



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 in preparation for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF). The resolution calls for these actions to be implemented in a transparent and independent manner, and in close consultation with Members of the Forum, as well as the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member organizations and other relevant stakeholders. To facilitate the process, the UNFF Secretariat has hired several consultants to assist in the preparation of background papers and assessments. This questionnaire is prepared by the consultants to solicit views from UNFF national focal points and representatives of relevant stakeholders, for use in their assessments. You are kindly invited to send your responses to the UNFF Secretariat at: unff@un.org, with copy to yan.lang@un.org

 : IUFRO
 : International Union of Forest Research Organizations
 : buck@iufro.org; purret@iufro.org

Unlike Member States and other members of the Forum, IUFRO cannot provide any normative statements due to being a global scientific network that connects more than 15,000 scientists in more than 650 research organizations and universities around the world.

Considering the objectives of the [IAF](#), what progress has been made by the UNFF and its Members towards

- c. Promoting North-South, South-South, triangular cooperation, public-private partnerships, and cross-sectoral cooperation at all levels?

IUFRO is not in a position to answer this question as it would require thorough scientific analysis. See answer for question b.

- d. Strengthening forest governance frameworks and means of implementation, in accordance with the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI)

IUFRO is not in a position to answer this question as it would require thorough scientific analysis. See answer for question b.

- e. Strengthening long-term political commitment to the achievement of the IAF objectives?

IUFRO is not in a position to answer this question as it would require thorough scientific analysis. See answer for question b.

Could you list the objectives that have not been achieved, and how can this be improved?

See answer for question A-1: b.

: Has the IAF beyond 2015 been operating in a transparent, effective, efficient, and accountable manner?

Based on our experience, the IAF has been operating in a transparent and accountable manner. We are not in a position to make statements about its effectiveness or efficiency, as this would require a thorough scientific analysis.

Considering the functions of the UNFF in paragraph 3 of resolution [2015/33](#), what has been the progress made by UNFF towards:

- a. Providing a coherent, open, transparent, and participatory global platform for policy development, dialogue, cooperation, and coordination on issues related to all types of forests, including emerging issues, in an integrated and holistic manner through cross-sectoral approaches?

It is the only global policy-platform focused on forest policy that addresses the forest-related issues in a comprehensive manner. Improvement can be made in terms of cross-sectoral approaches, as this aspect is currently fairly weak.

- b. Promoting, monitoring, and assessing the implementation of SFM, in particular, the UNFI?
- c. Mobilizing, catalyzing, and facilitating access to financial, technical, and scientific resources?

Opportunities have been provided by the UNFF to present scientific information during UNFF sessions and share relevant information with Member States, e.g., by including presentations by scientists or

- e. Strengthening high-level political engagement, with the participation of major groups and other stakeholders, in support of SFM?

There is potential to significantly increase UNFF's input to the HLPF sessions.

Are you satisfied with the current level of engagement of Members and stakeholders in the Forum's intersessional activities, and what are your suggestions to improve the use of the UNFF's annual sessions, including intersessional activities?

Discussion on emerging issues needs more space in the annual sessions of the Forum, e.g., through more creative and innovative formats. In general, there is lack of interactive dialogues during sessions.

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

IUFRO does not have sufficient insight to answer the following questions in detail.

What are the achievements of the Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, as defined in ECOSOC resolution 2015/33?

What are the gaps in and the existing capacity of the secretariat with a view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations, strengthening its capacities, gaining a better understanding of its decision-making processes and procedures, and amplifying the impact of its activities?

What are your suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the UNFF Secretariat in carrying out its functions and in making progress towards the objectives of the international arrangement on forests, and enhance collaboration and synergies, and reduce duplication?

A focal person for scientific collaboration in the UNFF Secretariat should be nominated.

Since 2015 what is your assessment of the extent of progress on CPF's contri t t

1	Contributions to UNFF documents & sessions	<p>Being a CPF member allows IUFRO to contribute to the documentations and sessions. This is in line with the first two core functions of the CPF: a) support the work of UNFF and its member countries; b) provide scientific and technical advice to the Forum and governing bodies of other CPF members, at their request;</p>	<p>CPF members have provided thematic contributions through reports, presentations and statements to UNFF sessions, thus helping to implement the UN Strategic Plan for Forests and its GFGs, and contributing to having high-level impact (input from UNFF to HLPF for example).</p> <p>Additionally, the collective work of the CPF towards responding to emerging issues and challenges, such as the release of joint statements (e.g., the joint CPF Statement "Towards sustainability: forest solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," 2020).</p>
2	Streamlining forest reporting		
3	Global Forest Expert Panel	<p>The IUFRO led GFEP initiative is a science-policy mechanism that effectively promotes informed decision-making. The comprehensive interdisciplinary GFEP reports successfully support member states and stakeholders in making science-based decisions and identifying emerging issues related to forests. The GFEP initiative has regularly shared scientific information and expertise with member states and CPF members through UNFF sessions and other high-level briefings and meetings, including HLPF.</p> <p>CPF members have provided valuable input to the background consultations and scoping meetings for all GFEP reports. They also endorse the topic and terms of reference of each GFEP assessment.</p>	<p>Since its establishment seven thematic scientific GFEP assessments had been completed, all addressing most relevant forest related topics of the sustainable development agenda. All of the global reports received considerable media uptake and had significant impact on international policies. The outcomes of GFEP assessments served as background information for discussions, briefing documents for delegations and negotiators in forest related political processes, as well as guidance for strategic policy development (including for GEF and national governments). GFEP reports and their findings are reflected in several decisions of multilateral environmental agreements.</p> <p>GFEP reports and policy briefs are also used by scientists and</p>

		<p>products and publications, and provide support for the Forum in implementing the UNSPF Communication and Outreach Strategy.</p>	<p>Maathai Forest Champions Award should be mentioned as a visible format recognising inspiring individuals who have helped preserve, restore and sustainably manage forests. IUFRO has contributed financially to all awards and also hosted the award ceremonies in 2014 and 2019.</p>
8	Forest Landscape Restoration	<p>IUFRO was one of several partners implementing this CPF Joint Initiative led by the IUCN, and funded by the GEF.</p>	<p>The initiative contributed to enhancing synergies in the global FLR process. Selected IUFRO contributions to the project:</p> <p>IUFRO was the main partner in the ITTO-led project</p>

Key elements should include the following:

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

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

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

What significant actions has your country or organisation undertaken since 2020 to implement the UNSPF?⁵ What are the main challenges and constraints your country or organisation is facing in implementing the UNSPF?

1) IUFRO as one of the most active CPF members lead and coordinates the [Global Forest Expert Panels \(GFEP\)](#)⁶ initiative. This initiative is aimed at supporting UNFF and other forest-related intergovernmental processes by assessing available scientific information in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open and transparent way and producing reports on forest-related issues of global concern, including emerging issues. Its work is particularly relevant to GFG 4 (target 4.5) and GFG 6 (target 6.2) of the UNSPF. The outcomes of the assessments have been presented to the Forum at its annual sessions.

2) IUFRO has contributed scientifically to other selected CPF Joint Initiatives (see question C-2 above)

3) IUFRO continues to contribute thematically to UNFF sessions (e.g., by preparing official background documents on forest-related scientific knowledge; by inviting scientists from IUFRO's network to present on key scientific issues). These contributions can support policy development and implementation of the resolutions/decisions. All mentioned contributions greatly advance the implementation of the UNSPF and GFG 4 in particular, in terms of strengthening scientific and

What, in your view, are the main “regional and global issues of concern with regard to forests” in the early 2020s?

Overall, the interest in forests and demand for forest products has never been higher, with multiple initiatives aimed at conserving, sustainably managing and restoring forests. Therefore, the need to add both structure and function to international coordination efforts is higher than ever before.

The main global and regional issues remain the same in the 2020s as they were in the recent past:

Climate change and consequences resulting in forest disturbance, forest ecosystem transition

production and consumption". Representatives from governments, international organizations, industry, NGOs, research and youth gathered at this event. A corresponding policy brief was published in 2022.

GFGs are not sufficiently recognized beyond the forest community, mainly due to the nature of the IAF (non-legally binding and having no substantial financial resources, compared to other platforms).
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What are prime examples of major groups and other relevant stakeholders successfully contributing to the practical achievement of GFGs under the UNSPF 2017-2030? [*alone or in partnership with governments or business community*]

Given the power for good of the business and philanthropic communities, what are the key efforts of major groups and other relevant stakeholders to partner with them [*both within and outside the Business Council for Sustainable Development (UN-BCSD)*]?

What degree of funding independence have you achieved for participation in (a) policy development and dialogue or (b) practical SFM contribution? What improvements would you prioritise?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION
