
In accordance with its programme of work, the UN Forum on Forests at its seventeenth session (UNFF17) adopted an [omnibus resolution](#). The annex to this resolution contains the actions to be taken

We also emphasise the need to ensure the Chair of the session is adequately skilled to manage the session in the face of controversial subject matter. We underscore the importance of a strong Chair to manage plenary sessions, and to work behind the scenes as required.

What do you suggest could be done to encourage more Members of the UNFF to submit voluntary national reports and voluntary national contributions?

We view that the reporting process needs to be better streamlined, including more intuitive, clear and easy-to-use templates, as well as emphasising the clear connection between FRA data and GFG

Since 2015 what is your assessment of

Finally, we consider the CPF workplan to be a useful document, however it still has some way to go in bringing all pe/ivities from different organisations together under one plan. We suggest the work plan also include measurable/opertaconal outputs to ensure tangible actions are ionieved and demonstrable.

Have you requested assistance from the GFFFN for mobilizing forest financing? If yes, how long did it take to receive a response and what was the outcome of your request?

If you participated in GFFFN capacity building/training workshops, did forest financing improve for your country as a result? If yes, how did it improve?

Was your country able to develop or update its forest financing strategy with the support of the GFFFN?

What funding sources have you targeted for forest financing with the support of the GFFFN and how successful were your efforts?

While we do not receive support from GFFFN, we do consider it's value to be quite high.

: What are the contributions of your country /organization to the UNFF trust fund?

: What is the impact of voluntary contributions to the UNFF trust fund on supporting the core activities of the UNFF?

Trust fund contributions have made substantial impacts on elements including developing the inaugural GFG report.

: What are the options to encourage sustained and adequate contributions to the trust fund?

We highly value a transparent and accountable operating environment to promote confidence among members and lead to greater engagement and long-term sustainable contributions. We would welcome more specific and regular updates on contributions received and progress made through UNFF newsletters (quarterly reports) and papers.

In addition, we consider that developing regular well-articulated plans, embedded in UNSPF objectives, for Trust Fund expenditure would increase Members' willingness and enthusiasm to make contributions.

: What are the key challenges and constraints with regard to mobilizing adequate resources for the trust fund?

The limited visibility of the UNFF's work, including its strength and value, constrains ODA funds from members. As per points at E-3 above, ensuring transparent and accountable operating systems, and well-articulated plans for Trust Fund expenditure, would help address this, and potentially enable more contributions.

What significant actions has your country or organisation undertaken since 2020 to implement the UNSPF?² What are the main challenges and constraints your country or organisation is facing in implementing the UNSPF?

Australia demonstrates its continued commitment to the UNSFP through several initiatives, including UNFF-specific actions:

- the announcement of our voluntary national contribution in April 2020
- contributions to the Global Forest Goals Report 2021, including a UNFF trust fund donation in support, participating in the Flagship steering committee and the development of a voluntary national report
- a trust fund donation in 2022 towards the IAF mid-term review

National policies and programs including:

- the National Landcare Program, which has awarded over \$1 billion in funding and grants at local and regional levels for more than 227 projects across Australia to June 2023
- an additional \$66.5 million to support 10 new Indigenous Protected Areas, bringing us closer to our commitment to protect and conserve 30% of our land and oceans by 2030
- development of the National Soil Action Plan (Action Plan) which will detail specific actions (programs and activities) required to achieve the objectives of the National Soil Strategy
- investment of at least \$20 billion in low emissions technologies by 2030 under our Technology Investment Roadmap
- dedicated financing for mass timber construction
- various support measures to the domestic forestry sector to help meet future demand and ensure the role of forest products as climate and environmental solutions:
 - o \$112.9 million to co-invest with wood processors to adopt new and upgraded wood processing facilities.
 - o \$100 million to establish an Australia-wide National Institute for Forest Products Innovation (NIFPI), supported by three regional research centres
 - o \$86.2 million to support the establishment of new plantations, ensuring the private sector and farm foresters have the best opportunity to participate
 - o \$10 million to support the delivery of qualifications, competencies and credentials to meet the training and accreditation requirements of industry
 - o an additional \$8.6 million to 11 Regional Forestry Hubs across Australia to continue to provide strategic planning, technical assessments and analyses to support forestry growth in their regions
 - o \$4.4 million to trial timber testing technologies under Australia's illegal logging laws and build open-access international reference databases.

continued administration of the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package, which is being delivered in 12 pilot regions, and includes:

- o the Australian Farm Biodiversity Certification Scheme

And further international actions including:

- the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research's Forestry Program, supporting ongoing sustainable forest management projects in the Pacific, Asia and Africa of about \$5m million in value

- contributions to multiple FAO and International Tropical Timber Organization projects promoting sustainable forest management within the Asia-Pacific region

- joining the Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership and volunteering efforts towards carbon markets and sustainable supply chains

- Supporting developing countries with forests monitoring, reporting and verification efforts through initiatives including Moja Global and the Global Forest Observation Index

- Hosting key international sustainable forest management events.

Challenges and constraints

We have found that the lack of available relevant information and data for reporting purposes, and environmental disasters and challenges, including drought, fire, pests and weeds, are constraints in implementing initiatives that align with the UNSPF.

What challenges and constraints did your country face in the preparation of its voluntary national report? If it did not prepare a report, what were the reasons?

We note that the provided template presented several challenges with regard to attempting to present a valuable and complete record of data. This was largely attributed to the template being difficult to edit and inflexible, repetitious and lengthy. Further, several questions were open to wider interpretation or open-ended. We think that this may lead to inconsistencies of national reports amongst members and a reduced capacity for comparison.

Do you agree with the submission of

X Increased role for the UNFF Bureau in representing the UNFF and promoting forest/SDG interlinkages at key meetings of the Rio conventions.

 Enhanced coordination in capitals on the preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions (UNFCCC), Voluntary National Contributions (UNFF) and Voluntary National Reviews (HLPF).

 Other: _____

What progress has your Government/organisation made since 2015 in implementing the UNSPF communication and outreach strategy, as contained in Annex 1 of UNFF Resolution 13/1 (see [E/2018/42](#))? How could any challenges, including achieving greater visibility of the UNSPF and the global forest goals, be addressed?

other sectors that are both impacted by forests, and impact upon forests, to further shape the communications and outreach strategy.

When considering the overall impact of communication and outreach activities, including the International Day of Forests, undertaken since 2015 by members of the Forum, the secretariat, the CPF, regional organizations and relevant stakeholders, to promote the UNSPF and global forest goals, what do you regard as (i) the main successes and (ii) the main shortcomings?

We think that

What are prime examples of