



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# MOVING FORWARD

Selected achievements of the  
FAO Forestry programme in 2014-2015



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# MOVING FORWARD

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# FOREWORD

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This edition of *Moving Forward* shows how FAO assisted its members in 2014 and 2015 in optimizing the economic, social and environmental functions of forests and trees and therefore achieving wider societal goals.

Major global policy developments in the 2014–2015 biennium acknowledged the crucial roles of forests and trees in efforts to ensure food and water security, mitigate and adapt to climate change, alleviate poverty, and address many other issues of worldwide importance. In September 2014, dozens of governments, companies and civil-society organizations endorsed the New York Declaration on Forests, which aims to cut natural forest loss in half by 2020 and end it by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), agreed by the world's nations in September 2015, include a goal to sustainably manage forests; they also recognize the role of forests in realizing many other global sustainable development ambitions. The landmark Paris Agreement adopted by the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015 acknowledged the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and sustainably managing forests as a way of storing carbon.

The 2014–2015 biennium saw the deployment of FAO's new strategic framework, which comprises five Strategic Objectives that reinforce the SDGs and other global aspirations. FAO Forestry is continuing to consolidate its work in order to translate these objectives into

actions with transformational and sustainable impacts. In partnership with the Government of South Africa and many organizations, FAO convened the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban in September 2015. With about 4 000 participants, the event enabled the global sharing of information and knowledge on, and the debate of, wide-ranging forest-related challenges. It concluded by articulating a vision for forests and forestry to 2050 and beyond that will help inform and guide future work.

FAO has long championed forests and trees and their vital roles, and it continued to do so in 2014 and 2015. The FAO Forestry programme had over 145 ongoing projects in more than 45 countries during the biennium, valued at a total of US\$362 million, and it also executed regular activities valued at about US\$28 million. Its work is the product of synergetic relationships with key partners and member countries, focusing on areas that underpin sustainable forest management.

With a growing global population, a changing climate, population movement from rural to urban areas, and complex political, economic, social and environmental challenges, the need for effective cross-sectoral land-use strategies, supported by responsible sustainable investment, has never been greater. As the stories in this publication show, FAO is committed to helping its members – and particularly the most vulnerable of the communities they represent – to develop such strategies and, in so doing, to find sustainable, equitable solutions to challenges and to achieve our common goals.



RENÉ CASTRO-SALAZAR

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# FAO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

In 2012, to meet the demands posed by major global trends in agricultural development and the challenges faced by member nations, FAO identified key priorities on which it was best placed to intervene. A comprehensive review of the Organization's comparative advantages enabled Strategic Objectives (SOs) to be set, representing the main areas of work on which FAO will concentrate its efforts in striving to achieve its vision and global goals. Figure 1 illustrates how forestry contributes to the SOs.

The five SOs are as follows:



## **SO1. HELP ELIMINATE HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION**

There is sufficient capacity in the world to produce enough food to feed everyone adequately; nevertheless, despite progress made over the last two decades, 793 million people still suffer from chronic hunger. Among children, it is estimated that 161 million under five years of age are chronically malnourished, almost 99 million are underweight, and about 51 million are acutely malnourished.

FAO's mandate is to support members in their efforts to ensure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food. FAO can help by supporting policies and political commitments that promote food security and good nutrition and by making sure that up-to-date information about hunger and malnutrition challenges and solutions is available and accessible.

The Forestry programme assists members to harmonize forest and food security policies; improve the availability of data on the role of forests in food security; and address tenure as a means for increasing food security.



## **SO2. MAKE AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MORE PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE**

The world's population is predicted to increase to 9 billion people by 2050. Some of the world's highest rates of population growth are predicted to occur in areas that are highly dependent on the agriculture sector (crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries) and have high rates of food insecurity. Growth in the agriculture sector is one of the most effective means of reducing poverty and achieving food security. We must ensure that increased productivity benefits not only the few, and that the natural resource base can provide services (pollination, nutrient cycling in soils, quality water, etc.) that enhance sustainability.

The Forestry programme develops policies and implements field projects to promote sustainable forest management; the restoration of degraded lands, including drylands, mountains and watersheds; the role of forests in climate-change mitigation; sustainable wildlife management; the conservation of protected areas and genetic resources; and agroforestry. It also works to improve the monitoring of forest resources at the national and global levels.



## **SO3. REDUCE RURAL POVERTY**

Most of the world's poor live in rural areas. Hunger and food insecurity above all are expressions of rural poverty and reducing rural poverty, therefore, is central to FAO's mission. Many people living in rural areas have been lifted out of poverty in recent decades. In 1990, 54 percent of those living in rural areas in developing countries lived on less than US\$1.25 a day and were considered extremely poor. By 2010, this share had dropped to 35 percent. Rural poverty remains widespread, however, especially in South Asia and Africa. These regions have also seen least progress in improving rural livelihoods. FAO strives to help smallholders improve farm productivity while aiming to also increase off-farm employment opportunities and, through social protection, find better ways for rural populations to manage and cope with risks in their environments.

The Forestry programme helps in the development of small forest enterprises; promotes decent employment in the forest sector; works to ensure social protection in forestry; and helps strengthen local, national, regional and global forest and farm producer organizations.



## **SO4. ENABLE INCLUSIVE AND EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

With increasing globalization, agriculture as an independent sector will cease to exist, instead becoming one part of an integrated value chain. The value chain exists both upstream and downstream, or from production through to processing and sales, in which the whole is now highly

concentrated, integrated and globalized. This poses a huge challenge for smallholder farmers and agricultural producers in many developing countries, where even the most economically valid smallholders can easily be excluded from important parts of the value chain. Increasing their participation in food and agricultural systems is crucial for achieving FAO's goal of a world without hunger.

The Forestry programme promotes forest products in the bio-economy and the development of non-wood forest products and wood energy value chains; generates reliable statistics on forest products; and provides information and guidance on sustainable forest finance.



## **SO5. INCREASE THE RESILIENCE OF LIVELIHOODS TO THREATS AND CRISES**






Each year, millions of people who depend on the production, marketing and consumption of crops, livestock, fish, forests and other natural resources are confronted by disasters and crises. They can strike suddenly – like an earthquake or a violent coup d'état – or unfold slowly – like drought–flood cycles. They can occur as a single event, one can trigger another, or multiple events can converge and interact simultaneously with cascading and magnified effects. These emergencies threaten the production of, and access to, food at local, national and, at times, regional and global levels. FAO's mission is to help countries govern, prevent and mitigate risks and crises, and to support them in preparing and responding to disasters.

The Forestry programme helps countries develop integrated forest fire management approaches; promotes best practices in forest health; offers guidance on disaster risk management in forests; and assists countries and communities to adapt forest management and forest communities to climate change.

**OBJECTIVE 6** covers the provision of technical knowledge, quality and services, the quality and integrity of data produced and disseminated by FAO, and quality services for work on governance and gender. FAO Forestry generates and disseminates considerable technical knowledge, such as through: the work and recommendations of its technical and statutory bodies, including the Committee on Forestry; guidelines and parameters on various aspects of sustainable forest management, including the role of gender in forestry; the Organization's contribution to the global forestry agenda and international processes under FAO's chairmanship of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests; the strategic coordination of forestry activities; its wide range of publications, including the authoritative *State of the World's Forests*; and a host of other information, advocacy and outreach products.

Figure 1

**FORESTRY in the strategic framework**

 <b>Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition</b>	 <b>Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable</b>	 <b>Reduce rural poverty</b>	 <b>Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems</b>	 <b>Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises</b>
Harmonizing forest and food security policies	Sustainable forest management Restoration Drylands Mountains Watersheds	Small forest enterprise development	Forest products in the bio-economy	Forest fire
Improving data availability on forests and food security	Global Forest Resources Assessment National forest monitoring systems	Decent employment in forestry	Non-wood forest products and wood energy	Forest health
Improving tenure policies	Forests and climate change REDD+	Social protection in forestry	Forest products statistics	Disaster risk management
	Wildlife Protected areas Genetic resources Agroforestry	Strengthening forest and farm producer organizations	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade	Climate-change adaptation
	Governance and global partnerships		Forest finance	



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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAD	Action Against Desertification
C&I	criteria and indicators
CATIE	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
CBF	community-based forestry
CIRAD	International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development
CPW	Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management
DRI	Drylands Restoration Initiative
EU	European Union
FAPDA	Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FLR	forest and landscape restoration
FMA	forest monitoring and assessment



Forest Forces	Forests Sustainably Managed for Communities, Environment and Shock Resilience
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
HS	Harmonized System
NENA	Near East and North Africa
NFA	national forest assessment
NFP	national forest programme
NWFP	non-wood forest product
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, plus the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest stocks in developing countries
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFM	sustainable forest management
SMEs	small and medium-sized enterprises
SO	Strategic Objective
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security
WCO	World Customs Organization
WISDOM	Woodfuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping



# Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

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## INCREASING TENURE SECURITY AND IMPROVING POLICIES FOR PRODUCERS

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is supporting local and national producer organizations to ensure that forest and farm producers are involved in national decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods.

Such support is helping bring about major policy changes in Guatemala, the Gambia and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, changes that will have significant impacts on the lives of many. With assistance from the FFF, the National Alliance of Community Forest Organizations of Guatemala (“Alianza”), which represents more than 400 community groups with 388 000 producers, was active in 2015 in the preparation of a new forestry incentive law, known as PROBOSQUE. This law, which was approved by the national congress in September 2015, assigns one percent of the annual national budget (around US\$20 million) for the next 30 years to smallholders, cooperatives and indigenous communities to adopt agroforestry systems, implement forest restoration and produce from (and protect) natural forests and plantations. It is estimated that the law will create more than 20 000 direct jobs, provide indirect employment for a further 60 000 people, and improve the livelihoods of some 1.5 million families.

Forest and farm producer platforms in the Gambia are advocating community forestry, with support from the FFF. In 2015, the Gambian Environment Ministry signed 77 community forest management agreements granting local communities the legal mandate to own and manage their forests sustainably for improved livelihoods and sustainable resource management.

*FFF support is helping bring about major policy changes in Guatemala, the Gambia and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, changes that will have significant impacts on the lives of many*

Cacao producers in the Plurinational State of Bolivia are set to establish a national umbrella organization and five organizations at the subnational level in 2016, with FFF support. Together with the government, the cacao producers will prepare a national policy for organic cacao and develop a programme to strengthen the value chain for organic cacao. The Bolivian government has committed US\$37 million over the next five years to support the programme.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility/country-support/en](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility/country-support/en)

## OPENING UP SPACES FOR FOREST TENURE GOVERNANCE

In 2012, the Committee on World Food Security endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). Arrived at through extensive consultations with government institutions, civil society, private sector, academia and UN agencies over a two-year period, the VGGT reflect a global consensus on international best practices on the good governance of tenure.

*Workshops and training courses on forest tenure are opening up unprecedented neutral spaces for discussions on the diversification of tenure, the recognition of customary rights, and procedural rights for citizens*

FAO and partners are working with member countries to build awareness of the VGGT. Workshops and training courses on forest tenure are opening up unprecedented neutral spaces for discussions on the diversification of tenure, the recognition of customary rights, and procedural rights for citizens to participate in decision-making on forests. Some countries have requested assistance from FAO to help align their forest tenure governance systems with the principles of the VGGT.

To help countries move from dialogue to reform, FAO developed a VGGT-based forest tenure assessment tool that simplifies the provisions of the VGGT against which to evaluate a country's policies, laws, institutions and tenure administration. The methodology helps in building consensus among diverse forest stakeholders (such as governments, non-governmental organizations, civil-society organizations, academia and the private sector) on the specific needs of tenure reform and strengthening. The tool is being tested in China, Mongolia, Uganda and Viet Nam. Following initial testing, the tool will be

refined, tested in additional countries (particularly in Latin America), and finalized. Through this process, FAO expects to open up further opportunities to strengthen forest tenure reform in those countries.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/tenure/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/tenure/en)

## UNDERSTANDING THE LINKS BETWEEN FOREST REHABILITATION AND FOOD SECURITY

In the 1950s and 1960s, the Republic of Korea was one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Deforestation had stripped the country of half its forest cover, contributing to severe erosion, repeated flood and drought damage, and a decrease in agricultural production that threatened national food security.

Recognizing the importance of the watershed and soil protection functions of forests in restoring agricultural productivity, the Korean government undertook an intensive forest rehabilitation effort in the 1970s and 1980s that fully restored the country's forest cover and delivered major food security benefits.

Many studies have since been carried out on aspects of this reforestation effort, but most have focused on outcomes in the forest sector rather than exploring the impacts on socioeconomic development, including food security. As a result, the wider success of the process has been underestimated.

To address this shortcoming, FAO and the Korean Forest Service undertook a study in 2015 to analyse whether and how food security objectives were integrated into the Korean forest rehabilitation effort and to evaluate the impact of the reforestation programme on national food security.

The study showed not only that forest rehabilitation and food security can go hand in hand but that their integration is essential. Both forests and food security can be enhanced if four prerequisites are met:



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- an integrated approach to ensure that all relevant sectors work towards the same goals and not at cross-purposes;
- people's participation and opportunities for them to benefit;
- strong leadership to create the necessary framework, infrastructure, motivation and will; and
- holistic economic development.

The experience of the Republic of Korea may provide inspiration for other developing countries wanting to incorporate forest rehabilitation and sustainable forest management in their food security goals and policies.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/3/a-i5444e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5444e.pdf)

*The study showed not only that forest rehabilitation and food security can go hand in hand but that their integration is essential*

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

# Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

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## GLOBAL FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT 2015

FAO has been monitoring the world's forests since 1946. Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRAs) are now produced every five years, applying a consistent approach to describing the world's forests and how they are changing.

*The latest FRA found that forest cover declined from 4 128 million hectares in 1990 to 3 999 million hectares in 2015, but the net annual rate of forest loss has slowed*

FAO released its latest FRA in 2015. It found that forest cover declined from 4 128 million hectares (31.6 percent of the world's total land area) in 1990 to 3 999 million hectares (30.6 percent of the land area) in 2015. The net annual rate of forest loss has slowed, however, from 0.18 percent in the early 1990s to 0.08 percent in 2010–2015. Africa and South America had the highest net annual loss of forests in 2010–2015 (2.8 million and 2.0 million hectares, respectively), although the rate of loss had decreased substantially compared with the previous five-year period. Since 1990, most deforestation has taken place in the tropics.

FRA 2015 produced a synthesis report, a desk reference, and 13 peer-reviewed articles published in a special edition of the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*. The publications and results were launched at the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban in September 2015.

An important new feature of FRA 2015 was the use of the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire for collecting country information. It was a joint effort by six international organizations and processes<sup>1</sup>, thereby ensuring consistency and helping reduce the reporting burden on countries. A global remote sensing

survey involved more than 200 specialists from about 100 countries, working closely with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en](http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en)

## THE OPEN FORIS INITIATIVE

Forest information systems are essential for forest monitoring and assessment (FMA). They are used in designing assessments, collecting data, and analysing and disseminating the results. Forest information systems are instrumental for both pillars of FMA – field inventories, and remote sensing.

The Open Foris initiative started in 2009 to meet a need for freely accessible tools that could be modified for various data collection and management purposes. The first stage was Open Foris Collect, a browser-based interface for survey design and data entry. The Open Foris suite has expanded over time and now includes five tools in use in more than 30 countries. The initiative has included capacity development activities, and its website has been visited 155 000 times by 26 700 users since 2014. The tools have been instrumental in FMA capacity development and the implementation of FMA programmes in FAO member countries.

*The Open Foris suite has expanded over time and now includes five tools in use in more than 30 countries*

Users of Open Foris tools include the World Resources Institute, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Geological Survey, among many others. A memorandum of understanding was signed with Google in 2015 to support the

<sup>1</sup> Central African Forest Commission/Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale, FAO, FOREST EUROPE, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montréal Process, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



initiative as well as FAO's other work on geospatial data and services.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.openforis.org](http://www.openforis.org)

## SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL FOREST MONITORING

FAO has been helping member countries strengthen their national institutional capacities for long-term forest monitoring since 2000. Eighteen countries have finished their first national forest assessments (NFAs) with FAO support, and another 17 countries are expected to complete similar exercises in the next two years.

The first round of data collection was finalized recently in the Comoros Islands, Ecuador, Panama, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, while Angola, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Chile, the Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Solomon Islands, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam are in the process of designing their NFAs or have started implementation.

Partners in the work to develop NFAs include the United States Forest Service, the Natural Resources Institute

Finland, the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Serviço Florestal Brasileiro, Instituto Forestal Chileno and La Comisión Nacional Forestal México.

*Eighteen countries have finished their first national forest assessments with FAO support, and another 17 countries are expected to complete similar exercises in the next two years*

Among other things, the programme has prepared voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring. This document will make use of FAO's many years of experience with the aim of supporting member countries in their efforts to establish sustainable long-term national forest monitoring systems. The guidelines will be submitted for endorsement by FAO's Committee on Forestry in 2016.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/fmal/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fmal/en)

## PRIORITIZING WOOD ENERGY IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Wood energy suffers from a lack of recognition in national planning, at least partly because it spans the energy, forestry, agriculture and rural development sectors but is not fully incorporated in any of these. This “invisibility” has translated into fragmented and incomplete information on woodfuel and a lack of human and institutional capacity.

*A project in Central Europe is assessing woodfuel consumption and supply in three countries, compiling a database and model, and producing a comprehensive report on the wood energy situation*

Woodfuel Integrated Supply/Demand Overview Mapping (WISDOM) is a spatially explicit method for determining woodfuel priority areas. Developed by FAO in cooperation with the Center for Ecosystem Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, WISDOM is a planning tool and methodology for generating countrywide synoptic views of local wood energy supply and demand based on the integration of forest, energy and socioeconomic data.

Since 2015 a regional project covering Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been assessing woodfuel consumption and supply, compiling a database and model on wood supply, demand and integration, and producing a comprehensive report on the wood energy situation in each country.

Although relevant ministries in the countries are the main beneficiaries, the project is also helping increase capacity in participating institutions, such as national statistical offices and university departments.

The data and modelling produced by the project will help in developing woodfuel strategies and action plans in Europe. FAO and its partners will convene a regional conference in December 2016 to share the results of

the project, increase awareness of the importance of wood energy, and foster partnerships and networks to promote the sustainable use of wood energy.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/europe/fao-in-europe/en](http://www.fao.org/europe/fao-in-europe/en)

[FAO-RO-Europe@fao.org](mailto:FAO-RO-Europe@fao.org)

## DATABASE FOR ANALYSING FOREST POLICIES

Each year, about ten countries worldwide issue forest policies or create national forest programmes (NFPs) in which they articulate their long-term visions or goals for forest development and use. Government policies provide the key strategic directions for legislation, which, in turn, establish implementation mechanisms, norms, rights and responsibilities. To be effective, forest policies should be coordinated and aligned with the policies of other sectors and with national development strategies.

*The forest policy database created by FAO supports evidence-based decision-making by providing public access to the forest policy and national forest programme documents of more than 150 countries*

The forest policy database created by FAO supports evidence-based decision-making by providing public access to the forest policy and NFP documents of more than 150 countries, including implementation instruments and plans. The database is organized by country, date of approval and type of document, and it includes both policies now in force and those awaiting approval.

The database also allows consultation with forest-related policy documents held in other FAO databases by linking three major platforms (the Forestry Department, FAOLEX, and Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis – FAPDA), thereby facilitating the analysis of possible forest-related impacts of policies in other sectors and the identification of coordination gaps and



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opportunities. Through its link to FAPDA, users have access to over 9 000 agriculture-related policy decisions made since 2008 in more than 80 countries.

Thus, the database:

- enables easy consultation and referencing of policy documents and NFPs in countries world-wide;
- helps in monitoring the status of forest policies and NFPs; and
- provides easy access to policies in other sectors relevant to forests.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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## COMPREHENSIVE BOOK ON POPLARS AND WILLOWS

Natural and planted forests of poplars and willows cover about 100 million hectares worldwide. In many industrialized and developing countries they have become significant resources in agriculture and forestry, capable of supporting rural livelihoods, enhancing

food security, alleviating poverty and contributing to sustainable development. In China, for example, millions of hectares of poplars and willows have been planted to help prevent desertification and to provide a wood supply for small and medium-sized rural enterprises in remote areas; millions of poplars and willows were also planted to commemorate the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

*The book synthesizes the latest knowledge and technologies and links these to successful field work that is contributing to sustainable livelihoods, landscapes and development*

In 2014, the International Poplar Commission, through FAO and the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, published an authoritative, 600-page book on poplars and willows. The result of a ten-year effort by nearly 60 contributing authors from 14 countries, *Poplars and Willows: Trees for Society and the Environment* offers a worldwide overview and guide to the basic characteristics, cultivation and use of poplars and willows. It



synthesizes the latest knowledge and technologies and links these to successful field work that is contributing to sustainable livelihoods, landscapes and development.

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.fao.org/forestry/ipc/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/ipc/en)

**THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP  
ON SUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

The Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW), which has 13 member organizations, including FAO, engaged in a wide range of initiatives in 2014–2015. For example, it published four fact sheets designed to clarify the multiple and cross-sectoral dimensions of wildlife management and increase understanding among practitioners, stakeholders and the media of the sustainable use of wildlife. The fact sheets assess the role of sustainable wildlife management in biodiversity conservation; the significance of wild meat for food security and nutrition; the relevance of sustainable wildlife management to the maintenance of livestock health; and the conflicts that can arise when humans are in contact with wildlife.

*The first-ever Wildlife Forum provided a venue for discussion and debate on various aspects of sustainable wildlife management aimed at improving local livelihoods, and it made several policy recommendations*

The CPW convened the first-ever Wildlife Forum in 2015 as part of the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa. The Forum provided a venue for discussion and debate on various aspects of sustainable wildlife management aimed at improving local livelihoods, and it made several policy recommendations. Sustainable wildlife management is an important part of integrated approaches for the multipurpose use of natural resources, and it can play a meaningful role in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by providing benefits for food security, livelihoods, natural heritage, and biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. Indigenous peoples and local communities have essential roles to play in wildlife management, and these roles should be encouraged



through participatory processes. To combat illegal trade in wildlife, the Wildlife Forum advocated a coordinated effort at the local, national and regional levels to deploy the same tools and techniques used to combat serious crimes in other sectors.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership](http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership)

### CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT IN THE NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Forests, other wooded lands and rangelands are interlinked across landscapes in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region and play crucial economic, sociocultural and environmental roles. The demand for goods and environmental services from such resources is increasing, but the resources themselves are diminishing and becoming degraded.

To help address this challenge, FAO supported the development of criteria and indicators (C&I) for the

sustainable management of forests and rangelands in the NENA region. The C&I were developed through a process involving an expert meeting organized in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for West Asia and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, within the framework of a global project to strengthen C&I for sustainable forest management (SFM).

*FAO supported the development of criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of forests and rangelands in the Near East and North Africa, and the Commission agreed to consider them as an umbrella framework*

To further broaden the dialogue on the proposed C&I for the sustainable management of forests and rangelands and to strengthen their adoption and use in the region, the C&I were presented at the 22nd Session of the Near East Forestry and Range Commission in De-



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cember 2015. The Commission agreed to consider the proposed C&I as an umbrella framework and requested countries to undertake national consultations, given each country context. It also recommended that each country identify those indicators already in use, indicate potential indicators that could be applied, and report on the results of testing the application of the C&I. FAO intends to follow up with countries on the adoption and use of C&I for the sustainable management of forests and rangelands and their subsequent adaptation for harmonized reporting to global processes and conventions.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/ci/88504/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/ci/88504/en)

[www.fao.org/forestry/31112/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/31112/en)

## EXEMPLARY CASES OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has been documenting experiences in the region on SFM and compiling lessons learned. The evaluation and analysis of such exemplary cases can

help in improving the implementation of SFM policies, programmes and practices.

*The project assessed 31 exemplary cases of sustainable forest management, compiled lessons learned, and proposed options for strengthening policy instruments in the four participating countries*

The methodology for analysing exemplary cases of SFM involves the use of eleven criteria and 73 indicators. The value of the methodology is that it generates a systematic and holistic understanding of the situation, which helps forest services, policymakers and technicians to review and monitor their forest plans and programmes.

The project has been implemented in four countries with the participation of Chile's National Forestry Corporation of the Ministry of Agriculture; Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas; Guatemala's National Forestry Institute; and Uruguay's General Department of Forestry.

The project assessed 31 exemplary cases of SFM, compiled lessons learned, and proposed options for strengthening policy instruments in the four participating countries. Moreover, the methodology has been transferred and adapted to each country as a complementary tool for monitoring forest programmes and for the development of training activities. A virtual “community of practice” involving participants from 17 countries in the region has been created to increase awareness of the exemplary cases.

A book, *Exemplary Cases of Sustainable Forest Management in Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Uruguay*, will be published in 2016.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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## GETTING READY FOR REDD+

The United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (“the UN-REDD Programme”) was set up in 2008 as a partnership involving FAO, the UN Development Programme and the UN Environment Programme. Today, more than 64 countries participate in the UN-REDD Programme, which supports nationally led processes aimed at preparing countries for REDD+ and future access to results-based payments, following the REDD+ Warsaw Framework adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

As part of the UN-REDD Programme, FAO supports countries on technical issues related to:

- national forest monitoring systems;
- forest reference levels; and
- forest governance, land tenure, safeguards and actions to reduce emissions and enhance removals of greenhouse gases.

Major steps were taken in 2014–2015 in terms of both the increased number of countries supported by the UN-REDD Programme and the significant progress made in partner countries, for example in the development of their national forest monitoring systems and forest reference levels.

By the end of 2015, 40 countries had strengthened their technical capacities and were developing the pillars of their national forest monitoring systems. Some are now close to having all the pillars in place and thereby complying with REDD+ requirements. Such progress has also helped countries by increasing the availability of information needed to improve forest conservation and management and adopt sustainable land-use planning approaches.

*By the end of 2015, 40 countries had strengthened their technical capacities; some are now close to having all the pillars of their national forest monitoring systems in place*

Ten countries have submitted their forest reference levels to the UNFCCC, five have taken steps towards such submission, and another nine have strengthened their capacities in this area through FAO backstopping and collaboration. Seventy percent of all forest reference levels submitted to the UNFCCC have received FAO support. These promising achievements will be consolidated in the second phase of the UN-REDD Programme (2016–2020); the support of the Programme is proving a crucial factor in partner countries as they prepare for REDD+.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.un-redd.org](http://www.un-redd.org)

[www.fao.org/forestry/fma/88744/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fma/88744/en)



# Reduce rural poverty

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## THE EXTENT AND EFFECTIVENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED FORESTRY

Considerable attention has been paid in the past four decades to community-based forestry (CBF) and to related forest-tenure changes aimed at encouraging the greater involvement of communities in forest governance. The area of forest land under CBF regimes such as collaborative and smallholder forestry has increased significantly. A recent stocktake by FAO of 40 years of CBF found that, with the full transfer of management rights to communities, CBF can be a potent vehicle for moving towards SFM and improving local livelihoods. However, there has been no systematic assessment to test the extent and effectiveness of the various types of CBF worldwide. FAO developed a framework based on clear criteria and indicators for use at the national level to assess, quantitatively and qualitatively, the extent and effectiveness of existing CBF regimes. A group of international experts helped refine the framework for testing.

The framework is now being piloted in five African, three Asian and two Latin American countries, in partnership with the FFF, the FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme, and the Center for People and Forests, among others.

This collaborative work will help determine the extent to which legal recognition or the transfer of forest rights to communities leads to SFM and socioeconomic benefits. It will also help in identifying and understanding

the factors enabling and hindering the achievement of such outcomes in the case-study countries. Ultimately, the assessment is expected to help policymakers and others unleash the potential of hundreds of millions of local people to manage the forests in which they live.

*FAO developed a framework for use at the national level to assess the extent and effectiveness of existing community-based forestry regimes, and it is being piloted in ten countries*

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/participatory/90737/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/participatory/90737/en)

## SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

Many forest-dependent communities are subject to poverty, vulnerability, marginalization and social exclusion, with limited opportunities for livelihood improvement. Social protection is increasingly used in developing countries as a strategy for reducing poverty, food insecurity and vulnerability to shocks. An FAO team – in partnership with other development institutions and member countries – recently explored the social protection concept as it applies to forest-dependent





communities through a global literature review and country case studies in Burkina Faso, China and Uganda.

The four studies reveal that forest-dependent communities in poverty-stricken areas of developing countries face many economic, social, environmental and political vulnerabilities. Most are either unsupported by social protection programmes or lack such programmes specifically targeting forest-dependent communities. It is widely perceived that forests themselves act as safety nets to shocks and provide resources for seasonal gap-filling, which could lead to unsustainable use. Another key finding is that although some forest-based associations, cooperatives and producer groups provide their members with social protection services, this is very limited. Overall, the evidence provided by the studies suggests that targeted social protection and forest programmes can be complementary in reducing risks and vulnerabilities and increasing the socioeconomic resilience of forest-dependent communities while promoting SFM.

*The evidence provided by the studies suggests that targeted social protection and forest programmes can be complementary in reducing risks and vulnerabilities and increasing the socioeconomic resilience of forest-dependent communities*

In the next biennium, additional country case studies will be conducted to identify the social protection needs of forest-dependent communities, assess the contributions of forests to social protection, and formulate social protection indicators. Operational guidance on social protection for forest-dependent communities will also be developed.

MORE INFORMATION  
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## FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS BUILD MOMENTUM

Smallholder families, indigenous peoples and local communities manage a third of the world's forests; together, they are the world's largest investors in forests. Through its support for national, regional and global forest and farm producer organizations, the FFF works to ensure that the needs and concerns of small forest and farm producers are heard and recognized globally. With support from the FFF, regional and global forest and farm producer organizations – including the International Family Forestry Alliance, the Global Alliance for Community Forestry, the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests, and the International Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forest – organized regional dialogues around the world in 2015. Groups in Africa, South America and Asia held local, national and regional consultations to build a policy agenda for defending the rights of forest and farm producers. Despite the diversity of stakeholders, all regional declarations had expectations in common:

secure tenure and the upholding of fundamental human rights; access to markets and services; and respect for, and recognition of, the importance of indigenous peoples, local communities and family smallholders in sustainable land and forest management.

*Groups in Africa, South America and Asia held local, national and regional consultations to build a policy agenda for defending the rights of forest and farm producers*

The FFF brought together representatives of forest and farm producer organizations from across the world to speak out at the largest forestry event of the decade, the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015. Participants issued a common declaration at the Congress, calling on governments and other major actors to recognize the enormous potential of community-based forestry, to engage with





indigenous peoples, local communities, family smallholders and their umbrella organizations through equitable partnerships, and to remove obstacles faced by forest and farm producers in accessing markets.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility/90508/en](http://www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility/90508/en)

## IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

“Forest Forces” is an acronym for “Forests Sustainably Managed for Communities, Environment and Shock Resilience”, a four-year project (2013–2017) in Zimbabwe. The project, which is valued at US\$5.05 million, is a partnership between FAO, the Centre for Applied Social Sciences, Environment Africa, Practical Action, the Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources, and the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association, in association with the Community Based Natural Resources Forum and the Zimbabwe Forestry Commission.

The project’s main objective is to improve the food security of vulnerable rural communities through participatory SFM and by adding value to forest products, diversifying livelihoods and increasing the capacity of communities to deal with shocks. For example, the project is facilitating markets for honey and other non-wood forest products (NWFPs) – such as those derived from baobab, marula and *Jatropha* – through partnerships with the private sector.

*Under the project, farmers have increased their earnings from honey by 67 percent. Average incomes have grown significantly, providing a safety net for families suffering from the effects of a drought*

Under the project, farmers in Mutasa district have increased their earnings from honey by 67 percent, from a baseline of US\$1.50 per kg (of honeycomb) to US\$2.50 per kg. Average incomes have grown significantly, providing a safety net for families suffering from the effects of a drought.

Outgrower schemes are assisting farmers to establish eucalypt plantations and to obtain access to markets for the products of such plantations by promoting partnerships with timber companies.

The project is also facilitating the development of a national forest policy, the adoption of which by the government will provide the sector with an official guiding document for forest development.

#### MORE INFORMATION

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# Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

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## FAO'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE ON THE ECONOMICS OF CLIMATE-CHANGE MITIGATION

The international online conference, "The Economics of Climate Change Mitigation Options in the Forest Sector", was held on 6–27 February 2015 with the support of FAO's Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture Programme. The aim of the conference was to provide a platform for and facilitate the exchange of information on the costs and benefits of mitigation options in the forest sector, and to convey lessons learned from mitigation efforts in various countries.

The conference featured 51 technical presentations, including more than 31 country case studies, and it attracted more than 900 participants from at least 114 countries. It comprised six sessions – on afforestation and reforestation; reduced deforestation and degradation; changing forest management practices; wood energy; green building; and sustainable packaging. Panel and plenary discussions provided opportunities for sharing country experiences.

The conference emphasized the roles that forests play in capturing and storing carbon for climate-change mitigation. It also underlined the viability of using sustainably produced wood as an alternative to fossil fuels under the

right market conditions, and of using wood to replace carbon-emissions-intensive products in the building and packaging sectors. To close the huge gap between the reality and potential of forests and wood products in climate-change mitigation, the conference stressed the need for evolving public policies, positive incentives, and concerted efforts to stimulate the supply and demand of sustainable forest products and environmental services.

As a follow-up to the conference, FAO is preparing a major publication on the above-mentioned six mitigation options, targeting forestry policymakers.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/cc-mitigation-economics](http://www.fao.org/forestry/cc-mitigation-economics)  
<http://tinyurl.com/ClimateChangeConf>

*The conference emphasized the roles that forests play in capturing and storing carbon for climate-change mitigation and underlined the viability of using sustainably produced wood as an alternative to fossil fuels*



## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HELP CURTAIL CROSS-BORDER ILLEGAL LOGGING

Belize and Guatemala share a common ecosystem. In Belize, the Chiquibul Forest is a large area with little human disturbance and rich biodiversity, including rare species such as the jaguar and the scarlet macaw. On the Guatemalan side, the human population is large, land has been cleared for agriculture, and the agricultural frontier is advancing. Chainsaw operators in Guatemala are tempted to cross the border to extract mahogany and cedar, as well as NWFPs such as xate (an ornamental plant) and endangered wildlife.

Despite an unresolved border dispute between the two countries, two non-governmental organizations – Friends for Conservation and Development (Belize) and Asociación Balam (Guatemala) – joined forces to

address this delicate problem. FAO has been supporting both organizations in their endeavours with funding through its FLEGT Programme.

After four years of programme implementation, illegal cross-border timber trade between the two countries has come almost to a halt. A key first step was to document and raise awareness of the problem among decision-makers and the general public, supported by specialist studies assessing the financial losses incurred by the illegal cross-border trade. Another strong component of the programme was to increase surveillance and law enforcement in the forest. The two non-governmental organizations also brought together the police and defence forces in Belize and Guatemala to conduct multi-agency patrols, and improved law enforcement on the ground was complemented by sensitization processes to inform judges and prosecutors about environmental crime.

*After four years of programme implementation, illegal cross-border timber trade between the two countries has come almost to a halt*

For the first time, the environmental protection agenda has been elevated to a prominent position in both countries, to the extent that the two governments have signed a memorandum of understanding for the protection of the Chiquibul-Maya Mountains.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fcdbelize.org](http://www.fcdbelize.org)

<http://asociacionbalam.org.gt>

[www.fao.org/forestry/eu-flegt/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/eu-flegt/en)

## **ADDING VALUE TO BAMBOO IN RWANDA**

Rwanda's forest sector faces challenges from forest degradation and the depletion of forest resources due to overexploitation and forest conversion. Bamboo and other NWFPs have tremendous potential for addressing such challenges while also increasing food security and reducing poverty, but this potential has not yet been unleashed. The bamboo sector in particular could reduce pressure on natural forests by helping meet market demand for fibre products while also generating employment.

*Among other things, the project developed a national strategic action plan for non-wood forest products, including bamboo, and trained 170 farmer organizations and cooperatives in bamboo production*

FAO supported the Government of Rwanda with a two-year technical cooperation project in 2013–2014 to promote bamboo and other NWFP resources. A comprehensive biophysical and socioeconomic baseline survey led to the selection of the districts of Nyaruguru and Kicukiro, in which the project undertook technological and skills development, capacity building and strategy development. Specifically, the project:

- Equipped 20 households with skills in nursery production and bamboo plantation establishment and management.
- Created four NWFP income-generating activities (apiculture, the production of mushrooms and marakuja, and value adding to traditional medicines).
- Developed a national strategic action plan for NWFPs, including bamboo.
- Trained 95 stakeholders in the potential benefits of bamboo.
- Trained 170 farmer organizations and cooperatives in bamboo propagation techniques, stand management, harvesting, processing and hand-craft production.
- Established a bamboo field gene bank to conserve and supply the country with quality bamboo germplasm.
- Helped 36 cooperatives to develop bamboo processing capability and in marketing.

Key partners in the project were the Rwanda Agriculture Board, the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

#### MORE INFORMATION

<http://tinyurl.com/z4vkb8r>

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## **PIONEERING CERTIFICATION AS AN ELEMENT IN LEGALITY VERIFICATION**

Forest certification emerged in the 1980s in an effort to improve how forests are managed and inform consumers about such management. Broader voluntary and



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regulatory efforts – such as the European Union (EU)'s FLEGT Action Plan – have also arisen to address the legality of forest products.

Until recently, collaboration between certification bodies and entities implementing larger governance mechanisms such as those of the EU FLEGT Action Plan has been scant, but recognition of the role of the private sector in improving forest governance is growing. The FAO FLEGT Programme, for example, has been exploring the potential of certification to contribute to broader governance processes.

In Cameroon, the FAO FLEGT Programme supported the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to develop a manual of procedures for recognizing certification bodies and private certification standards as demonstrating legality and sustainability under the EU FLEGT initiative. Now, appropriately certified forest enterprises can obtain legality certificates directly, reducing both time and cost.

The FAO FLEGT Programme supported similar work in Viet Nam through the Research Institute for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification, which involved two international certification companies – the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification – in a rare collaborative effort to help small and medium-sized forest

enterprises (SMEs) and smallholder timber producers comply with the national timber legality assurance system. As a result, SMEs and smallholders can now meet national legality requirements more easily and thereby obtain access to green markets.

This work will continue in the third phase of the FAO FLEGT Programme (2016–2020).

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/fao-flegt/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fao-flegt/en)

*In Cameroon, the FAO FLEGT Programme supported the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to develop a manual of procedures for recognizing certification bodies and private certification standards as demonstrating legality and sustainability*



## NEW HARMONIZED CODES FOR FOREST PRODUCTS

FAO is a partner of the World Customs Organization (WCO) in reviewing the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, commonly referred to as the Harmonized System (HS). Two hundred and seven countries, territories and customs and economic unions use the HS in the collection of customs duties and international trade statistics.

The HS is essential for obtaining comparable data on forest product exports and imports. Previous HS versions, and the current HS2012, have, however, not been fully aligned with the needs of FAO and its partners, requiring country correspondents to produce estimates of trade data for some forest products.

In early 2012, FAO developed – in partnership with Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and in consultation with member states – a proposal for HS2017 to improve the classification of wood products. The proposal was part of FAO's corporate proposal for the amendment of 168 items relating to agricultural, fishery and forest products, fertilizers and agricultural machinery in HS2017. The WCO Council approved the proposal for forest products in 2015.

In summary, HS2017 includes 31 new subheadings (six-digit codes) and eight improved subheadings for forest products. The new codes will allow a more precise definition of forest products by tree species, log size, wood energy products and prefabricated buildings of wood in customs, while reducing the reporting burden on countries. The approval of an expanded list of tropical species (from 88 in HS2012 to over 400 trade names in HS2017) will help in monitoring international trade patterns for tropical timber products such as logs, sawnwood and panels. Overall, the improvements to the HS will increase the availability, quality and comparability of statistics on forest products in international trade.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80572/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/statistics/80572/en/)  
<http://tinyurl.com/MF-HS2017>

*The approval of an expanded list of tropical species will help in monitoring international trade patterns for tropical timber products such as logs, sawnwood and panels*

# Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

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## UNDERSTANDING THE VULNERABILITY OF MOUNTAIN PEOPLES

FAO has been promoting sustainable mountain development since founding the Mountain Partnership, jointly with the governments of Italy and Switzerland and the UN Environment Programme, in 2002. The Mountain Partnership Secretariat, which FAO hosts, works with the Partnership's more than 270 members to improve the livelihoods of mountain peoples through advocacy, capacity development and joint action on the ground.

*The study found that one in three mountain people in developing countries faces the risk of hunger and malnutrition*

A landmark study conducted by the Partnership, published in 2015 as *Mapping the Vulnerability of Mountain Peoples to Food Security*, uses a specially designed model to provide an up-to-date geographic and demographic picture of the world's mountain areas and assess the vulnerability to food security of mountain peoples in developing countries. The study also proposes an alternative, complementary approach for assessing hunger by analysing household surveys.

The study found that one in three mountain people in developing countries faces the risk of hunger and malnutrition; this increases to one in two people if only rural areas are considered. In 2012, 39 percent of the mountain population in developing countries was considered vulnerable to food insecurity – an increase of 30 percent compared with the conditions of mountain peoples in 2000.

*Mapping the Vulnerability of Mountain Peoples to Food Security* sends a message to policymakers about the importance of including mountain development in their agendas and suggests specific measures that could be taken to break the cycle of poverty and hunger among mountain communities.

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/3/a-i5175e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5175e.pdf)

## SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AMAZONIAN VISION

FAO is coordinating a project to support the implementation of the Amazon Ecosystem-based Conservation Vision, which was signed by eight Amazonian countries with the aim of taking priority actions to conserve ecosystems and protected areas and improve the livelihoods of local communities. In coordinating the project,



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FAO is working in partnership with the UN Environment Programme, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, WWF, REDPARQUES (an FAO-instigated forum designed to help stakeholders increase their knowledge and capacities in protected-area management) and the parks directors of the eight countries.

### *The project has already helped strengthen institutional coordination at the regional level*

A key focus of the project is to build a common understanding of the contribution of protected areas and biodiversity to sustainable production, food systems and security, and resilience to climate change. The project identified two landscapes (“northern” and “southern”) for intervention, based on the criteria of vulnerability, replicability and biodiversity. The northern landscape encompasses Colombia’s La Paya National

Park; Ecuador’s Cuyabeno protected fauna reserve; and Peru’s Güeppí-Sekime National Park, Reserva Comunal Airo Pai and Huimeki Comunal Reserve. The southern landscape includes the Amazonian National Wildlife Reserve of Manuripi in the Plurinational State of Bolivia; the Chandless State Park and Cazumbá-Iracema Extractive Reserve in Brazil; and the Alto Purus National Park and the Puras National Comunal Reserve in Peru. Field activities will begin this year, but the project has already helped strengthen institutional coordination at the regional level. For example, it assisted the park directors to present a united statement at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Paris on the role of protected areas in Latin America and their contributions to climate-change mitigation, food security and poverty alleviation.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/262555](http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/262555)

[www.redparques.com/iapa-vision-amazonica](http://www.redparques.com/iapa-vision-amazonica)



## **ACTION PLAN FOR FORESTS AND WATER**

Forests and Water: A Five-year Action Plan marks the transition from discourse to action for an international process known as the Forests and Water Agenda, which has been promoting the role of forests in the water cycle and water supply since the Shiga Declaration on Forests and Water in 2002. The Agenda provides a forum for discussing the complexities of forest–water interactions and generating recommendations on forest–water science, policy and practice. More than 25 organizations (including FAO), institutions and other stakeholders have engaged in the process, including the development of the five-year action plan.

The action plan acknowledges that water security depends on forests; for example, approximately 75 percent of the world’s accessible fresh water for domestic, agricultural, industrial and ecological needs comes from forests. It is a collaborative workplan that aims to

consolidate and shape projects and activities related to forest–water interactions with a view to developing effective strategies for conserving, managing and restoring water-related environmental services.

*The action plan aims to consolidate and shape projects and activities related to forest–water interactions with a view to developing effective strategies for conserving, managing and restoring water-related environmental services*

The action plan was launched at the International Forests and Water Dialogue held during the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015. Its subsequent endorsement by several organizations has provided further legitimacy for its implementation.

As part of its commitment to implementing the action plan, FAO has developed a new programme on forests and water. One of the programme's first activities will be to develop a monitoring framework for forest-water interactions and a resource database.

**MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.fao.org/in-action/forest-and-water-programme/en](http://www.fao.org/in-action/forest-and-water-programme/en)

## **SUPPORTING RWANDA'S RESTORATION COMMITMENT TO FOREST AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION**

Continued deforestation and landscape degradation are serious obstacles to biodiversity conservation, the capacity of farmers and local communities to adapt to climate change, and the elimination of poverty and hunger. Forest and landscape restoration (FLR), on the other hand, has the potential to prevent further degradation and to support the restoration of more than 2 billion hectares worldwide.

*The FLR Mechanism facilitated the creation of the country's first cross-sectoral, multistakeholder platform for agriculture and natural resources, which has a mandate to foster collaboration to accelerate the transition towards restored landscapes*

FAO's FLR Mechanism was established in June 2014 with the objective of supporting country efforts to improve the resilience, productivity and socioeconomic value of forests and landscapes, benefiting human well-being, local livelihoods and the environment. The FLR Mechanism facilitates cross-sectoral processes at the national level to improve the enabling environment, institutional arrangements, and the organizational and technical

capacity for designing, planning and implementing large-scale FLR efforts.

The FLR Mechanism is supporting Rwanda, a country that has pledged to restore 2 million hectares of land as part of the Bonn Challenge. Agroforestry has been identified as a suitable restoration strategy for more than 1 million hectares in the country.

In 2015 the FLR Mechanism facilitated the creation of the country's first cross-sectoral, multistakeholder platform for agriculture and natural resources, which has a mandate to foster collaboration to accelerate the transition towards restored and sustainably managed landscapes. It includes the Ministry of Natural Resources and its implementing agencies, the Ministry of Agriculture and its implementing agencies, representatives of the local government, and key partners in the field, such as the World Agroforestry Centre, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Belgian Development Agency, and the Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation. FAO provides the secretariat of this platform, which is now meeting regularly to pursue cross-sectoral collaboration on issues related particularly to finance, capacity development and action on the ground.

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.fao.org/forestry/flrm/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/flrm/en)

## **MANAGING MOUNTAIN WATERSHEDS**

Local communities in Central Asia and the Caucasus depend heavily for their water supply on the rivers and streams fed by mountains in the region. Those watersheds, however, face severe degradation from the unsustainable use of land and natural resources, compounded by inadequate public awareness and political commitment, inconsistent policy frameworks and institutional capacities, and the impacts of climate change.

The subregional project "Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Mountain Watersheds in Central Asia and the Caucasus", which was implemented from



January 2012 to December 2015, sought to increase the awareness and capacities of decision-makers and watershed managers on approaches for the integrated management of mountain watersheds and the preparation of participatory watershed rehabilitation plans. The project provided a regional platform for capacity-building workshops and practical training on watershed rehabilitation and management, nursery development, seed and seedling production, and arid-zone afforestation. A participatory approach was used to prepare a rehabilitation plan for the project's pilot site, the Cholok Kaiyndy microcatchment in Kyrgyzstan.

*The project provided a regional platform for capacity-building workshops and practical training on watershed rehabilitation and management, nursery development, seed and seedling production, and arid-zone afforestation*

Based on the experiences of Turkish experts, technical guidelines for natural resource rehabilitation in mountain watersheds were prepared in English and Russian to support the work of specialists and practitioners in Central Asia and the Caucasus. About 110 decision-makers and specialists from the forestry departments of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan were trained in participatory approaches and involved in reviewing institutional frameworks.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/forestry/watershedmanagementandmountains/74920/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/watershedmanagementandmountains/74920/en)

### **RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT FORESTS, TREES AND RANGELANDS IN DRYLANDS**

Recognizing the importance of improving information on forests, trees and rangelands in drylands heavily affected by desertification and land degradation, FAO, in partnership with the World Resources Institute and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, organized the first Drylands Monitoring Week in January 2015



in Rome as part of the African, Caribbean and the Pacific Group of States' "Action Against Desertification" (AAD) initiative. The Week produced the Rome Promise on Monitoring and Assessment of Drylands, and it initiated a global drylands assessment using Collect Earth and involving more than a dozen partners in various regions.

*The first Drylands Monitoring Week produced the Rome Promise on Monitoring and Assessment of Drylands, and it initiated a global drylands assessment involving more than a dozen partners in various regions*

FAO launched the Drylands Restoration Initiative (DRI) in 2013 with the aim of capturing and sharing knowledge on dryland restoration programmes and projects worldwide. The DRI led to the compilation of the *Global Guidelines for the Restoration of Degraded Forests and Landscapes in Drylands: Building Resilience and Ben-*

*efiting Livelihoods*. These guidelines were launched in 2015 at the 12th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

*Silva Mediterranea* is supporting several initiatives in the Mediterranean region. The *Silva Mediterranea* Working Group on Urban and Peri-urban Forestry, for example, is working to identify regional indicators for urban and peri-urban forestry assessment, develop policy and position papers, and draft project proposals for implementation in the region. Another *Silva Mediterranea* working group, on desertification and restoration in Mediterranean drylands, was launched in October 2015; this work, led by Turkey, will contribute to the implementation of the Global Guidelines for the Restoration of Degraded Forests and Landscapes in Drylands in Mediterranean countries. Within the framework of a French-funded project, climate-change vulnerability assessments of forest ecosystems have been conducted at pilot sites in five North African and Near Eastern countries. The climate-change mitigation potential of forests in those sites has also been estimated.

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.fao.org/forestry/aridzone/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/aridzone/en)





## UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORESTS AND DROUGHTS AND RANGELANDS IN DRYLANDS

Enormous areas of Asia and the Pacific are already prone to extreme drought, but increases in the frequency, duration and severity of drought and heat stress associated with climate change could fundamentally alter the composition, structure and biogeography of forests and trees in landscapes in the region. Of particular concern is a potential increase in tree mortality as a result of climate-induced physiological stress and climate-related processes such as insect outbreaks and wildfires. At the same time, trees and forests can play important roles in mitigating the impacts of drought by providing shade and fodder for livestock, helping regulate hydrological cycles, and assisting in reducing the encroachment of dry-land salinity.

*Commonalities among the case-study countries indicate that the key impacts of drought on forests and forest-dependent people include increased frequency of wildfires and susceptibility to invasive species, and reduced productivity and provision of environmental services*

In collaboration with Environmental Science for Social Change, FAO is implementing a multi-country study examining the relationships between forests and drought in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, the study aims to answer three key questions:

- 1) How are droughts affecting forests and forest-dependent people?
- 2) What are the implications of climate change for droughts and forests in the future?
- 3) What can and should be done to promote a better future?

The study incorporates case studies from eight countries in the region: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Commonalities among the case-study countries indicate that the key impacts of drought on forests and forest-dependent people include increased frequency of wildfires and susceptibility to invasive species, and reduced productivity and provision of environmental services. The study will be published in mid-2016.

### MORE INFORMATION

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TO THE JUNGLE!**  
SOUTH AFRICA IS PROUD TO HOST  
THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD



**WFC2015**  
XIV World Forestry Congress

7 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2015, DURBAN ICC, SOUTH AFRICA



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

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# The provision of technical knowledge, quality and services for the work of the Organization

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## XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS ARTICULATES GLOBAL VISION ON FORESTS

About 3 900 people from 142 countries attended the XIV World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015. The Congress featured five plenary sessions, six thematic dialogues spanning three days, six special events, 180 side-events, and a high-level dialogue

*This sort of rallying call shows the value of World Forestry Congresses as forums for sharing information and knowledge, debating issues, and committing to common goals*

involving nearly 20 ministers and other high-level officials. Debate and knowledge-sharing at the Congress on innovations in forest monitoring and wood technology, efforts to improve forest governance and build resilience, and recognition of the rights and potential of local forest producers created a sense of imminent regrowth in the forest sector. FAO's 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment, launched at the Congress, complemented the positive tone by reporting that the global rate of net natural forest loss is declining and the area under SFM is increasing.

The Congress spelled out the strong connections between the SDGs and forests and made the following statement of intent:

*“Forestry leaders and practitioners around the world are prepared to step up their efforts to manage forests sustainably ... FAO and other relevant international organizations stand ready to support strengthening the contributions of forests to the SDGs.”*

This sort of rallying call shows the value of World Forestry Congresses as forums for sharing information and knowledge, debating issues, and committing to common goals. The XIV World Forestry Congress also articulated a vision for forests and forestry to 2050 and beyond, in which forests will be:

- fundamental for food security and improved livelihoods;
- part of integrated approaches to land use that address conflicts over land use and capitalize on the benefits to be gained from integrating forests with agriculture; and
- an essential solution to climate change.

The Congress set out priority actions for achieving the vision.

#### MORE INFORMATION

[www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/en](http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/en)

## SHARING EXPERT KNOWLEDGE WITH GLOBAL AUDIENCES

The FAO Forestry programme ensures that the specialist knowledge and learning created by its work reaches, informs and influences the behaviour of target audiences.

In 2014–2015, FAO Forestry knowledge-sharing included global outreach associated with the International Day of Forests; media coverage and communication products for the 22nd Session of the Committee on Forestry and the XIV World Forestry Congress; and the production and launch of the flagship publications, *State of the World's Forests 2014* and the *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015*.

Overall, FAO Forestry produced more than 100 publications in the biennium; the *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015* received more than 15 000 page views in the first month of its release; the number of visitors to the FAO Forestry website increased by 17 percent from 2014 to 2015 (with nearly half a million visitors in 2015); the FAO Forestry Twitter account now has more than 17 000 followers; and stories arising from the World Forestry Congress were published in more than 1 500 media outlets, including 142 top-tier outlets, worldwide.

FAO Forestry is building capacity in forest communication by supporting regional and global forest communicators' networks and developing tools such as the Forestry Communication Toolkit.

Each month, FAO Forestry's bulletins – *inFO news* and *Infosylva* – are shared with a global community of readers; these two newsletters, and a special newsletter produced in the lead-up to and immediately after the World Forestry Congress, reached more than 20 000 recipients in 2015. FAO Forestry also produced three issues (including one double issue) of *Unasylva*, FAO's forestry journal, in the biennium, covering Mediterranean forests; forests, trees and disasters; and forest and landscape restoration. A catalogue containing titles of key forestry and relevant sectoral publications was produced for the World Forestry Congress.



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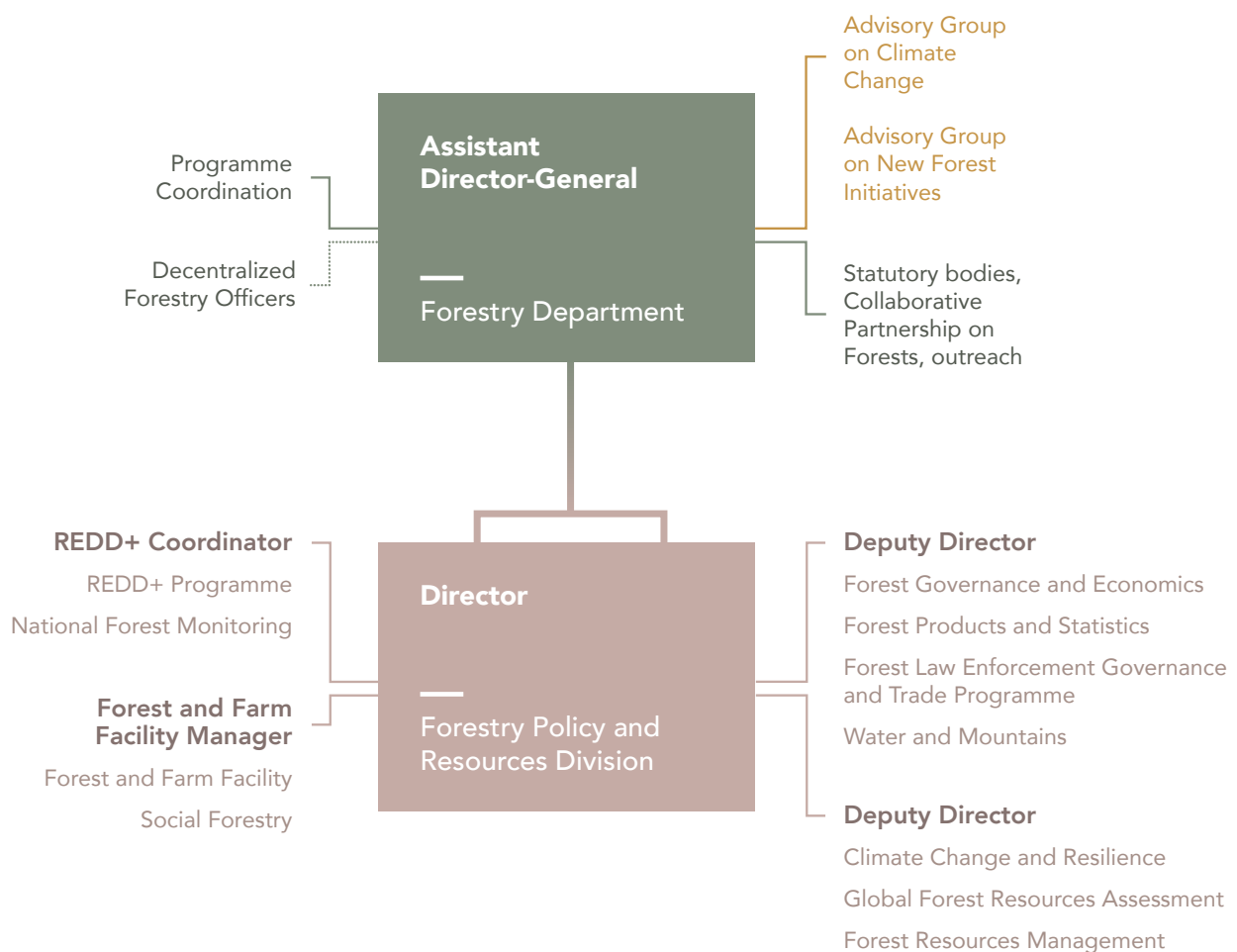
MORE INFORMATION  
[www.fao.org/forestry/communication-toolkit/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/communication-toolkit/en)  
[www.fao.org/forestry/publications/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/publications/en)

*FAO Forestry is building capacity in forest communication by supporting regional and global forest communicators' networks*

# FAO Forestry programme in figures

## HUMAN RESOURCES

At the end of the 2014–2015 biennium the FAO Forestry Department had 82 professional and director-level staff members at headquarters and an additional 16 professional staff members in decentralized offices. The Department also had 31 general service staff and 111 short-term consultants and other non-staff human resources at headquarters.

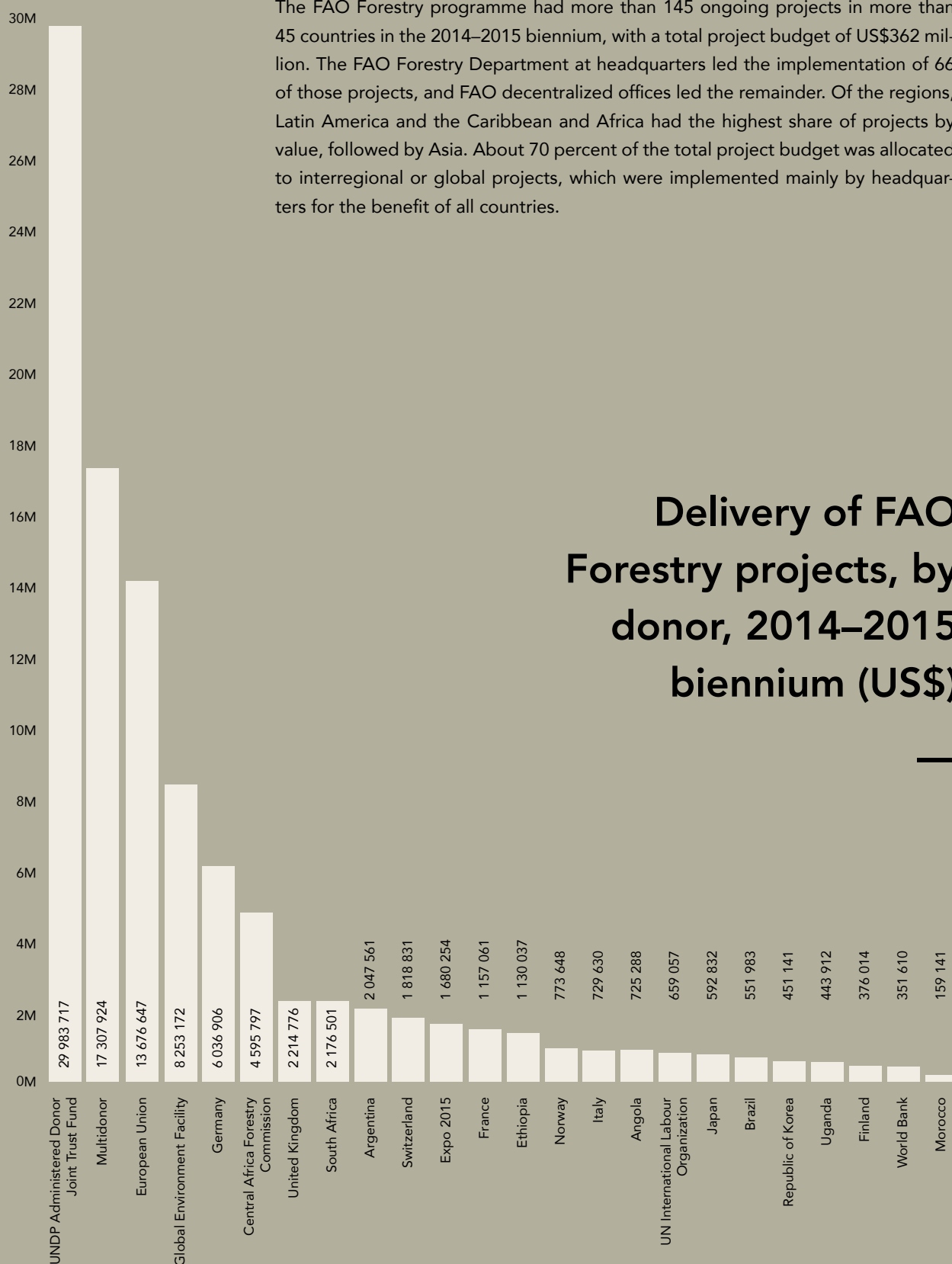


FAO Forestry organigramme as of March 2016

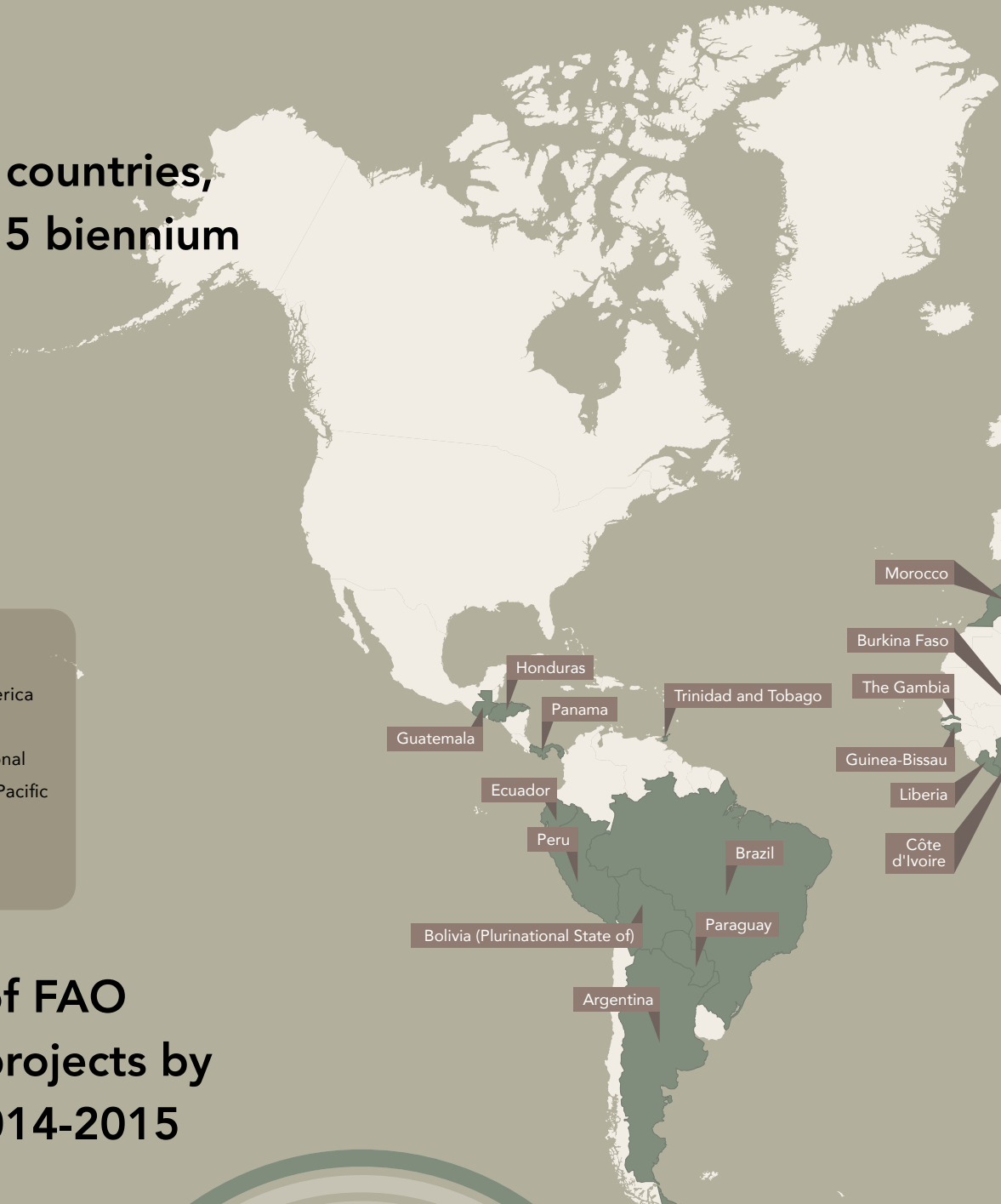
## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The FAO Forestry programme accounted for US\$28 million of FAO's Regular Programme in the 2014–2015 biennium, which was roughly 3 percent of the total Regular Programme budget. In addition, voluntary contributions by bilateral and multilateral donors and trust funds amounted to just under US\$98 million of delivery in the biennium.

The FAO Forestry programme had more than 145 ongoing projects in more than 45 countries in the 2014–2015 biennium, with a total project budget of US\$362 million. The FAO Forestry Department at headquarters led the implementation of 66 of those projects, and FAO decentralized offices led the remainder. Of the regions, Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa had the highest share of projects by value, followed by Asia. About 70 percent of the total project budget was allocated to interregional or global projects, which were implemented mainly by headquarters for the benefit of all countries.

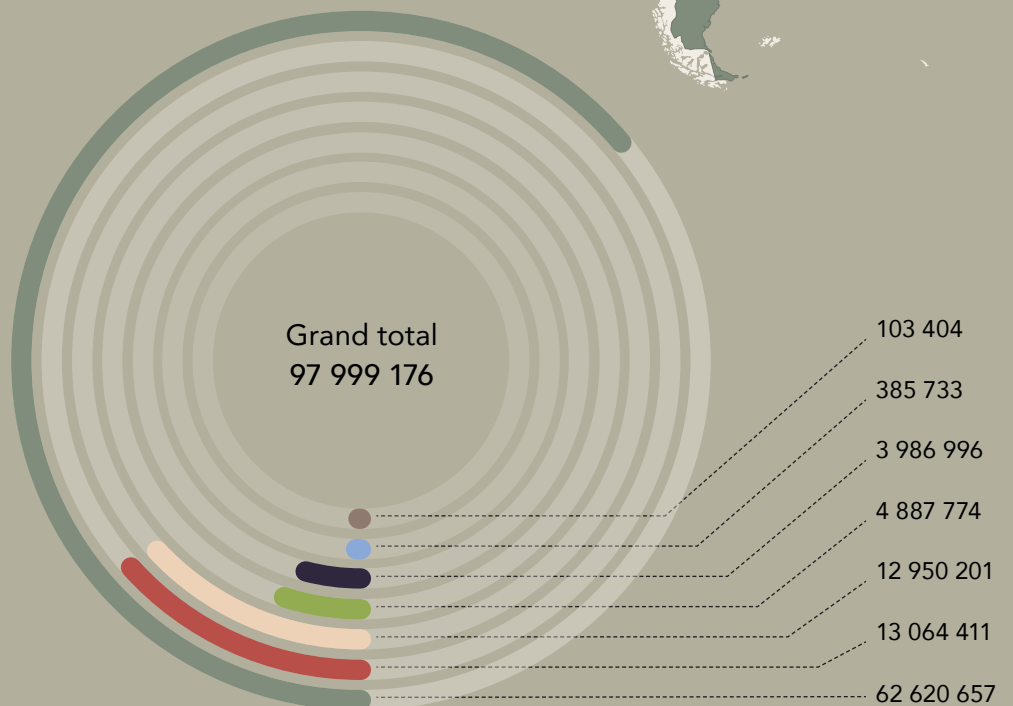


# Recipient countries, 2014–2015 biennium



# Delivery of FAO Forestry projects by region, 2014-2015 biennium

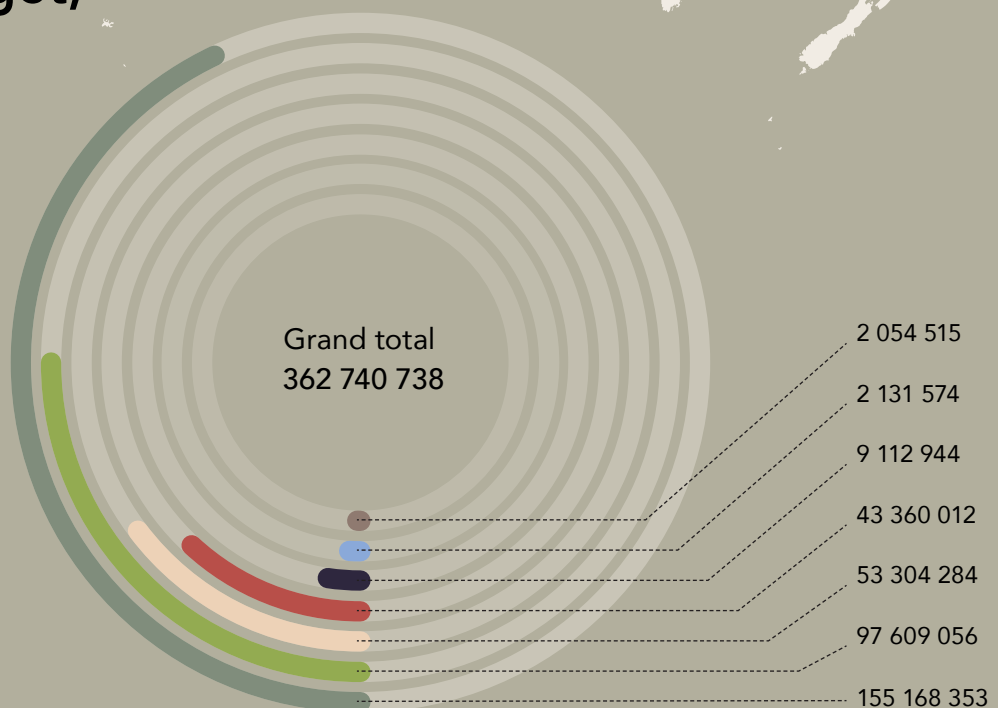
Sum of delivery, 2014–2015 (US\$)





## Project budget, by region

*Total budget of projects in FAO Forestry portfolio, 2014–2015 (US\$)*



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Young couple on a bicycle in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, riding past a flame tree.



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