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COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

Twenty-seventh Session

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Contribution of forestry to FAO's work on climate change and integrated water management

Executive summary

The recognition of the urgency and importance of scaling up effective agrifood systems solutions to climate change is at the core of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031. Based on an analysis of the implementation of this strategy in the 2022–2023 period, about one-fourth of FAO's activities related to climate change concerned forestry, 27 percent of which also related to water.

FAO's forests and climate change work addresses aspects of mitigation, adaptation and resilience through strengthening the role of forests in global climate policy, developing countries' capacities and access to finance, and scaling up action on the ground.

Forests, climate and water are inextricably linked. FAO is the leading United Nations organization on forests and water, with programmatic activities linked to climate change, biodiversity and combating desertification and land degradation, and in forests, peatlands, mangroves, drylands, and mountains. In the context of the FAO "Biennial Theme 2024-25 - *Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life, to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*"¹, FAO is advancing its work on forests and water to support Members with knowledge, capacity, and access to finance to conserve, restore and sustainably manage and use forests for climate- and water-related services.

Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- a. encourage Members to strengthen their efforts to unlock the vast potential of forests for climate and water services by halting deforestation, restoring degraded forests and landscapes, and promoting sustainable forest management, *via*:

¹ See para 52 in [C 2023/REP](#)

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

- i. implementing REDD⁺² to halt deforestation and forest degradation and to facilitate access to results-based financing, including through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other multilateral and bilateral sources, along with carbon markets, and payments for ecosystem services;
- ii. enhancing forest- and water-related ambition in nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and National Pathways for Food Systems Transformation (NPFSTs);
- b. encourage FAO to work on integrated solutions to address the forest-water-food-climate-nexus; and
- c. recommend that FAO support Members, upon request, by:
 - i. enhancing the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 through increasing FAO’s activities on climate change and ensuring timely delivery of climate action, including through forestry-related activities;
 - ii. implementing FAO’s Conceptual framework for integrated land and water resources management and FAO’s Forestry Roadmap through joint forest-water initiatives, and contributing to the FAO’s 2024-25 biennial theme;
 - iii. bolstering technical assistance, increasing capacity and improving the knowledge base to conserve, restore and sustainably manage and use forests for climate- and water-related services; and
 - iv. helping access to and mobilizing finance for ecosystem services related to forests, climate and water.

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² Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (UNFCCC decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70).

I. Introduction

1. Agrifood systems are very vulnerable to climate change and are already being adversely affected by its impacts. But, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, 22 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions come from the agriculture, forestry and other land-use (AFOLU) sector.³ At the same time, AFOLU measures play a central role in all IPCC pathways to limit global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. For example, halting deforestation and increasing forest cover are cost-effective solutions to mitigate climate change, as this would cut emissions by over 5 gigatonnes (Gt) of CO₂ equivalent each year.⁴ Forest and landscape restoration can build long-term carbon sinks to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere. The importance of “enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030” is explicitly recognized in the first global stocktake of the Paris Agreement.⁵

2. Forests do more for the climate than store and sequester carbon. Forests and trees are vital elements of the water cycle. Interactions between forests and water provide cooling and rainfall-generation benefits, which help stabilize local and regional climate, protect human health, and contribute to agricultural productivity.^{6,7,8} When managed sustainably, forests and trees can contribute to better quality, quantity and timing of water provision, while reducing water-related risks, such as flooding, soil and coastal erosion, and drought.

3. Nonetheless, financing is still insufficient to meet the needs of countries for delivering actions on the ground. Total climate finance contributions for the AFOLU sector between 2000 and 2021 amounted to USD 183 billion with a decline of their share of climate finance over the past decade.⁹ To date, only about USD 3 billion in results-based finance for REDD+ have been disbursed or committed through emissions reduction purchase agreements to 22 countries over 15 years, more than half of this being through bilateral agreements¹⁰, while reducing deforestation and restoring forests are estimated to cost up to USD 400 billion annually by 2050¹¹.

4. FAO's work on forests and climate change is embedded in the FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31 better environment Programme Priority Area on “Climate change mitigating and adapted agrifood systems” (PPA BE1) and in the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031.¹² This document provides an overview of the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 and highlights FAO's work on forests and climate change in this context. It also features FAO's work on forests and water given the 2024–25 Biennial Theme “Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment, and better life to achieve the 2030

³ IPCC. 2023. *Climate Change 2022 - Mitigation of Climate Change: Working Group III Contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak *et al.*, eds. Cambridge, UK and New York, Cambridge University Press.

⁴ See footnote 3.

⁵ [UNFCCC draft decision -/CMA.5. Outcome of the first global stocktake](#)

⁶ Ellison, D., Morris, C.E., Locatelli, B., Sheil, D., Cohen, J., Murdiyarso, D., Gutierrez, V. *et al.* 2017. Trees, forests and water: Cool insights for a hot world. *Global Environmental Change*, 43: 51–61. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2017.01.002>

⁷ Lawrence, D., Coe, M., Walker, W., Verchot, L. & Vandecar, K. 2022. The Unseen Effects of Deforestation: Biophysical Effects on Climate. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change*, 5. <https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2022.756115>

⁸ Libert-Amico, A., Duchelle, A.E., Cobb, A., Peccoud, V. & Djoudi, H. 2022. *Forest-based adaptation: transformational adaptation through forests and trees*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2886en>

⁹ Galbiati, G.M., Yoshida, M., Benni, N. & Bernoux, M. 2023. *Climate-related development finance to agrifood systems*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc9010en>

¹⁰ Sandker, M., Lindquist, E., Poultouchidou, A., Gill, G., Santos-Acuña, L., Neeff, T. & Fox, J. 2024. *Technological innovation driving transparent forest monitoring and reporting for climate action*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd0143en>

¹¹ See footnote 3.

¹² FAO. 2022. *FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2274en/cc2274en.pdf>

Agenda for Sustainable Development”¹³ and as reflected in FAO’s Conceptual framework for integrated land and water resources management.¹⁴

II. Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031

5. Recognition of the urgency and importance of scaling up effective agrifood systems solutions to climate change is at the core of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031. The strategy was endorsed at the 170th Session of the FAO Council following an inclusive development process and is being implemented through the 2022–2025 Action Plan.¹⁵ The strategy and its action plan support the mainstreaming of climate action across all of FAO’s areas of work and sectors, including forestry. They are aligned with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, in particular SDG 2 No Hunger, SDG 13 Climate Action, and SDG 15 Life on Land.

6. Progress on the implementation of the strategy was presented to the Governing Bodies in May and June 2024 as an annex¹⁶ to the Programme Implementation Report 2022-23. Based on an analysis conducted on the programme of work¹⁷ reported for the 2022–2023 period, the progress report showed that about 24 percent of the total portfolio is related to climate action, with more than half of the work occurring under Pillar 2 on country support. It detailed how FAO’s climate-related work had contributed to the different action areas of the action plan. It also showed the share of climate action in the regional portfolios (ranging from 34 percent of total activities in Latin America and the Caribbean to 20 percent in Africa), and the action areas to which climate-related work contribute in all regions, showing a predominance of activities related in particular to the elaboration and implementation of climate commitments, the resilience of local communities, and policy and legal support to mainstreaming climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation considerations.

7. The progress report also underlines some key findings on joint implementation and synergies with other FAO strategies, showing that the activities contributing to the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy¹⁸ corresponded to about one-third of all FAO climate-related work, while 13 percent contributed to the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.¹⁹ This section on synergies highlighted some key examples of collaboration, such as the development of the Adaptation, Biodiversity and Carbon Mapping Tool²⁰ (ABC-Map), which enables stakeholders to assess, through Google Earth-based satellite imagery, the environmental impacts of adaptation, biodiversity and carbon mapping in a holistic manner in national policies, plans and investments in the AFOLU sector.

8. The development and implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 have successfully brought together FAO divisions, centres, offices in headquarters and all decentralized offices around a common narrative of scaling up finance and implementation of agrifood systems solutions to climate change and building climate resilient agrifood systems in support of FAO Members. The alignment of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031 with the Strategic Framework 2022-31 has also fostered a much clearer vision of FAO’s contribution to SDG 13 Climate Action, and highlighted the technical and institutional gaps at FAO headquarters and in decentralized offices where further investment is needed.

¹³ See para 52 in [C 2023/REP](#)

¹⁴ [PC 137/6](#) (see [List of Documents | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#))

¹⁵ FAO. 2023. *FAO Action Plan 2022–2025 for the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7014en>

¹⁶ <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/programme-committee/pc138/documents/en/>

¹⁷ This includes any item tagged under FAO’s Priority Programme Area on climate change (PPA BE1) or containing certain keywords related to climate change, and corresponds to 24 percent of FAO’s entire programme of work.

¹⁸ FAO. 2022. *FAO Science and Innovation Strategy*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc2273en/cc2273en.pdf>

¹⁹ FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>

²⁰ <https://abc-map.org/>

9. Under the coordination of the Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB), internal collaboration is being reinforced to streamline PPA BE1 with the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031, as well as to coordinate efforts for capacity building of staff, resource mobilization and internal communication. The analysis conducted for the progress report has identified a number of areas of the action plan with fewer activities, indicating gaps and opportunities for further support, in particular: development of knowledge on opportunities offered by carbon markets; support to countries in preparing and participating in international processes; establishing strategic public–private partnerships for climate action across agrifood systems; addressing trade-offs between climate action and other SDGs; adopting climate policies specifically addressing inclusivity; and support to farmers in accessing digital tools and technologies and payment for ecosystem services schemes.

10. The analysis conducted on FAO’s programme of work for the 2022–2023 period has revealed that, among the 24 percent of activities related to climate change, about one-fourth originated from forestry-related activities. Most of those forestry and climate-related activities have been implemented by FAO Country Offices (75 percent), and they contributed mostly to Pillar 2 (Country-level: Developing countries’ capacities for climate action) and Pillar 3 (Local-level: Scaling up climate action on the ground) of the strategy, in particular to the mainstreaming of climate change, biodiversity and land degradation considerations, technical and policy support to countries, and the adoption of good practices and innovative solutions.

11. Furthermore, when disaggregated for data related to the topic of water (including irrigation, floods and droughts), it was found that 27 percent of the forestry and climate-related work was also related to water, with the vast majority of work happening at the country and local levels, and almost half of it contributing to the action area on the mainstreaming of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation considerations.

III. FAO’s work on forest solutions to the climate crisis

12. FAO plays a key role in advancing forest solutions to address the climate crisis by strengthening the role of forests in global climate policy, developing countries’ capacities and access to climate finance, and scaling up action on the ground. FAO’s forests and climate change work addresses aspects of mitigation, adaptation and resilience at multiple levels. It addresses all three pillars and multiple action areas of the FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022–2031. In this section, we highlight selected initiatives in three action areas.

A. Action Area 1.1.1 Promoting sustainable and resilient agrifood systems as part of the climate solution

13. FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continue to lead the United Nations system-wide response to the United Nations Secretary-General’s 2019 call for “Turning the Tide on Deforestation,” which has benefited from collaboration among United Nations entities, including through: 1) the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF); 2) the UN-REDD Programme²¹ (UNEP, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP] and FAO); and 3) vertical funds like the Global Environment Facility (GEF) impact programs for tropical forest regions. The activities also include keeping forests high on the global climate agenda through high-level dialogues in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including events at COP 27²² and COP 28²³ organized by the CPF. Efforts will continue for forest assessments to build transparency, while supporting countries’ monitoring and decision-making, empowering local communities and delivering on forest and agriculture in a complementary manner. In March 2024, FAO and UNEP briefed the Secretary-General’s Executive Committee on progress under the initiative.

²¹ <https://www.un-redd.org/>

²² <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/events/cop27-cpf-high-level-dialogue/>

²³ <https://www.fao.org/collaborative-partnership-on-forests/meetings/beyond-carbon--realizing-untapped-potential-of-forests-to-combat-climate-change/en>

14. While the ability of forests to store and sequester carbon is widely accepted in climate policy and action, FAO is working to elevate the importance of forests and trees for adaptation through targeted knowledge products and advocacy. The FAO technical paper *Forest-based adaptation: transformational adaptation through forests and trees* launched at UNFCCC COP 27 and disseminated through regional climate weeks and other events in 2023, unpacks the concept of forest-based adaptation and illustrates policy pathways for enhancing the adaptive capacity and resilience of people and forests.²⁴

15. Recognizing the critical role that wetlands play in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, FAO has strengthened its work on both peatlands and mangroves. Together with 46 members of the Global Peatlands Initiative,²⁵ FAO promotes sustainable peatland management, including in the context of the UNFCCC.²⁶⁻²⁷ FAO and partners are building on the global assessment of mangroves published in 2023²⁸ to analyse the role of mangroves in nationally determined contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and to provide policy guidance to Members.

B. Action Area 2.1.1 Enhancing FAO's technical and policy support to countries

16. Since 2008, FAO has supported Members in advancing with their commitments on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, fulfilling requirements in the framework of REDD+ in the context of Article 5 of the Paris Agreement while promoting enhanced ambition in NDCs. FAO identifies and implements solutions that maintain forests while contributing to livelihoods, food security and biodiversity, by decoupling agriculture from deforestation and transforming agrifood systems, boosting climate finance and public-private partnerships, and scaling up investments for REDD+ implementation. Stakeholder engagement and strengthening of capacities – from local communities and Indigenous Peoples to subnational and national governments – is at the core of the work.

17. FAO continues its leading role on bringing technological innovations to national forest monitoring and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) as part of climate action. FAO delivers its support on REDD+ and related MRV in 43 countries and in the generation of cutting-edge knowledge through a wide range of programmes and initiatives, such as the Central African Forest Initiative, UN-REDD and the Global Forest Observations Initiative (GFOI), and projects, and in collaboration with various partners, including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the World Bank.

18. The UN-REDD programme, with 65 member countries, has recently seen its donor pool enlarged – currently embracing Norway, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom joined in 2023 with a large contribution of GBP 24.5 million to leverage technical innovation for creating data and information to inform the right courses of action to halt and reverse deforestation (AIM4Forests²⁹), a programme executed by FAO.

19. FAO has launched the second phase of the global FAO-GEF project “Building Global Capacity to Increase Transparency in the Forest Sector” (CBIT-Forest),³⁰ to accelerate capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising efforts. It aims to enhance the quality, timeliness,

²⁴ See footnote 8.

²⁵ <https://www.globalpeatlands.org/>

²⁶ FAO. 2022. *Peatlands and climate planning – Part 1: Peatlands and climate commitments*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2895en>

²⁷ <https://enb.iisd.org/towards-global-stocktake-peatlands-and-other-high-carbon-ecosystems-status-and-scaling-cop28>

²⁸ FAO. 2023. *The world's mangroves 2000–2020*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc7044en>

²⁹ <https://www.fao.org/national-forest-monitoring/projects/aim4forests/en/>

³⁰ [Boosting transparency of forest data: CBIT-Forest](#)

accessibility, and usability of forest-related data in line with the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement and key priorities highlighted at COP 28.³¹

20. FAO is providing considerable technical and policy support to Members on forested wetlands. A new project to secure carbon, water and biodiversity in the Congo Basin peatlands is funded by Germany. This project, implemented by UNEP, will enhance peatland monitoring and management while supporting local livelihoods.³² Across FAO, within the past decade, there have been 40 projects on mangroves (24 of which are complete and 16 ongoing), with cumulative funding for these initiatives exceeding USD 119 million. There are clear opportunities for further work on mangroves restoration and protection for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

C. Action Area 2.1.2 Enhancing Members' access to climate financing and partnerships

21. The total value of FAO's GCF portfolio has increased to USD 1.2 billion (including co-financing) over the biennium 2022–2023. Five project funding proposals submitted by FAO were approved by the GCF Board, bringing the total to 20 approved projects (18 projects are effective and under implementation). This includes nearly USD 255 million for REDD+ implementation, including through results-based payments, in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal and West Africa. In addition, FAO developed and submitted to GCF-Secretariat the 10-year, USD 226.5 million GCF programme "Scaling-Up Resilience in Africa's Great Green Wall" (SURAGGWA) to restore 2 million hectares in eight Great Green Wall (GGW) countries in collaboration with the GGW National and Pan-African Agencies, and other partners.

22. FAO is supporting 14 countries in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, to navigate and meet the requirements of forest carbon standards (e.g. ART-TREES) towards accessing REDD+ results-based finance from various sources (e.g. through the LEAF Coalition³³ for the supply of emissions reductions).

23. The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF),³⁴ a partnership between FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Agricorn, works to get climate finance directly to forest and farm producers, Indigenous Peoples and local community groups who manage much of the world's forests and are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The FFF has promoted innovative finance mechanisms for producer organizations and supported locally led climate adaptation efforts and climate resilience planning trainings in many countries, including Nepal, Togo, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, and planning for Ecuador, Ghana and Zambia.

IV. FAO's work on forests and water nexus

24. Forests, climate and water are inextricably linked. Because of the role of forests in the water cycle, the interactions between forests and water impact climate at different scales. From local to regional and global scales, forests provide cooling and rainfall-generation benefits. Deforestation and desertification could significantly impact these benefits resulting in altered rainfall patterns and microclimates, which would have a direct impact on agriculture and food security. In terms of adaptation, sustainably managed forests provide services in terms of regulation of water quantity, quality and timing, making them vital solutions for adapting to altered flood and drought regimes, among others.

25. Integrated forest–water management, which takes into account trade-offs and synergies to ensure continued provision of water-related services from forests, started gaining recognition in 2002,

³¹ Key priorities for the enhanced transparency framework were provided under decision [18/CMA.5](#) related to the provision of financial and technical support to developing country Parties for reporting and capacity building.

³² <https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/fao-launches-inaugural-field-project-in-congo-basin-to-advance-sustainable-peatland-management-for-climate-action/en>

³³ <https://www.leafcoalition.org/>

³⁴ <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/about/en/>

with the Shiga Declaration on Forests and Water. Since then, key milestones include the International Forests and Water Dialogue and Action Plan launched at the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, the 2018 International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) report *Forest and Water on a Changing Planet: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Governance Opportunities. A Global Assessment Report*,³⁵ and *A guide to forest–water management*.³⁶ FAO’s 2020 report on the State of Food and Agriculture³⁷ focused on overcoming water-related challenges in agriculture and highlighted the importance of forest–water interactions for agriculture, including inland fisheries. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, established in 2021 and co-led by FAO and UNEP, has helped catalyse recent interest and action in forest–water work.

26. Recognizing the importance of FAO’s broad mandate in promoting integrated water resources management, the FAO Members at the 43rd Session of the Conference in 2023 approved the “Biennial Theme 2024-25: Water resources management for the four betters: better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”³⁸ The Conference emphasized that water resources management needs to be integrated at all levels, including into forestry work among other work areas.

27. In “FAO’s Conceptual framework for integrated land and water resources management”,³⁹ FAO commits to contributing to the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of forests and their use for water-related services, including by developing monitoring tools, knowledge products, technical support and capacity-building initiatives, and by supporting Members upon request.

28. FAO is the leading United Nations organization on forests and water with programmatic activities linked to climate change and biodiversity, and in forests, peatlands, mangroves, drylands and mountain ecosystems, and river basin/catchment management.

29. Recent FAO support to countries includes an assessment of the forest-water-climate nexus in the headwaters of the Zambezi River in the North-Western Province of Zambia. This work, supported by UN-REDD, shows how combining state-of-the-art tools, local data and cross-sectoral work can lead to improved knowledge and management of forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the initiative “Resilient Rivers: Counting Fish from Forests for Food Security” was carried out collaboratively between FAO’s Forestry Division (NFO) and Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) in key watersheds in Zambia and Colombia. It links on-the-ground activities, remote sensing-based monitoring and capacity development to enable real-time monitoring of forests and fish habitats in order to design multidisciplinary watershed-scale monitoring and management plans.

30. Knowledge and capacity development products that can be readily implemented have been developed. These include the *Forest and Water Nexus Capacity Development Facilitation Guide*,⁴⁰ a module-based facilitation guide aiming to improve the management of forests and trees for the provision of water-related ecosystem services, and the *Guide to forest–water management*,⁴¹ the first comprehensive global publication on the monitoring, management, and valuation of forest–water interactions. E-learning courses on the forest–water nexus⁴² and on management of forests, freshwater and inland fisheries from a watershed perspective⁴³ are also available. A global webinar series⁴⁴ was

³⁵ Creed, I.F. & Noordwijk, M. van, eds. 2018. *Forest and Water on a Changing Planet: Vulnerability, Adaption and Governance Opportunities. A Global Assessment Report*. IUFRO world series 38. Vienna, IUFRO. <https://www.iufro.org/fileadmin/material/publications/iufro-series/ws38/ws38.pdf>

³⁶ FAO, IUFRO & USDA. 2021. *A guide to forest–water management*. FAO Forestry Paper No. 185. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6473en>

³⁷ FAO. 2020b. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2020*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb1447en>

³⁸ C 2023/30 and See para 52 in C 2023/REP

³⁹ PC 137/6 (see [List of Documents | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#))

⁴⁰ Eberhardt, U., Springgay, E., Gutierrez, V., Casallas-Ramirez, S. & Cohen, R. 2019. *Advancing the forest and water nexus - A capacity development facilitation guide*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca6483en>

⁴¹ See footnote 36.

⁴² <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=727>

⁴³ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=944>

⁴⁴ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-and-water-programme/news/news-detail/en/c/1649863/>

co-organized by FAO and IUFRO in 2023 to bring together scientists, practitioners and policymakers across the forest and water sectors. A FAO report focused on the multiple (non-carbon) climate benefits of forests for agricultural productivity is being developed with leading scientists for release in 2025.

31. In addition, two monitoring tools have been developed. The Forest & Landscape Water Ecosystem Services (FL-WES) Tool,⁴⁵ an interactive tool that supports forest and water monitoring, taking into consideration environmental, economic, and social indicators. The Resilient rivers and basins app from the System for Earth Observation, Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring (SEPAL)⁴⁶ is a tool that describes forest cover and forest-cover change from a watershed perspective.

32. Moving forward, NFO recently developed an internal forest and water action plan to align programmatic efforts and upscale current actions during the biennium and beyond. The aim is to increase FAO's support to Members, upon their request, for developing evidence-based policies and increasing finance to conserve, restore and sustainably manage and use forests for water and other benefits; and enhancing capacity and knowledge to improve the integration of forest–water science, policy and management. Considering the cross-sectoral nature of the relationships between forests, water, food and climate, collaboration and joint programmatic actions with relevant FAO divisions, such as the Land and Water Division (NSL), NFI and OCB, as well as the Decentralized Offices, is essential to advance this work.

⁴⁵ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-water-tool/en/>

⁴⁶ <https://docs.sepal.io/en/latest/modules/dwn/basin-river.html>