The Contribution of Forests to SDG 15 and Beyond: *A View from the Scientific Community*

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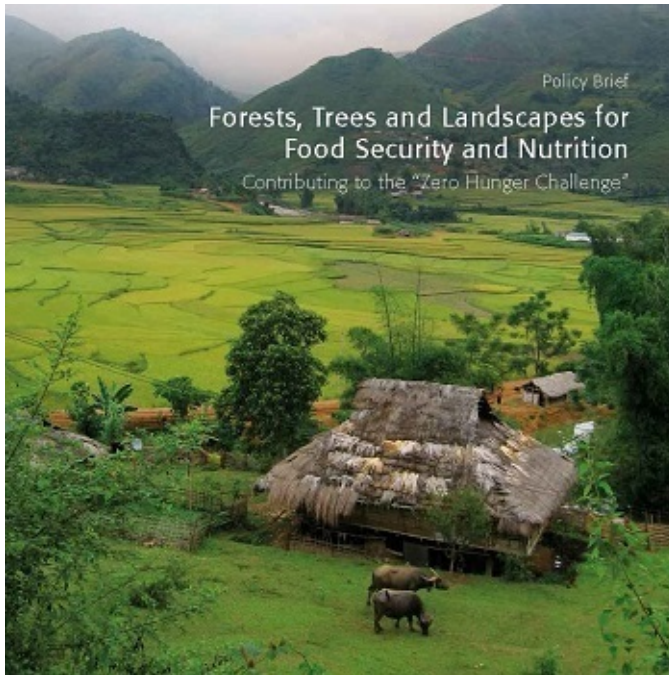*International Union of Forest Research Organizations*

GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

IUFRO-led initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) since 2006

Supports forest-related intergovernmental processes by producing assessment reports on emerging global issues of high concern.

- **Adaptation to Climate Change (2009)**

- **International Forest Regime (2011)**

- **Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+ (2012)**

- **Forests and Food Security (2015)**

- **Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade (2016)**

- **Forests and Water (2018, _to be launched during HLPF 2018_)**

Forests and Food Security (2015)

Forests and trees matter for food security and nutrition

- ✓ Prevalence and diversity of forest and tree-based production systems across a forest-tree-landscape continuum (managed forests, shifting cultivation, agroforestry, single species tree crop production)

- ✓ Contributions to dietary diversity, quality, nutritional shortfalls and rural incomes

- ✓ Complementarity to staple crop production systems: e.g., ecosystem services

- ✓ Adaptability to harsh environmental conditions and changing socioeconomic realities.

Forests and Food Security (2015)

Multi-functional Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition

- Integration of biodiversity conservation and agricultural production goals

- Management of resilient and climate-smart landscapes

- Complexity requires flexibility in management, governance and policy approaches

- Focus on impacts of interventions on vulnerable groups

- The importance of secure tenure and local control

- Critical role of women and need for supportive action and engagement

Reimagining Forests and Food Security

- Benefits of integrated landscape approaches

- Role of forest and tree-based systems in bridging the agriculture-biodiversity divide

- Enhancing the role of traditional knowledge

- Nutrition-smart agroforestry development and nutrition-sensitive value chains

- Education and empowerment of farmers and rural households

Forests and Water (2018)

IUFRO
Interconnecting
Forests, Science and People

Key questions addressed by the assessment:

1. **"Do forests matter?":** To what degree, where and for whom, is the ongoing change in forests and trees outside forests affecting human vulnerability to the negative effects of climate variability and change on water resources?

2. **"Who is responsible and what should be done?":** What can national and international governance systems and co-investment in global commitments do in response to changes in water security?

3. **"How can progress be made and measured?":** How can the UN SDGs framework of Agenda 2030 be used to increase the coherence and coordination of national responses in relation to forests and water across sectors and from local to national and international scales?

Key Messages

- There is a significant body of scientific knowledge that shows how the sustainable management of all types of forests and trees outside of forests can make significant contributions towards meeting SDGs, particularly those related to food security and nutrition, clean water and sanitation, sustaining terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for urban populations.

- Approaches that integrate sectoral interests, the best available knowledge and experience across disciplines, and the needs and aspirations of diverse stakeholders – particularly those most dependent on forests and the services they provide – can minimize difficult trade-offs and adverse environmental, social and economic outcomes.

Key Messages

- The effectiveness of policies and management practices to maximize the contributions of forests to improving the lives of people are highly context-dependent – there are no "one-size-fits all" solutions. The scientific community can play a much greater role in integrating knowledge and experience across disciplines and sectors, to inform development strategies and programs that enhance forests' contributions to SDGs.

- Multi-level governance frameworks that strengthen stakeholder engagement in forest and forest landscape management and provide secure land tenure and forest user rights, as well as meaningful financial incentives, are very often prerequisites for success in achieving SDG objectives through sustainable forest management and restoration of degraded forest lands.

Thank you for your attention!

Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) ● **https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/**