In order to have a broad overview of the impacts of COVID-19 on forests, forest sector, and forest dependent people, and to assess the potential of forests to diminish the adverse impacts of the pandemic, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), at its fifteenth session, requested the UNFF Secretariat, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and with input from members of the Forum, to compile an initial assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on: (i) sustainable forest management (SFM), (ii) the forest sector, forest-dependent people, indigenous peoples and local communities, (iii) forest financing and international cooperation, and to present this assessment to the Forum at its sixteenth session in April 2021. To initiate this assessment and collect information, the UNFF Secretariat commissioned five assessments to be conducted on a regional basis.

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