

# Enhancing the forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits: at the heart of achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

## State of progress towards the achievement of Global Forest Goal 2 and its implications for the SDGs and other International Agreements

The Global Forest Goal 2 (GFG 2) of the UNSPF 2017-2030 (UN DESA, 2017) seeks to “enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including the livelihoods of forest-dependent people”. A wide range of institutional, legislative, technical and financial actions are being undertaken by countries within the global forest monitoring network to advance the achievements of GFG 2 (FAO, 2020; UN DESA, UNFF Secretariat, 2021). This brief examines the state of progress towards the achievement of GFG 2 and highlights the central role that it plays in the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The GFG 2 includes five targets. The first target (GFG 2.1) aims to *eradicate extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people*. While several countries successfully developed forest community plans and implemented legislations aimed at boosting the employment of forest-dependent people, it is still too soon to assess the full impacts of those actions on rural employment. Moreover, in most indigenous communities in developing countries, most jobs in the forestry sector are informal, and better data on those informal jobs are required for a more accurate picture on the employment in highly vulnerable communities. The accurate measurement of GFG 2.1 is all the more important since it supports and contributes to the realization of SDG 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere) and SDG 8.3.1 (Proportion of informal employment in total employment, by sector and sex) as seen in Table 1.

In its second target (GFG 2.2), the GFG 2 seeks to increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets. Countries took a wide range of measures to support small-scale

enterprises by developing capacity building and promoting and strengthening programmes that facilitate their access to financing; howe4(n )2 0 612 79JETei11(4(n )s)-7(y

The third target (GFG 2.3) aims to *significantly increase the contribution of forests and trees to food security*. The actions undertaken to achieve this target included the development and implementation of national policies



