5. The Forum invited countries to submit their country reports to by mid-November 2019. The present explanatory notes are intended to help national correspondents prepare their country reports in a consistent manner.

6. Yes, country reports will be published on the website of the Forum, in advance of the fifteenth session.

7. Previous voluntary national reporting took place prior to the eleventh session of the Forum, in 2015. Countries were invited to submit reports on progress towards implementation of the United Nations forest instrument and the contribution of forests towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The 81 country reports submitted provided a wealth of information on action taken by countries to achieve sustainable forest management, related challenges and success stories. The information from the reports was summarized, along with information from other sources, including members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and relevant stakeholders, in the report of the Secretary-General for the eleventh session of the Forum ([E/CN.18/2015/3](#)).

8. The country reports will be analysed by the Forum. The reports will provide the main source of information to assess progress towards the achievement of the global forest goals, together with information from members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other sources (see sect. II). Several global forest goals, especially goals 4, 5 and 6, refer to policy developments, some of which cannot be monitored through measurable outcomes; accordingly, it will not be possible to develop numerical indicators for every target. Further details on the proposed method for analysis are contained in section III.

9. The relationship between questions in the reporting format and targets is indicated in the table below:

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21. Some global forest goal targets are qualitative and the assessment of progress will rely upon qualitative information provided in country reports. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 will be the main source of quantitative data. It has been designed by FAO in collaboration with the collaborative forest resources questionnaire partners⁴ and other experts to respond to the latest information needs, including those relating to reporting on the global forest goals.⁵ All data published in the Global Forest Resources Assessment are endorsed by the authorities responsible for forests in the country to which they refer.

22. The reporting format for country reports requests only information that is not already provided to international databases such as the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020.

23. To achieve consistency between the two reporting processes, it is important that national correspondents preparing country reports coordinate with the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 national correspondent for their country. Contact details for Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 national correspondents can be obtained by emailing the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 secretariat at fra@fao.org.

24. The global forest goals are aimed at contributing to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Paris Agreement and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals, and the vision, principles and commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provide the context for the global forest goals.⁶

25. As explained in

wood products, the Forum will ask FAO and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change for any additddit

38. There is no internationally agreed definition of “forest-dependent people”. However, [redacted] contains an analysis to quantify the contribution of forests towards Sustainable Development Goal target 1.1 (By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day). Based on peer-reviewed studies and available rural poverty data published in 2016, the analysis revealed that roughly 820 million rural people in the tropics live in or near forests and savannahs and suggested that around 251 million of them lived on less than \$1.25 a day. A regional breakdown was also provided. Until further data are available, these figures and methodology offer an approach to developing a baseline for assessing progress towards target 2.1 in quantitative terms. However, this may prove challenging, given that there is still considerable academic debate about the meaning of the term “forest-dependent people”.¹⁴

39. Country reports will provide information on challenges and actions taken at the national and subnational levels to eradicate extreme poverty¹⁵ for all forest-dependent people. They may refer to, and provide, relevant national definitions of forest-dependent people and related data on poverty reduction.

40. At present, it is not possible to assess progress towards this target in quantitative terms, as no credible statistical information is available on access by small-scale forest enterprises to financial services, or their integration into value chains and markets. While Sustainable Development Goal indicators 9.3.1 (Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added) and 9.3.2 (Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit) are potentially relevant, neither relate specifically to forest enterprises and they are both still tier 3 indicators.¹⁶

41. Country reports will provide information on challenges and actions taken at the national and subnational levels to increase access by small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and the integration of small-scale forest enterprises into value chains and markets.

42. In [redacted],¹⁷ the contribution of forests and trees to food security was examined in some detail, but the analysis was based largely on country case studies. The contribution of forests and trees to food security was also considered in [redacted]¹⁸ and [redacted]. The country case studies also recognized the indirect contribution of forests to agricultural land productivity. However, at present, there are no robust data sources at the global level for metrics that provide quantitative information on the contribution of forests and trees to the various dimensions of food security, namely, food availability, economic and physical access to food, food utilization, stability and nutrition. Although

¹⁴ See Peter Newton and others, “Who are forest-dependent people? A taxonomy to aid livelihood and land use decision-making in forested regions”, *Land Use Policy*, vol 57 (2016). Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2016.05.032>.

¹⁵ The World Bank Group currently defines “extreme poverty” as people living on less than \$1.90 a day (2011 purchasing parity power prices). See <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/746163-what-is-the-1-90-poverty-line-and-based-on-this>.

¹⁶ Tier 3 means that no internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. See <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>.

¹⁷ Available at <http://www.fao.org/publications/sofo/2016/en/>. See chapter 4.

¹⁸ Available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3710e.pdf>.

- Numerical information (Unit: 1,000 hectares) from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 reporting table 1e (Specific forest categories) on changes in area of primary forest

- Numerical information from Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 reporting table 3a (Designated management objective) on the proportions of forests managed for conservation of biodiversity as a designated management objective and as a primary management objective.

47. If disaggregated information for forests becomes available, it may be possible to supplement these data series with information relating to Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.2 (proportion of

54. Country reports will provide information on challenges and actions taken at the national and subnational levels to increase the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests. While many forests are sustainably managed without certification, country reports may also refer to the proportion of forest products from certified forests (including forests certified under internationally and/or nationally approved schemes).

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55. Analysis carried out for _____ revealed that in 2015, the disbursement of official development assistance (ODA) on forestry was about \$800 million, which was less than 1 per cent of total ODA. That information, derived from OECD databases, will be updated by the Forum. It is more difficult to obtain comprehensive information at the global level on other sources of finance for sustainable forest management; however, every effort will be made to draw upon the information that is available. Analysis of responses in country reports to question 4 (c) will provide information on the sources of increased finance for sustainable forest management.

~~OF THE REPORTS~~ Country reports will also provide information on challenges in mobilizing funds and actions taken at the national and subnational levels to mobilize significant resources to finance sustainable forest management. Responses to question 4 (a) can be used for question 4 (a)

59. Country reports will also provide further information on actions taken at the national and subnational levels to enhance and increase North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector.

60. Analysis of responses in country reports to question 4 (e) will provide information on the number of countries that have developed or implemented forest financing strategies and their time frames.

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71. Country reports will provide information in response to question 6 (a) about actions taken at the

