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| **Target/**  **Indica-tors** | **What is the current status of the target, in terms of actual measured progress and trends?** | **What has changed since the last time this target was reviewed at the HLPF (i.e. 2020)?** | **Any deviations in progress from what was expected (including due to COVID-19)?** | **Additional obstacles or opportunities in implementation including through interlinkages with other Goals, and connections to related processes?** | **New/promising openings for tracking progress, including from additional data sources?** | **What are promising strategies to accelerate action (by UN and partners) and to mobilize other stakeholders to advance implementation? How would one monitor action for implementing these?** |
| **15.1, 15.2** | See SDG 2020 [progress report](http://www.fao.org/sdg-progress-report/en/#sdg-15) on the indicators under FAO custodianship   * Forest loss continues but has slowed down globally * Significant progress all over the world towards sustainable forest management, but forest loss remains high | No change shown as the main data source (Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020) for the indicators have not been updated since the last HLP, except for the forest certification data which shows an increase in the number of countries with certified forest area in 2020, confirming progresses towards sustainable forest management. | The COVID-19 pandemic may have accelerated deforestation and associated biodiversity loss. As household incomes decrease and food is less available, people might have turned to forests and forest products for subsistence, including plants and wildlife for food, which can result in an overharvesting of natural resources (see FAO [QA](http://www.fao.org/2019-ncov/q-and-a/impacts-on-the-forest-sector/en/) and [policy brief](http://www.fao.org/3/ca8844en/CA8844EN.pdf)). | There are strong linkages in particular between SDG target 15 and SDG target 12 (Sustainable production and consumption patterns) : transforming food system, reducing food loss and switching to other diets and is particularity critical to overcome degradation of natural resources and deforestation due to agricultural expansion.  Also linkages between environmental degradation and deforestation and the risk of zoonosis, and other health risk have been particularly stressed during the COVID 19 outbreak (SDG 3). | The [25th Session of the Committee on Forestry](http://www.fao.org/3/ca8844en/CA8844EN.pdf) (COFO) held in September 2020 invited countries “to provide frequent updates, on a voluntary basis, on key forest-related indicators”, and requested FAO “to develop a flexible FRA reporting process that allows voluntary updates of key indicators related to SDG15 and other indicators at the discretion of Members, as new information allows, while ensuring data quality and transparency” | - The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) launched in April 2021 its [Joint Statement on Challenges and Opportunities in Turning the Tide on Deforestation](http://www.cpfweb.org/50449-0941d79c54a6810d4c9eb2f45bbcb25f7.pdf).  - UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 was [launched](http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1403740/ico) on 4th June 2021 as a call to mobilize hundreds of millions of people to restore nature and foster a global restoration culture in which restoration initiatives are scaled up across the planet. It aims to halt the degradation of ecosystems and restore them to achieve global goals.  - Monitoring of the action to reduce and reverse tropical forest loss could be facilitated thanks to the access to high resolution satellite monitoring of the tropics granted through the Norway’s International Climate & Forests Initiative. |

**2021 High-level Political Forum Session *"Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review"***

**FAO inputs on the 2020 SDG 15 targets**