

# SD goals from a forest perspective

Transformative, universal and integrated?

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Duncan Macqueen, Simon Milledge and Jonathan Reeves

Discussion Paper

July 2014

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**Forests**

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## Produced by IIED's Natural Resources Group

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Forests and landscapes with trees are such an important part of a number of different Sustainable Development Goals that we recommend working towards a transformative ‘forest module’. The modular approach improves on the more limited current focus on sustainable forest management, deforestation and reforestation targets. It makes explicit the diversity of targets needing inclusion and resolution in order to create an enabling environment that would yield much greater sustainable development outcomes for forests, landscapes and livelihoods. With the negotiation phase nearing, our assessment of the UN Open Working Group’s zero draft finds a strong set of goals and targets, yet with several potentially serious trade-offs and missing issues. Application of our modular approach can help negotiators seek coherent outcomes across the goal framework and enable integrated implementation at the national level. What are the most important sustainable development outcomes delivered by forests and what are the key levers of change?

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# Executive Summary

Covering almost one third of the global land surface area, forests have much to contribute to sustainable development. They contain eighty per cent of terrestrial biodiversity and are home to 1.3 billion people whose rights and culture are tied to forests. They store more carbon than Earth's atmosphere and are critical for global water cycles, soil fertility and plant pollination. They contribute one per cent to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a source of food, energy, construction materials, oils and resin, medicines and cosmetics. The newly tabled sustainable development goals must create the conditions for the optimal contribution of forests, trees and forest-linked livelihoods (hereafter 'forests') to sustainable development.

At Rio+20, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012, member states agreed to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 'high level political process' for negotiating this new post-2015 development agenda started in September 2013. An Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly has actively considered inputs and prepared a revised zero draft (30 June 2014) entitled 'Introduction and proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for the post 2015 development agenda.'

Intergovernmental negotiations will start around September 2014 and the adoption of the new SDG framework is expected at a high level summit in September 2015. It is now timely to assess how far the current revised zero draft constitutes a transformative, universal and integrated agenda that will optimise the contribution of forests to sustainable development.

This report looks at all the links between the proposed goals and targets, and forests. It first identifies targets towards which forests can make a direct contribution, and secondly, targets that establish critical levers of change to enable the optimal contribution of forests to sustainable development ('enablers'). Together this combined set of goals and targets is proposed as a 'forest module'.

This forest module is assessed for: (i) targets that are most critical to retain, given the likely pressure to reduce and simplify the goals and targets in upcoming negotiations; (ii) critical issues that are missing or need to be better reflected; and (iii) trade-offs – taking as

its base the forest-related proposals to the OWG from multiple alliances and agencies world-wide. The last section in this report uses a structured assessment methodology, developed by the Independent Research Forum, to assess the degree to which the set of proposed goals and targets constitute a transformative, universal and integrated agenda from a forest perspective. Following this analysis, a number of conclusions are laid out for country negotiators.

The forest module approach developed here addresses both outcomes and enablers, moving beyond a limited focus on sustainable forest management and deforestation to a transformative, universal and integrated post-2015 agenda for forests.

Our assessment finds a strong set of proposed goals and targets but some missing issues and trade-offs. These need to be understood and addressed by negotiators if the optimal contribution of forests to sustainable development is to be achieved.

To be genuinely transformative, the proposed goals and targets would need to address: (i) integrated land use planning; (ii) conditions supportive of locally controlled forestry, such as redistributive justice in forest land allocation, respect for individual and collective forest rights and more emphasis on strengthening forest and farm producer organisations in forest management and restoration; and (iii) the inclusion of watershed ecosystem restoration.

To be universally relevant, there must be resolution of potentially serious problems of policy coherence relating to: (i) trade-offs for forests, trees and forest-linked livelihoods between Goals 8, 9 and 10; (ii) the current lack of recognition of the role for sustainable biomass; and (iii) the absence of targets relating to global average temperature rise, which threatens forests long-term capacity to sequester carbon.

Finally, to be a truly integrated framework, existing forest, biodiversity and climate change governance frameworks – including legality assurance systems, Aichi biodiversity targets and strategies for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation – should be given explicit mention in the development of indicators and financing modalities.

# Introduction

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## 1.1 Background

Covering almost one third of the global land surface area, forests have much to contribute to sustainable development. They contain eighty per cent of terrestrial biodiversity and are home to 1.3 billion people whose rights and culture are tied to the forest. They store more carbon than the atmosphere and make an irreplaceable contribution to the planet's ecosystem services, being critical for global water cycles, soil fertility and plant pollination. They are also a source of products – food, energy, construction materials, oils and resin, medicines and cosmetics. Economically, their contribution to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been estimated at US\$ 468 billion (one per cent of the global total). Any new sustainable development goals must create the conditions within which forests, trees and forest linked livelihoods (hereafter 'forests') can contribute optimally to sustainable development.

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, member states agreed to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which would build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post-2015 development agenda. The Rio+20 outcome document, 'The Future We Want',<sup>1</sup> resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on SDGs, open to all stakeholders and with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the United Nations General Assembly. The 'high level political process' for negotiating the new post-2015 development agenda started in September 2013, following which the Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly has been active in preparing a proposal on the SDGs. The intergovernmental negotiations will start around September 2014, with adoption of the new framework expected at a high level summit in September 2015.

Forests and trees are rooted in life and livelihoods. They can be grown, improved and looked after – they are renewable. It would be hard to find a simpler and more universal way of changing the world for the better than by planting and managing trees. Yet until now, there has been limited achievement towards Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 on environmental sustainability, and there remains a high level of uncertainty about how natural resource and climate change issues will be incorporated into the post-2015 development framework.

IIED and partners are working on a project entitled 'Trees can score goals: Evidence synthesis, dialogue and advocacy to help integrate forests in the post-2015

development framework'. The aim is to help install forest-related targets and indicators into the post-2015 development framework, contributing towards notional goal areas on poverty reduction and equality, economic growth and employment, food security, water and energy, climate change, ecosystems and biodiversity.<sup>2</sup> The project plans to gather evidence and enable dialogue with key constituencies in Africa, Asia and Latin America on how best to frame the inclusion of forests in the post-2015 framework. A focus will be placed on enabling the diversity of priorities and perspectives to be better understood, especially those of lesser-heard voices, including Least Development Countries and marginalised groups.

The project focuses on the appropriate inclusion of forests within the goal/target framework. It attempts to capture how the framework can help trigger an enabling environment at national and international levels to optimise the contribution of forests towards sustainable development outcomes. The project also aims to facilitate dialogue and to provide evidence regarding issues of implementation. It is hoped that this work will ultimately lead towards forest-specific SDG implementation guidance. This assessment lays out a conceptual framework to find out how adequate the current targets are as they relate to forests, which we are referring to as the 'forest module'. It makes suggestions about which components are essential to keep, what gaps need to be filled, and how important trade-offs need to be handled.

## 1.2 End result envisaged

This assessment intends to set out a framework for discussion with further evidence intended to be brought regarding specific links and issues. In making an assessment of the SDGs from a forest perspective, five key and interlinked end results are in view:

- **Links.** This assessment aims to illustrate links between the proposed target areas and forests as a cross-cutting issue, drafting a possible 'forest module' of relevant targets that will shape forest outcomes in SDG implementation.
- **Target areas that are most important to retain.** The assessment looks at the full set of proposed goal areas and targets in a matrix. Firstly, it assesses how the targets contribute to four enabling conditions for the contribution of forests to sustainable development – the forests module. Secondly, it uses a framework developed by the Independent Research Forum (IRF2015) to assess whether the sum of targets under each of the enabling conditions is likely to be (i) transformative, (ii) universal, and (iii)

<sup>1</sup> UN (2012)

<sup>2</sup> See the latest zero draft from the OWG.

integrated. Through this assessment matrix, the report will consider:

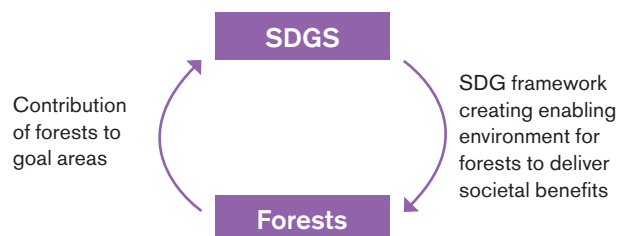
- a. Those that are deemed critical to, for example, securing certain enabling conditions.
  - b. Those that are widely relevant; for example, cutting across several enabling conditions.
  - c. Those that have links, including synergies or trade-offs with other target areas and therefore lend themselves to conditional statements (e.g. 'target X is relevant to issue Y, but only if ...').
- **Critical issues that are missing or need to be better reflected.** The assessment will look at the full set of forest-related goals and targets proposed for consideration by the OWG from a wide variety of constituencies. It will assess those proposals against the emerging SDG framework of goal focus areas, targets and indicators as currently structured.
  - **Repetitions.** The assessment will help identify target areas that seem repetitive within this forest-specific analysis, to provide guidance to either remove duplication or promote alternative framing.
  - **Conclusions relating to transformative, universal and integrated outcomes.** The assessment will also consider how the current framing of goal focus areas and targets does — or does not — offer a transformative, universal and integrated agenda, looking especially at where trade-offs between goals and targets might occur.

### 1.3 Issues of timing

The assessment was undertaken in June 2014, at which time the Open Working Group was preparing for its 12<sup>th</sup> session. During the early analysis, the recent statements of the goal focus areas, targets and indicators were the working group paper for the OWG 11<sup>th</sup> session on 05-09 May 2014;<sup>3</sup> and the summary of statements from the Major Groups and other stakeholders.<sup>4</sup> As the assessment progressed, on 02 June the OWG released the first zero draft of 'proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for the post-2015 development agenda'. This required a reworking of the analysis. On 30 June 2014, the OWG released a revised zero draft, which entailed further modifications to this analysis. Each revision entailed simplification of the proposed goals and targets, with a substantial reduction in repetition but also with inevitable simplifications, some of which require further consideration.

According to the currently envisaged schedule for negotiation of the SDGs, still to come are the 13th session of the Open Working Group, the drafting of the final OWG report and the UN Secretary General's synthesis document, and the negotiation of the SDGs within the UN General Assembly. There are therefore two main options for using this assessment:

- **Inclusion.** There is scope to ensure the appropriate inclusion of forests within the framework, in terms of necessary targets to which forests can make a direct contribution to sustainable development. Yet inclusion will not only be looked at in terms of the contribution of forests towards achieving SDGs, but also the potential for the SDG framework to provide the enabling environment for inclusive, sustainable and productive forest management (see the figure below). This expands the focus beyond what is or is not in Goal 15, building on previous thinking.<sup>5</sup> The call for a specific goal in which forests are mentioned is still being pursued by some.<sup>6</sup>



- **Application.** Increasingly, emphasis on ensuring the framework is actionable at national level within the forest sector is required. This will require: (i) drafting a forest module of goal focus areas and targets that are applicable to, and necessary for, the contribution of forests to sustainable development and vice versa; and (ii) guidance on how the SDGs and related targets as formulated might be interpreted and implemented by existing forest-related institutions, policies and capacities. This includes those in place to implement national REDD+ strategies, NAMAs, NAPAs/NAPs, BAPs and development or poverty reduction strategies.

### 1.4 Core enablers

In order to assess the goal focus areas and targets within the latest OWG papers, it is necessary from a forest perspective to ensure two things:

- That desired forest-related outcomes are achieved; and
- That the desired enabling environment to achieve those forest-related outcomes is established.

<sup>3</sup> OWG (2014a)

<sup>4</sup> OWG (2014)

<sup>5</sup> TST (2014); Mayers (2014); Rojas-Briales (2014); Holmgren (2014); and Jones and Wolosin (2014).

<sup>6</sup> For example, Messone (2014).



Outcomes, in terms of forest quantity, quality and the products and services flowing from them, are relatively easy to define. They include contributions to income and employment; sustainable flows of wood and non-wood products, including food and energy security; environmental services such as water flows, soil replenishment, biodiversity conservation; climate change adaptation and mitigation; and upholding cultural and gender-based values.

Enablers towards those outcomes – the full contribution of forests for sustainable development – are more complex and contested. What might these enablers be? Many frameworks exist that hint at them, each of them emphasising slightly different things. For example, extensive literature on principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM)<sup>7</sup> highlight a forestry approach also related to inter-governmentally agreed goals and frameworks.<sup>8</sup> Pillars for inclusive and integrated forest or landscape management have also been advanced within a more holistic land use approach.<sup>9</sup> Extensive global dialogues have refined necessary enabling investments to unlock the potential of Locally Controlled Forestry (LCF), with a stronger social justice imperative.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, key areas have been advanced to ensure the contribution of forests to a green economy within a more economic approach.<sup>11</sup>

It is not the intention of this assessment to set out a detailed and universally applicable set of enabling conditions for the contribution of forests to sustainable development. Rather than pick between the above approaches, or arbitrarily select elements of each, the assessment here opts to make an assessment based on four critical categories of enablers:

- **Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements.** Just and secure forest rights through equitable forest governance and negotiated land use planning.
- **Fair, accessible and responsible market systems.** Inclusive economic opportunity and resource efficiency for all forest products and services, influenced by sustainable lifestyles and trade.
- **Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes.** To enhance the quality and quantity of ecosystem services, sustainable land use practices and resilience of the poor.
- **Incentives and practical metrics.** To build partnerships that effectively resource and monitor progress at national and international levels.

The aim here is not to open a debate about the best framing but to lay out a non-objectionable set of enablers. These should be able to act as a catch-all for concerns from a forest perspective but be sufficiently differentiated to test whether the current formulation of goal focus areas and targets covers the necessary ground. For those interested to map onto these broad categories the pillars from the various approaches described above, refer to Table 1.

## 1.5 Key concepts and criteria

Whilst looking for a target set that is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) for forests, assessment of three core concepts of sustainable development, the transformative nature, universal scope and integrated approach, is also required (IRF, 2014, Stakeholder Forum 2014). There is a clear opportunity for forests to be used as an example of applying these core concepts in a cross-cutting manner, unlike some areas of mainstream development (for example, health) that are currently central to individual SDG goal areas.

- **Transformative:** address systemic drivers/barriers; equity; resilience; and ecosystem services. “The SDGs should contribute to transformative change, in support of a rights-based, equitable and inclusive approach to sustainability at global, regional, national and local levels” - Ban Ki-moon; “The SDGs will need to be more comprehensive, balanced, ambitious and transformative [than the MDGs], also addressing the challenges ahead.” Progress report of the OWG, OWG (2014c).
- **Universality:** leave no one behind; policy coherence; collective action; all countries and actors. “We also underscore that sustainable development goals should be [...] global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.” ‘The Future We Want’, UN (2014).
- **Integrated:** 3 dimensions (social, economic, environmental); inter-linkages. “The goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages.” ‘The Future We Want’, UN (2014).

<sup>7</sup> For a good review see, Rametsteiner and Simula (2002).

<sup>8</sup> Non-legally Binding Instrument and Global Objectives for Forests.

<sup>9</sup> See Sayers *et al.* (2012).

<sup>10</sup> Macqueen *et al.* (2013).

<sup>11</sup> See Prins (2013).



Table 1. How a limited selection of various principles and pillars for the contribution of forests to sustainable development map onto four key categories of enablers used in this assessment

KEY CATEGORIES OF ENABLERS USED IN THIS ASSESSMENT	GLOBALLY APPLICABLE CRITERIA FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT <sup>12</sup>	PILLARS FOR INCLUSIVE AND INTEGRATED FOREST/LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT <sup>13</sup>	NECESSARY ENABLING INVESTMENTS FOR LOCALLY CONTROLLED FORESTRY <sup>14</sup>	KEY AREAS FOR FORESTS CONTRIBUTION TO GREEN ECONOMY <sup>15</sup>
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements. Just and secure forest rights through equitable forest governance and negotiated land use planning.	Socio-economic benefits and needs met. Protective functions of forests maintained.	Clarification of rights. Multiple scales recognised. Multiple stakeholders engaged.	Enabling investments to secure commercial resource rights.	Good governance and evidence-based decision making. Reduction of social exclusion.
Fair, accessible and responsible market systems. Inclusive economic opportunity and resource efficiency for all forest products and services, influenced by sustainable lifestyles and trade.	Productive functions of forests optimised.	Common concern entry point identified.	Enabling investments to develop business capacity to turn rights into livelihood gains.	Sustainable and efficient use of resources, including wood, energy, labour and carbon. Development of 'decent green jobs'.
Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes. To enhance the quality and quantity of ecosystem services, sustainable land use practices and resilience of the poor.	Extent of forest resources maintained. Forest health and vitality restored. Biodiversity conserved.	Resilience strengthened. Multi-functionality ensured. Clarification of responsibilities. Strengthened stakeholder capacity.	Enabling investment in technical extension. Enabling investment in representative organisations.	Conservation of forest natural capital. Contribution towards climate change mitigation. Emphasis on forest-related education and skills development.
Incentives and practical metrics. To build partnerships that effectively resource and monitor progress at national and international levels.	Legal, policy and institutional framework supportive.	Negotiated and transparent change logic. Participatory and user-friendly monitoring. Continual learning and adaptive management.	Asset investment attracted by the above enabling investments and monitored accordingly.	Integration of externalities and payment for forest ecosystem services, using market mechanisms.

Note: first column closely related to Improved Pan-European Indicators for SFM, and Montreal Process: Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests.

<sup>12</sup> Rametsteiner and Simula (2003)

<sup>13</sup> Sayer *et al.* (2012)

<sup>14</sup> Macqueen *et al.* (2012)

<sup>15</sup> Prins (2013)

Previous early assessments of specific goal focus areas by IRF2015<sup>16</sup> on Focus area 2 (Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition) and Focus Area 5 (Gender equality and women's empowerment) can now be complemented by an assessment of a cross-cutting theme on forests. In this case, the framework developed by IRF2015 and largely overlapping with that of the Stakeholder Forum<sup>17</sup> needs to be applied to a set of goal focus areas and targets that comprise a 'forest module'. This way it can deliver the contribution of forests to sustainable development and vice versa. In order to ensure the inclusion of all necessary elements of this forest module, the proposed goal focus areas and targets were disaggregated under the four categories of enablers described above.

The detailed questions used to make the assessment, developed by IRF2015,<sup>18</sup> are repeated here. They embody much of the core guidance to the OWG derived from the Rio+20 Outcome Document, other inputs to the OWG and the views of OWG members as captured in the progress report of the OWG. OWG members have discussed these criteria and associated concepts in a series of retreats facilitated by IRF2015. Each of the questions has been adapted to accommodate this cross-sectoral assessment of four categories of enablers.

## Transformative

Question 1 (Addressing systemic issues): Do the combined goals or targets contribute to the removal of systemic barriers to and leverage of systemic drivers of sustainable development?

Question 2 (Equity): Do the combined goals or targets promote equity at all levels (from household to global), including through participatory, transparent and accountable governance frameworks and through prioritising opportunities and benefits for the most disadvantaged where trade-offs among different interests arise?

Question 3 (Resilience): Do the combined goals or targets contribute to building and mainstreaming economic, social and ecological resilience – including to the long-term risks emerging from climate change – at all levels, from household to global?

Question 4 (Ecosystem services): Do the combined goals or targets contribute to recognition of the value of ecosystem services for human wellbeing?

## Universality

Question 5 (Leave no one behind): Do the combined goals or targets promote the empowerment of every individual to rise and/or remain out of (multi-dimensional) poverty and above a social protection floor?

Question 6 (Policy coherence): Does achievement of the combined goals or targets in one country depend upon policies or actions in other countries? If so, are those dependencies addressed in the framework?

Question 7 (Collective action): Does achievement of the combined goals or targets require collective action among nations? If so, does the goal framework promote the required collective action, with specified responsibilities differentiated in accordance with national circumstances? Which aspects of the goal require contributions by all countries to be achieved? Would the goal be more effectively or efficiently achieved through collective action at international or regional level?

Question 8 (All countries and actors): Are the goals and targets relevant to all countries? Do they address the specific challenges facing particular groups of countries (for example, African countries, LDCs, LLDC, SIDS, MICs and HICs)? Are they relevant and actionable in the forest sector?

## Integrated

Question 9 (Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development): Do the combined goals or targets incorporate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, or do they need to be amended to integrate more of them? Do they give consideration to the different timescales over which social, economic and environmental processes occur and must be reconciled?

Question 10 (Interlinkages): Do the combined goals or targets take account of potential synergies and trade-offs with other goals and targets, including interactions across sectors and geographical or administrative scales, and promote coordination in decision-making and action?

<sup>16</sup> IRF (2014)

<sup>17</sup> Stakeholder Forum (2014)

<sup>18</sup> IRF (2014)

Figure 1. Forest module of targets within the initial zero draft of 02 June 2014

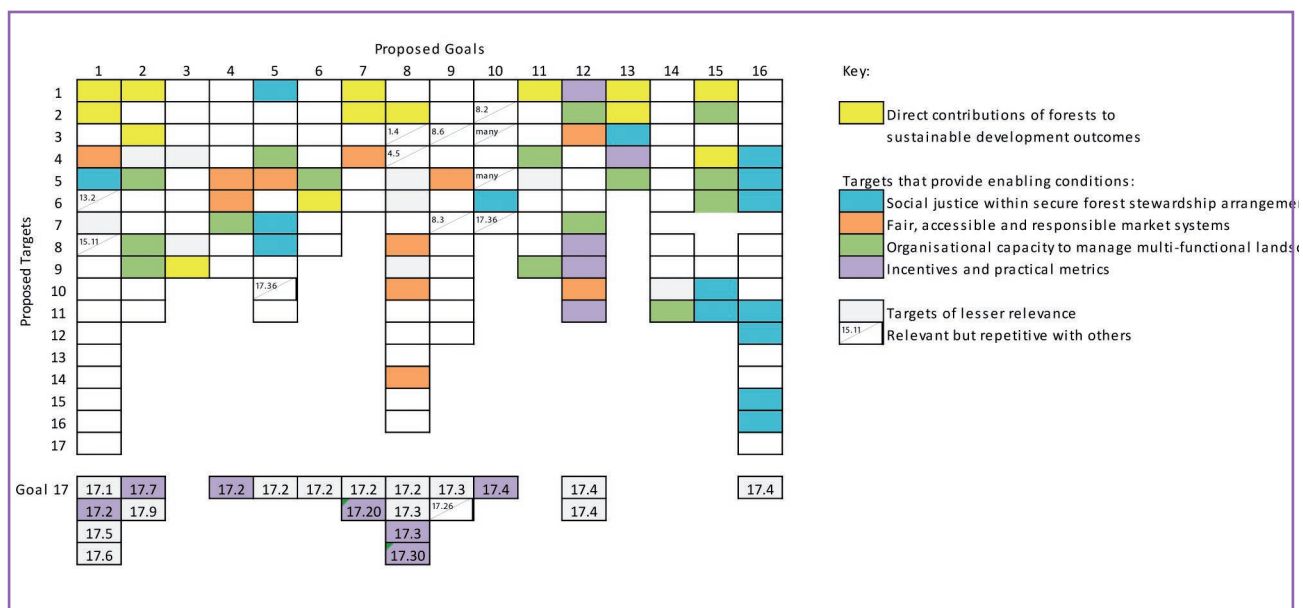
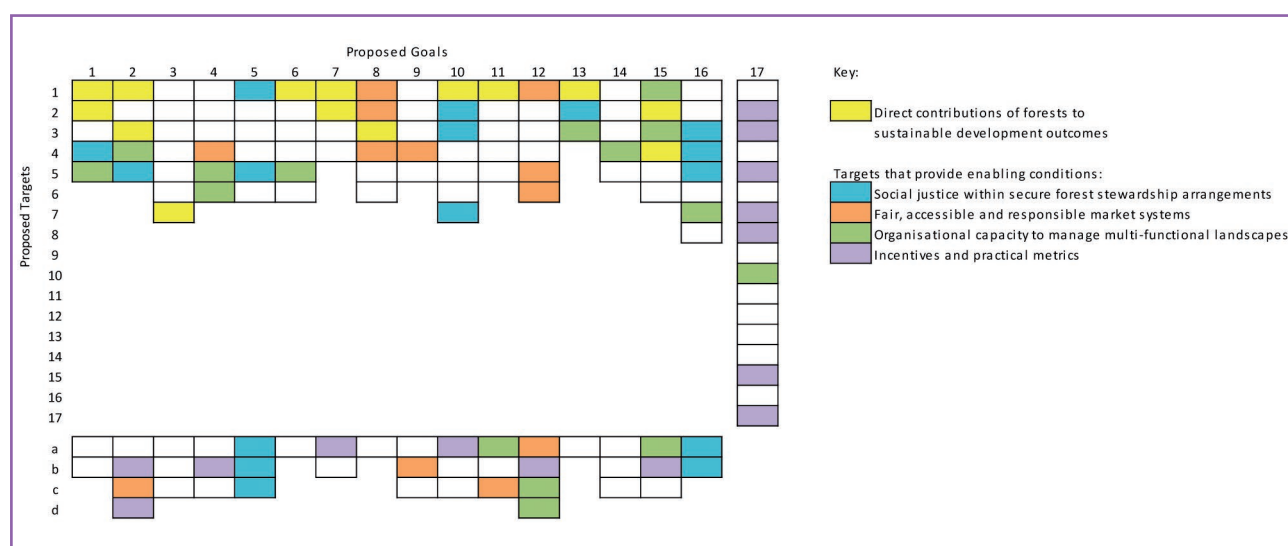


Figure 2. Forest module of targets within the revised zero draft of 30 June 2014



## 1.6 Assessment methodology

In order to perform this assessment, the authors used the latest version of the proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for the post-2015 development agenda. A matrix was devised to assess a 'forest module' of targets relevant to forests. This 'forest module' comprised: (i) targets to which forests, trees and forest livelihoods might make a direct contribution – see section 2.1; (ii) targets which are supportive of four key categories of enablers for forests contribution

to sustainable development. The authors also assessed (iii) targets which were repetitious of other targets, shown in figure 1 and 2 as the boxes with diagonal lines across them.

The matrixes are shown below, with the proposed goals as columns and the targets under those goals as rows. Initial work on the zero draft (Figure 1) was then revisited following the release of a revised zero draft (Figure 2). By tracking the changes occurring through negotiations within the Open Working Group, it has been possible to see what is being added or lost and how the combined forest module is changing over time.

For example, some of the more obvious repetitions within the targets have been eliminated between the zero draft and the revised zero draft.

Explanations as to why each of the targets was so categorised is given in the full analysis of section 2 of this report.

Once the authors had agreed on the 'forest module' of forest relevant targets, it was then possible to conduct a more detailed analysis. For this, the full set of goal focus areas were then listed down the left-hand side of two tables. The first table sought to analyse those targets to which forests, trees and forest-linked livelihoods could make a direct contribution. The second table sought to analyse those targets that put in place the four categories of enablers for forest, trees, and forest-linked livelihoods contribution to sustainable development. Under each of those numbered targets, an assessment was made of the framing of those targets, in light of multiple submissions on forests to the OWG. The aim here was to ascertain which targets, from a forest outcome perspective, were viewed as (i) critical to retain; (ii) necessary but not forest specific; or (iii) inadequate with change or further specification required. In order to make this assessment, analysis was made of each of the documents submitted to the Open Working Group in which forest-relevant proposals were made. The proposals consulted on are each cited in the references section.

In the lower portion of the matrix, the IRF framework for assessing goal focus areas and targets was included, to assess the combined set of targets under each enabling condition. It used the threefold concepts of transformative change, universality, and integration. An assessment of the SMARTness of proposed targets is not included here, as this should be a subjective step, once the targets have been assessed and debated on the basis of their content. Here is a subjective assessment, but again informed by the full set of proposals put to the Open Working Group that have forest-relevant content.

From this overall analytical framework it was then possible to draw overall conclusions about the extent to which the current formulation of the SDG goal focus areas and targets were likely to be transformative, universally applicable and integrated.

More specific considerations for negotiators could also be identified, based on the extent of endorsement of particular targets areas by those interested in forests, and based on issues that had been suggested by proponents on forests but which were not adequately reflected in the current version of goal focus areas and targets.

# Assessment framework

# 2

The section which follows identifies a 'forest module'. This consists of all the forest-related targets proposed in the revised zero draft of the proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for the post-2015 development agenda – both targets for which forests, trees and forest-linked livelihoods can make a direct contribution (Table 2) and targets that contribute to establishing key enablers for the optimal contribution of forests to sustainable development.

One obvious starting observation is that the ‘forest module’ is much more than targets in which the word ‘forest’ is mentioned – as a ‘word cloud’ of the most important concepts within the forest module shows:

Figure 3. Word cloud of the main concepts within the ‘forest-module’





## 2.1 Targets for which forests can make a direct contribution towards sustainable development outcomes

Table 2. Targets for which forests can make a direct contribution towards sustainable development outcomes

PROPOSED GOAL	PROPOSED TARGET	DIRECT CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS
1. End poverty everywhere	<p>1.1) by 2030, bring to zero the number of people living in extreme poverty, currently estimated at less than \$1.25 a day in low income countries</p> <p>1.2) by 2030, reduce by at least half the proportion of people of all ages living below national poverty definitions</p>	There is a close dependency on forests for many of world's poorest people, whose poverty status can be improved by enhanced local control of forests including forest enterprise development.
2. End hunger, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<p>2.1) by 2030 end hunger and ensure that all people have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round</p> <p>2.3) by 2030 substantially increase small-scale food producers' productivity and incomes, particularly of women, family farmers and pastoralists through secure access for all to productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets</p>	<p>Healthy forests provide a direct source of nutritious food and other non-timber products, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Productive and resilient small-scale food production can be sustained through use of trees within agricultural practices.</p>
3. Attain healthy lives for all	3.7) by 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from air (indoor and outdoor), water and soil pollution	The potential contribution of forest sector would be through improved and sustainable use of biomass energy, and improved stove management.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable use of water for all	6.1) by 2030, achieve universal access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	Maintaining the quality and quantity of water supply is among the most valuable ecosystem services provided by forests in water catchment areas.
7. Ensure sustainable energy for all	<p>7.1) by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services</p> <p>7.2) double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030</p>	<p>Biomass is the main cooking fuel in most African and Southeast Asian households and considered modern if using improved efficiency cook stoves and chimneys – with biomass gasification for electricity also developing rapidly.</p> <p>With appropriate policy support, biomass can be an accessible, sustainable and low-emission form of energy, both on- and off-grid.</p>
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.3) achieve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use	Forest productive capacity is readily renewable, can be made much more efficient, and can replace petrochemical and other non-renewable sectors to help decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use.

PROPOSED GOAL	PROPOSED TARGET	DIRECT CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS
10. Reduce inequality within and between countries	10.1) through 2030 sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average	Small to medium scale forest enterprises, including within informal sector, already contribute towards income for those in the lowest income brackets and hold growth potential, especially in rural areas.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable	11.1) by 2030, ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, eliminate slums and upgrade informal settlements	Timber used for construction of traditional and modern housing in diverse country settings and is a primary construction material in rural, forested areas particularly in less developed countries.
13. Tackle climate change and its impacts	13.1) strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards and natural disasters in all countries	Resilience of poor people (forest farmers and landless) can be greatly enhanced by diverse forest and tree based livelihood options.
15. Protect and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halt desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss	15.2) by 2030, ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, and increase reforestation by x% globally	Sustainable management of forests provides a range of products and services, including physical, economic and cultural benefits.
	15.4) by 2020 take urgent and significant action to halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species	Tropical forests in particular are home to significant levels of biodiversity, while multi-species forest-farm landscapes are superior to monoculture plantations.

## 2.2 Contribution of proposed targets towards critical levers of change

Table 3. Targets that contribute to critical levers of change

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
	<b>Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:</b>	<b>Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:</b>	<b>Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:</b>	<b>Incentives and practical metrics:</b>
Explanatory text How these particular levers of change might contribute in an integrated, universal and transformative way towards the optimal contribution of forests to sustainable development	Just and secure forest rights through equitable forest governance and negotiated land use planning.	Inclusive economic opportunity and resource efficiency for all forest products and services, influenced by sustainable lifestyles and trade.	To enhance the quality and quantity of ecosystem services, sustainable land use practices and resilience of the poor.	To build partnerships that effectively resource and monitor progress at national and international levels.
	Forest resource rights are determined by inclusive, transparent and effective institutions and processes that accommodate and integrate multiple demands from adequately represented and engendered constituencies in a way that fairly accommodates the full valuation of benefits derived from forest landscapes in decision-making, provides a secure forest-linked society and stable enabling environment.	Business models and 'non-market' institutions are designed to sustain and restore forests (in quantity and quality), and their technological productive capacities are enhanced to optimise the efficiency, sustainability, and equity in income and employment with which full forest values (timber, biomass energy, food and NTFPs, water regulation, soil enhancement, carbon sequestration etc.) are derived and distributed in green economies.	Organisations of forest and farm producers equipped for landscape planning and land use practices (including forests, agriculture, water, energy and infrastructure) in an integrated and inclusive manner to assure the long-term sustainability of food, energy, water and carbon systems, and the delivery of sufficient quantity and quality of natural resources to meet domestic and global needs, and to build resilience to climatic change.	Partnerships between and within countries to mobilise financial resources, technology and appropriate monitoring that encourage those responsible for forest production within diverse settings and those responsible for forest consumption to deliver the full contribution of forests to sustainable development, fulfilling their potentials and discharging their responsibilities.
FOREST MODULE – Potentially forest-relevant targets formulated under diverse goal focus areas, that might contribute to the establishment of the critical levers of change for the optimal contribution of forests for sustainable development				
PROPOSED GOALS				
1. End poverty everywhere	<p>1.4) by 2030 secure <b>equal access</b> for all men and women, particularly those most in need, to basic services, <b>the right to own land and property, productive resources and financial services</b>, including microfinance development</p> <p>1.1) by 2030, <b>bring to zero the number of people living in extreme poverty</b>, currently estimated at less than \$1.25 a day in low income countries</p> <p>1.2) by 2030, <b>reduce by at least half the proportion of people of all ages living below national poverty definitions</b></p> <p>1.5) by 2030 build <b>the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations</b> to disasters, shocks and climate-related extreme events</p>			

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
	Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:
	<p>1.4) Secure rights to land and productive resources (in this case forests) are pivotal to forest outcomes and are therefore essential.<sup>19</sup> Emphasis on 'the poor, the most marginalised and people in vulnerable situations' who from a forest perspective include Indigenous People and local forest-dependent communities.</p> <p>1.4) Insufficient as target not specific on the need for both individual and collective rights (RRI/Oxfam/ ILC, 2014), and inadequate mention of redistributive justice in resource right allocations – or targets on the percentage share of those with secure rights to land (Beyond 2015-GCAP-IFP, 2012; APWLD, 2013; HLP, 2014; Unnayan, Onneshan, 2014).</p>	<p>1.1-1.2) Necessary but inadequate in specifying how structural barriers to ownership and employment (in forest context around commercial forest rights) will be changed to reduce poverty (CONCORD, 2014).</p>	<p>1.5) Resilience of poor people (in this case forest farmers / landless) can be greatly enhanced by diverse forest and tree based livelihood options. Crucial, but not forest-explicit here.</p>
2. End hunger, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	<p>2.1) by 2030 end hunger and ensure that all people have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round</p> <p>2.5) by 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed</p>	<p>2.3) by 2030 substantially increase small-scale food producers' productivity and incomes, particularly of women, family farmers and pastoralists through secure access for all to productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets</p> <p>2.c) end extreme food price volatility including through improved functioning and regulation of food commodity markets and improved market information</p>	<p>2.a) increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology development, and capable institutions, particularly in countries that are net food importers</p> <p>2.b) phase out all forms of agricultural export subsidies</p> <p>2.d) create and diversify seed and plant banks, including with traditional varieties, at national, regional and international levels, to safeguard seed and genetic plant diversity</p>

Green = essential  
Orange = peripheral  
Red = inadequate

<sup>19</sup> OWG (2014b) Recommendation from Indigenous Peoples

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
	Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
	<p>2.1) Necessary but inadequate (from forest outcome perspective) because of omission of any mention of sustainable and integrated land use policies that are critical for forest outcomes in the face of ongoing deforestation (TST, 2014) plus little attention to issues such as food-sovereignty (see CPGSD, 2012).</p> <p>2.5) Genetic diversity in agriculture (for forest farmers) implies diverse mixes of crops and tree systems – which is essential for forest outcomes – as is the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.</p>	<p>2.3) Necessary from a forest outcome perspective, as agricultural productivity can (but does not always) reduce pressure on forests. The proposed 'access to' inputs, knowledge and productive resources is not the same as 'control over' so is dependent on 1.4. However, inadequate mention of family/community foresters.</p> <p>2.c) Improved market information and improved market functionality essential for forest and farm producers – although regulation can act as an impediment to smallholders.</p>	<p>2.4) Sustainable and resilient agricultural practices essential as supportive of agroforestry and farm-forestry systems and promote more sustainable land use patterns.</p> <p>2.4) Inadequate mention of sustainable and integrated land use policies that are critical for forest outcomes in light of ongoing agriculture-driven land use change/deforestation (TST, 2014), plus little attention to issues such as food-sovereignty (CPGSD, 2012).</p> <p>2.4) Inadequate specificity relating to the balance between large-scale industrial monocultures (forest risk commodities) and locally controlled, multi-functional smallholding agro-ecologies (APWLD, 2013; DPINGO, 2013; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2013; SDSN, 2013; HLP, 2014).</p>	<p>2 a, b and d) Inadequate specificity (from a forest outcome perspective) relating to the balance between large-scale industrial development (one area of threat to forests) and locally controlled multi-functional mosaics (one area of opportunity) with regard to the targeting of developments and control over seed and plant materials (SDSN, 2013).</p>
3. Attain healthy lives for all	<p>3.4) by 2030 reduce substantially morbidity and mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, <b>promote mental health and wellbeing</b>, and strengthen prevention and treatment of narcotic drug, alcohol, and substance abuse</p> <p>3.4) Necessary (though marginally so for forests) in terms of an approach to reducing livelihoods stresses that come from social injustice and in which outdoor recreation plays a role.</p> <p>Inadequate mention of sound use of traditional medicine and protection of biodiversity on which it is based.</p>		<p>3.7) by 2030 substantially <b>reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from air (indoor and outdoor)</b>, water and soil pollution</p>	<p>Inadequate mention of reproductive health given population related pressures on forests – and mention of family planning dropped (SDSN, 2013; PSDA, 2014).</p>

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
4. Provide quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all	4.4) by 2030 promote life-long learning, <b>provide employable skills</b> especially to young women and men, and increase by at least x% adult literacy and basic numeracy	4.5) by 2030, eliminate gender disparities and ensure <b>equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for people in vulnerable situations</b> , including persons with disabilities 4.6) by 2030 <b>integrate into education programs knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development</b> , human rights, gender equality, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence and culture's contribution to sustainable development	4.b) by 2020 expand by x% globally the <b>number of scholarships for students and government officials</b> from developing countries in particular LDCs to enrol in higher education, including vocational training, programmes in developed countries and other developing countries
Inadequate mention on citizenship education, representational structures and tactics required to engage politically and shape governance (in this case over forests).	4.4) Necessary and essential to have vocational education in profitable and sustainable forest business. 4.4) Framing of education towards 'employment' precludes the idea of poor people as forest business owners – and only partly meets previous calls for life-long education (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2013; ECA, 2014b). Insufficient mention of indigenous knowledge (CPGSD, 2012).	4.6) Necessary and (from forest perspective) essential to have rural and urban people cognisant of role of forests in sustainable development.	4.b)) Not forest specific and not much clarity on the financing of vocational education (relating in this case to sustainable and profitable forest resource use).
5. Attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere	5.1) <b>end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls</b> 5.5) ensure <b>full and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making</b> in the public and private sectors 5.a) ensure <b>women's equal right to own and control assets</b> and productive resources 5.b) by 2030 achieve <b>universal access to ICT for women</b> and men to promote women's empowerment 5.c) promote sound, <b>enforceable and monitorable legislation and policies for the promotion of gender equality</b> at all levels		



CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
5.1, 5.5, 5.a b and c) Necessary (in forest context) and essential especially in relation to commercial forest use and access rights (see BDCP, 2013; UNGC, 2013).	Inadequate references to equality in employment (relevant to forest sector) where male bias in forest enterprise can be pronounced (UNGC, 2013).		
6. Ensure availability and sustainable use of water and sanitation for all		6.5) by 2030 <b>implement integrated water resources management</b> at all levels, and through transboundary cooperation as appropriate	
		6.5) Necessary and essential as integrated water management must consider forest management, especially in catchment areas. 6.5) Inadequate as no mention of watershed restoration nor the integrated land use planning on which watershed management depends.	
7. Ensure sustainable energy for all	7.1) by 2030 ensure <b>universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services</b> 7.2) <b>double the share of renewable energy</b> in the global energy mix by 2030		7.a) enhance <b>international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy technologies</b> , including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies
	7.1 and 7.2) Necessary and essential given high reliance on biomass for cooking and heating by many households, although challenged by inadequate support for biomass as a 'modern' and sustainable energy' by many national policy frameworks in Africa and South Asia (CONCORD, 2014; HLP, 2014). Inadequate as 'universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy' problematic as cannot classify fossil fuels as sustainable (see 7a), which implies a target of 100% modern energy services based on renewable energy (which is not realistic by 2030). Inadequate mention of 'decarbonising' the energy system (SDSN, 2013).		7.a) Necessary but needs to ensure inclusion of energy efficiency – a key issue for sustainable biomass which (from forest perspective) requires binding political commitment (DPINGO, 2013; UNCCD Youth Caucus, 2013; UNGC, 2013; CONCORD, 2014).

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<p>8.1) achieve transformation of economies towards <b>higher levels of productivity through diversification</b> with a focus on high value added sectors</p> <p>8.2) create a <b>sound macroeconomic environment</b> with employment-friendly policies and an enabling environment at national, regional and international levels for productive investment, creativity and innovation, and <b>formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises</b></p> <p>8.3) achieve progressively through 2030 <b>global resource efficiency, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation</b> and resource use</p> <p>8.4) by 2030 achieve <b>full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men</b>, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</p> <p>8.6) protect the <b>rights and ensure safe and secure working environments of all workers</b>, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment in accordance with ILO norms and standards</p>		

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
	<p>8.1) Necessary (from forest outcome perspective) and essential – especially in relation to forest-based enterprise development (see note above, ECA, 2014b), but inadequate because no mention of economic justice and for whom diversification is intended (see APWLD, 2013).</p> <p>8.2) Relevant as informal forest sector dominates domestic supply in many countries, but problematic as it depends very much how formalisation takes place – so as not to exclude marginalised groups.</p> <p>8.3) Necessary (from forest outcome perspective) and essential as more efficient forest industries reduce pressure on resource. But language on economic justice could be strengthened.</p> <p>8.4) Danger of large-scale industry overriding interests of SMEs and inadequate attention to 'green growth / jobs' mixing economic growth with environmental improvements (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2013; UNFPA, 2013; ECA, 2014b). Inadequate attention to differentiation between domestic and international demand and the latter necessarily restricted by concerns over illegal logging.</p> <p>8.6) Essential (from forest outcome perspective) due to dangerous forest working environments.</p>		

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
9. Promote sustainable infrastructure and industrialization and foster innovation	<p>9.4) ensure that <b>small-scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in LDCs, have affordable access to credit and are integrated into national, regional and global value chains and markets</b></p> <p>9.b) ensure a <b>conducive policy environment at all levels for industrial development</b>, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, with special attention to national circumstances in developing countries</p>	<p>Inadequate (from forest outcome perspective) because recent omissions of environmentally sustainable industrialisation.</p>	
	<p>9.4) Repetitive of 8.2 and while <b>important</b> from forest outcome perspective as access to credit is often a constraint, it is by no means the only constraint (e.g. commercial tenure, business skills, technical extension and freedom of association also pre-requisites).</p> <p>9.b) Inadequately expressed as 'industrial development' on large scales, is often incompatible with the multiple benefits of forests nor the best way to deliver local and public goods.</p>		
10. Reduce inequality within and between countries	<p>10.2) by 2030 take actions to <b>empower and promote the social and economic inclusion of all</b> irrespective of race, ethnicity or economic status</p> <p>10.3) <b>reduce inequalities of opportunity and outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices</b> and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard</p> <p>10.7) by 2030, ensure <b>equitable representation and voice of developing countries in decision making in global institutions</b> of governance and development</p>	<p>10.1) through 2030 <b>sustain income growth of the bottom 40%</b> of the population at a rate higher than the national average</p>	<p>10.a) respect the <b>principle of special and differential treatment for least developed countries</b> in relevant international agreements including the WTO</p>

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
	Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:
	10.2 and 10.3) Necessary and essential (from forest outcome perspective) due to the high incidence of poverty in forest areas, and the intimate links between cultural diversity and remote forest areas. 10.7) Essential (from forest outcome perspective) as forest-rich nations are often weakly represented in international negotiations on forests.	10.1) Necessary (from forest outcome perspective) and essential – especially in relation to forest-based enterprise controlled locally (ECA, 2014b).	10.a) Inadequate (from forest outcome perspective) as market access necessarily restricted by concerns over illegal logging – and no mention here of Lacey act or EU FLEGT Action plan.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable		11.1) by 2030, ensure <b>universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all</b> , eliminate slums and upgrade informal settlements 11.c) support least developed countries, including through <b>financial and technical assistance, for sustainable buildings</b> utilizing local content and materials	11.a) integrate <b>economic and social links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas into national and regional development planning</b>
		11.1 and 11.c) Some connection (from forest outcome perspective) with timber construction and sustainable biomass energy and NTFPs – but not forest specific.	11.9) Necessary (from perspective of forest outcomes) and essential – as patterns of urban consumption drive land use change in forest areas.

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
12. Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns	<p>12.1) by 2030, all countries have integrated policies and measures to promote <b>sustainable consumption and production patterns into national strategies and plans</b>, as envisioned in the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP)</p> <p>12.5) increase the <b>share of private sector actors incorporating sustainable development principles in their business practices</b>, and by 2030 increase substantially the number of companies, especially large companies, that report on corporate social and environmental responsibility, including through integrated reporting</p> <p>12.6) by 2030 substantially increase the share of <b>public procurement that is sustainable</b></p> <p>12.a) promote the <b>transfer and dissemination to developing countries of environmentally sound technologies</b> that improve energy and resource efficiency</p>	<p>12.c) by 2030 ensure that people everywhere have <b>information and understanding needed to live sustainable lifestyles</b></p> <p>12.d) by 2030 develop and implement planning and monitoring tools for sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products, and <b>safeguards the world's cultural and natural heritage</b></p>	<p>12.b) assist developing countries to <b>strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production</b></p>
	<p>12.1) Necessary – in terms of matching demand with supply from forest outlook perspective.</p> <p>12.5) Necessary and essential as forest / forest risk companies need to be encouraged to find progressive ways to deal with forest-risk products through demand-side measures and improved supply chain partnerships.</p> <p>12.6 and 12.a) Necessary and essential since public procurement and transfer of technology can drive consumers towards renewable materials and sustainable forest management (DPINGO, 2013).</p>	<p>12.c) Necessary and essential given need to balance sustainable management, use and planetary limits.</p> <p>12.d) Safeguarding the world's cultural heritage is an important target for tourism – but there are many more important agricultural, forest and industrial threats to cultural heritage that need consideration.</p>	<p>12.b) Necessary but (from forest outcome perspective) lacking detail as to how this will be achieved (DPINGO, 2013).</p>



CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
	Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes: Incentives and practical metrics:
13. Tackle climate change and its impacts	13.2) integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into national strategies and plans	<p>Inadequate in terms of no specific mention of historical responsibility (CPGSD, 2012) nor anything relating to instruments and incentives for low-carbon developments or carbon sequestration through REDD+ (UN Secretary General, 2012).</p> <p>Inadequate in terms of specifying fairer and more challenging target on per capita carbon taxes etc. (Unnayan Onneshan, 2014).</p>	<p>13.1) strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards and natural disasters in all countries</p> <p>13.3) improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, impact reduction, and early warning</p> <p>Inadequate (from forest outcome perspective) because forest based sequestration will be threatened unless temperature limits are targeted (ECA, 2014b).</p>
14. Conserve and promote sustainable use oceans, seas and marine resources			<p>13.1 and 13.3) Necessary and (from forest outcome perspective) essential – education for disaster risk preparedness of importance in remote forest areas (Mitchell, 2012; UNCSD Youth Caucus, 2013).</p> <p>14.4) By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, including through establishing effectively managed marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information</p> <p>14.4) Important if 'coastal areas' are to include mangrove ecosystems (from a forest outcome perspective).</p>

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:	
15. Protect and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, halt desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss		<p>15.1) by 2020 <b>ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems</b>, in particular wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with international agreements</p> <p>15.2) by 2030, <b>ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, and increase reforestation by x% globally</b></p> <p>15.3) by 2030, <b>achieve a land degradation neutral world</b>, and restore degraded land including land affected by desertification and drought</p> <p>15.4) by 2020 take urgent and significant action to <b>halt the loss of biodiversity</b>, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species</p> <p>15.a) by 2020, mobilize and <b>significantly increase from all sources financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</b></p>	<p>15.b) mobilize significantly <b>resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management</b>, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation</p>	
		<p>15.1 – 15.4) Necessary and essential. However, rather silent on how to achieve the targets in practice (DPINGO, 2013; FSC, 2013; ECA, 2014a; IASS, 2014). Inadequate in terms of targeting of reforestation activities by the very large number of forest-dependent people living below poverty lines (see IASS, 2014), conducting national ecosystem assessments to inform land use planning (SDSN, 2013; TST, 2014; IASS, 2014) and no mention of a proportion of land area covered by forests (Unnayan Omneshan, 2014).</p> <p>15.4) insufficient mention of Aichi biodiversity targets (CBD, 2010; Griggs <i>et al.</i>, 2013; ECA, 2014b; Lucas <i>et al.</i>, 2014).</p>	<p>15.b) Necessary and essential, since much of what is currently informal in forest sector (and is a source of rent seeking) needs to be better managed, taxed, and invested in. But still inadequate (from forest outcome perspective) as very generic (without specific mention of financing mechanisms such as REDD+) and no principal of 'user pays' for the loss of ecosystem services (See SDSN, 2013).</p>	

## CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

	Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
16. Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective and capable institutions	<p>16.3) by 2030 <b>reduce illicit financial flows by x% globally, increase stolen asset recovery and return by y% globally, fight all forms of organized crime, and reduce corruption and bribery</b> in all its forms and at all levels and ensure accountability and transparency</p> <p>16.4) by 2030 <b>increase inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and ensure prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities in decision-making and natural resources management</b>, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture</p> <p>16.5) by 2030 <b>provide equal access for all to independent, effective, and responsive justice systems</b> and promote the rule of law</p> <p>16.a) develop <b>effective, accountable and transparent public institutions at all levels</b> including security and police forces</p> <p>16.b) strengthen <b>national institutions and international cooperation to combat crimes</b>, including illicit flows and organized crime</p>		<p>16.7) promote free and easy access to information, <b>freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly</b></p>	
	<p>16.3 and 16.b) Necessary and essential as forest allocations, harvesting and trade frequently occurs in non-transparent manner and this would strengthen global efforts to combat illegal logging (e.g. FLEGT) (HLP, 2014).</p> <p>16.4, 16.5 and 16.a) Necessary and essential (from forest outcome perspective) as this underpins stable consensual forest land use, especially in situations of decentralisation (Development dialogue, 2012; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2013; Griggs, et al. 2013; Beyond 2015 – GCAP – ICP, 2013; UNGC, 2013).</p>		<p>16.7) Essential but still inadequately phrased – as beyond the right to freedom of association there should be proactive commitment to support the engagement of organisations of forest and farm producers in decision-making.</p>	

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT				
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:	
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development		17.10) develop and implement <b>effective and targeted capacity building programmes in developing countries in support of national plans for implementing all sustainable development goals</b>	<p>17.2) improve <b>market access for exports</b> of developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries, African countries, LDCs and SIDS with a view to significantly increasing their share in global exports, including doubling the LDC share by 2020</p> <p>17.3) realize <b>timely implementation of duty-free, quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries</b> consistent with WTO decisions and the Istanbul Programme of Action</p> <p>17.5) <b>strengthen domestic resource mobilization</b>, including through international support to improve domestic capacity for tax collection, and mobilize additional international financial resources from multiple sources</p> <p>17.7) promote North-South, South-South and triangular regional and <b>international collaboration on and access to science, technology and innovation</b>, and enhance knowledge sharing, including through a possible UN global technology facilitation mechanism</p> <p>17.8) promote <b>transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies</b> to developing countries, and encourage the full use of TRIPS flexibilities</p> <p>17.15) by 2020, increase significantly the availability of <b>high-quality and timely data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, geographic location</b> and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, with capacity building support to developing countries, especially LDCs</p>	

CRITICAL LEVERS OF CHANGE TO ENABLE THE OPTIMAL CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements:	Fair, accessible and responsible market systems:	Organisational capabilities to manage multi-functional landscapes:	Incentives and practical metrics:
		<p>17.17) by 2030 develop and progressively introduce a broader system of national accounting including natural, social and human capital and <b>measures of progress beyond GDP</b>, with supportive statistical capacity building in developing countries</p> <p>17.10) Relevant – but not forest specific and no mention of redistributive taxation to underpin such capacity building efforts (CPGSD, 2012).</p>	<p>17.2 and 17.3) Necessary but inadequate because potentially at odds with programmes such as FLEGT on timber legality.</p> <p>17.5, 17.7 and 17.8) Necessary and essential, since much of what is currently informal in forest sector (and is a source of rent seeking) needs to be better managed, taxed, and invested in – with added value technology.</p> <p>17.15) Necessary but would need to be made forest specific.</p> <p>17.17) Necessary and essential, but no mention of environmental accounting and very weak generic wording on when and how GDP alternatives will be introduced (CBD, 2010; SDSN, 2013; UNCSD Youth Caucus 2013; HLP, 2014).</p>

# Considerations for negotiators

3



### 3.1 Target areas most important to retain

The following unedited list of targets – falling under the four main categories of enablers, for the contribution of forests to sustainable development – gives an indication of the ‘forest module’ that might be developed for implementing the SDGs. There are clearly a lot of worthy targets that are necessary to optimise forests contribution to sustainable development.

Some immediate observations – are that the combined goals and targets do put in place some elements of all four key categories of enablers to ensure the optimal contribution of forests to sustainable development (see sections below). A second important point is that most of the targets are not forest specific – and their implementation in the forest sector might be challenging – unless there is some guidance that formally interprets and applies those targets to the forest sector.

The following targets constitute what we advance as the ‘forest module’ within the current version of the zero draft of proposed goals and targets on sustainable development for the post 2015 agenda:

#### Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements

1.4) by 2030 secure **equal access** for all men and women, particularly those most in need, to basic services, **the right to own land and property, productive resources and financial services**, including microfinance

2.5) by 2020 **maintain genetic diversity** of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, and ensure access to and **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed

5.1) **end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls**

5.5) ensure **full and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of decision-making** in the public and private sectors

5.a) ensure **women’s equal right to own and control assets** and productive resources

5.b) by 2030 achieve **universal access to ICT for women** and men to promote women’s empowerment

5.c) promote sound, **enforceable and monitorable legislation and policies for the promotion of gender equality** at all levels

10.2) by 2030 take actions to **empower and promote the social and economic inclusion of all** irrespective of race, ethnicity or economic status

10.3) **reduce inequalities of opportunity and outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices** and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard

10.7) by 2030, ensure **equitable representation and voice of developing countries in decision making in global institutions** of governance and development

13.2) **integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into national strategies and plans**

16.3) by 2030 **reduce illicit financial flows by x% globally, increase stolen asset recovery and return by y% globally, fight all forms of organized crime, and reduce corruption and bribery** in all its forms and at all levels and ensure accountability and transparency

16.4) by 2030 **increase inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and ensure prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities in decision-making and natural resources management**, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture

16.5) by 2030 **provide equal access for all to independent, effective, and responsive justice systems** and promote the rule of law

16.7) promote free and easy access to information, **freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly**

16.a) develop **effective, accountable and transparent public institutions at all levels** including security and police forces

16.b) strengthen **national institutions and international cooperation to combat crimes**, including illicit flows and organized crime

#### Fair, accessible and responsible market systems

2.3) by 2030 substantially **increase small-scale food producers’ productivity and incomes**, particularly of women, family farmers and pastoralists through secure access for all to productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets

2.c) end extreme food price volatility including through **improved functioning and regulation of food commodity markets and improved market information**

4.4) by 2030 promote life-long learning, **provide employable skills** especially to young women and men, and increase by at least x% adult literacy and basic numeracy

7.1) by 2030 ensure **universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services**

7.2) **double the share of renewable energy** in the global energy mix by 2030

8.1) achieve transformation of economies towards **higher levels of productivity through diversification** with a focus on high value added sectors

8.2) create a **sound macroeconomic environment** with employment-friendly policies and an enabling environment at national, regional and international levels for productive investment, creativity and innovation, and **formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises**

8.3) achieve progressively through 2030 **global resource efficiency, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use**

8.4) by 2030 achieve **full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men**, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

8.6) protect the **rights and ensure safe and secure working environments of all workers**, including migrant workers and those in precarious employment in accordance with ILO norms and standards

10.1) through 2030 **sustain income growth of the bottom 40%** of the population at a rate higher than the national average

12.1) by 2030, all countries have **integrated policies and measures to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns** into national strategies and plans, as envisioned in the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP)

12.5) increase the **share of private sector actors incorporating sustainable development principles in their business practices**, and by 2030 increase substantially the number of companies, especially large companies, that report on corporate social and environmental responsibility, including through integrated reporting

12.6) by 2030 substantially increase the share of **public procurement that is sustainable**

12.a) promote the **transfer and dissemination to developing countries of environmentally sound technologies** that improve energy and resource efficiency

## Organisational capacity to manage multi-functional landscapes

1.5) by 2030 build **the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations** to disasters, shocks and climate-related extreme events

2.4) by 2030 implement **sustainable and resilient agricultural practices** including for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought and disasters, and progressively enhance soil quality

4.5) by 2030, eliminate gender disparities and ensure **equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for people in vulnerable situations**, including persons with disabilities

4.6) by 2030 **integrate into education programs knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development**, human rights, gender equality, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence and culture's contribution to sustainable development

6.5) by 2030 **implement integrated water resources management** at all levels, and through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

11.a) integrate **economic and social links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas into national and regional development planning**

12.c) by 2030 ensure that people everywhere have **information and understanding needed to live sustainable lifestyles**

12.d) by 2030 develop and implement planning and monitoring tools for sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products, and **safeguards the world's cultural and natural heritage**

13.1) **strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity** to climate induced hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.3) improve **education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation**, impact reduction, and early warning

14.4) By 2020, **conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas**, including through establishing effectively managed marine protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information

15.1) by 2020 **ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems**, in particular wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with international agreements

15.2) by 2030, **ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, and increase reforestation by x% globally**

15.3) by 2030, **achieve a land degradation neutral world**, and restore degraded land including land affected by desertification and drought

15.4) by 2020 take urgent and significant action to **halt the loss of biodiversity**, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species

15.a) by 2020, mobilize and **significantly increase from all sources financial resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**

16.7) promote free and easy access to information, **freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly**

17.10) develop and implement **effective and targeted capacity building programmes in developing countries in support of national plans for implementing all sustainable development goals**

## Incentives and practical metrics

2.b) **phase out all forms of agricultural export subsidies**

2.d) create and diversify seed and plant banks, including with traditional varieties, at national, regional and international levels, to **safeguard seed and genetic plant diversity**

4.b) by 2020 expand by x% globally the number of scholarships for students and government officials from developing countries in particular LDCs to **enrol in higher education, including vocational training, programmes in developed countries and other developing countries**

7.a) enhance international cooperation to facilitate **access to clean energy technologies**, including advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote public and private investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technologies

10.a) respect the principle of **special and differential treatment for least developed countries in relevant international agreements including the WTO**

12.a) promote the **transfer and dissemination to developing countries of environmentally sound technologies** that improve energy and resource efficiency

15.b) mobilize significantly **resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management**, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation

17.5) **strengthen domestic resource mobilization**, including through international support to improve domestic capacity for tax collection, and mobilize additional international financial resources from multiple sources

17.7) promote North-South, South-South and triangular regional and **international collaboration on and access to science, technology and innovation**, and enhance knowledge sharing, including through a possible UN global technology facilitation mechanism

17.8) promote **transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies** to developing countries, and encourage the full use of TRIPS flexibilities

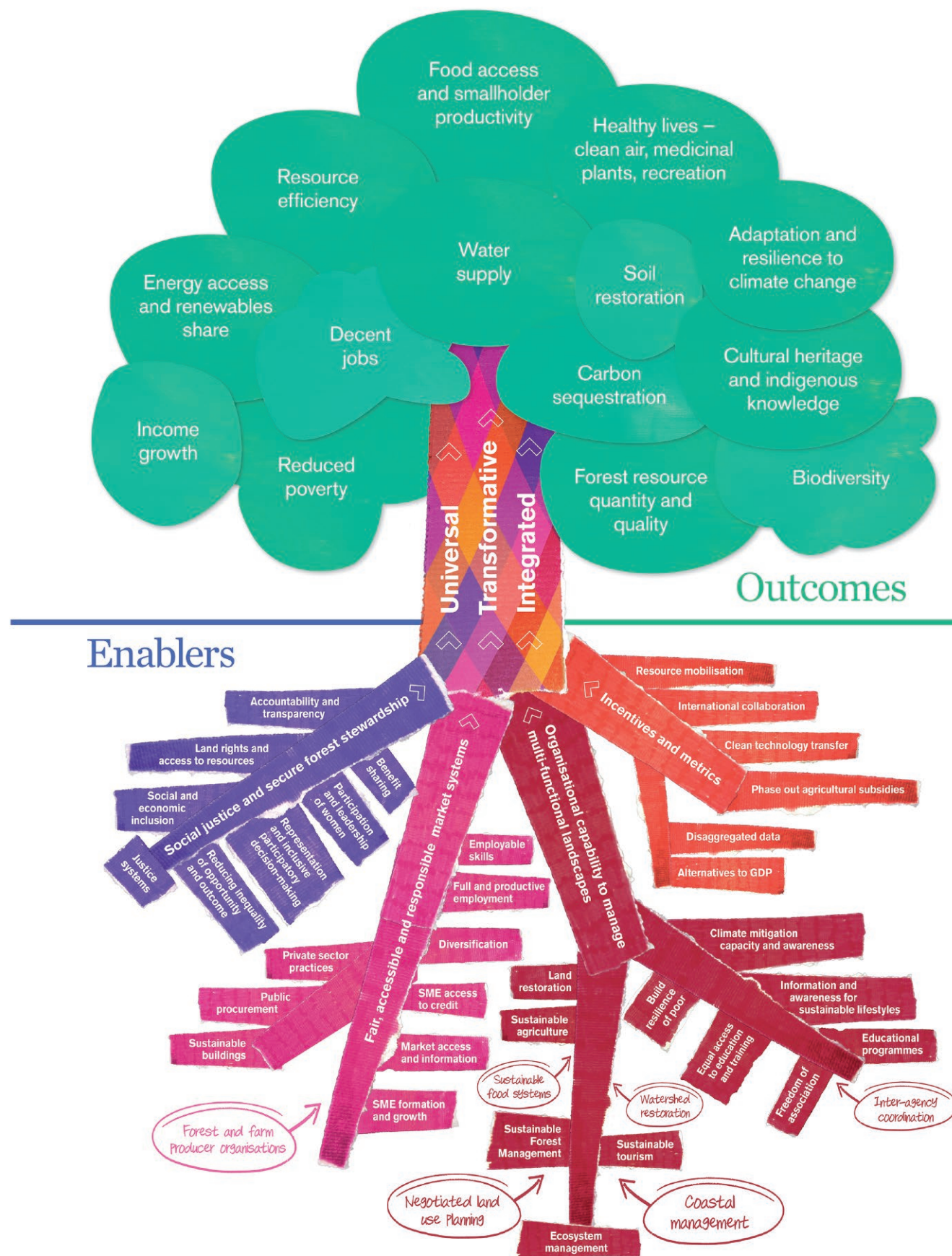
17.15) by 2020, increase significantly the availability of **high-quality and timely data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, geographic location** and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, with capacity building support to developing countries, especially LDCs

17.17) by 2030 develop and progressively introduce a broader system of national accounting including natural, social and human capital and **measures of progress beyond GDP**, with supportive statistical capacity building in developing countries

The 'forest module' captured above and in Tables 1 and 2 can be represented graphically as a tree (see figure 4). Certain targets act as roots: four major roots represent categories of enablers that together underpin a transformative, universal and integrated agenda. This unified agenda – the tree's trunk – then results in a wide range of outcomes, which are displayed as branches. These branches represent the optimal contribution of forests, trees and forest-linked livelihoods to sustainable development. Therefore, without the diverse targets contributing to the enablers – there can be no transformative, universal and integrated agenda – and there can therefore be no optimal forest outcomes.



Figure 4. The Target Tree: the enabling roots, the unified trunk and the canopy of outcomes



Source: Paraphrased targets from 'Zero Draft (Rev 1) – Introduction and Proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post 2015 Development Agenda', United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 30 June 2014

## 3.2 Critical issues for reflection

There are several areas where concerns raised in initial submissions to the OWG have not adequately been taken into account. These are listed under each of the four categories of enablers for forest contribution to sustainable development. We revisit many of these concerns in the following section on 'emerging conclusions'.

The following list comprises the targets in which we feel there are some remaining inadequacies from a forest perspective. For each target the perceived inadequacy is documented alongside references to prior suggestions that we do not feel where adequately responded to:

### Social justice within secure forest stewardship arrangements

1.4) by 2030 secure equal access for all men and women, particularly those most in need, to basic services, the right to own land and property, productive resources and financial services, including microfinance. **Insufficient treatment of both individual and collective rights,<sup>20</sup> and inadequate mention of redistributive justice in resource right allocations – or targets on the percentage share of those with secure rights to land.<sup>21</sup>**

2.1) by 2030 end hunger and ensure that all people have access to adequate, safe, affordable, and nutritious food all year round. **Inadequate from forest outcome perspective because of omission of any mention of sustainable and integrated land use planning policies that are critical for forest outcomes in the face of ongoing deforestation,<sup>22</sup> plus little attention to issues such as food sovereignty.<sup>23</sup>**

**Goal 4. Inadequate mention of citizenship education, representational structures and tactics required to engage politically and shape governance – in this case over forests.**

13.2) integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into national strategies and plans. **Necessary but requires some mention of existing forest-related efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change through REDD+ and NAPAs.**

### Fair, accessible and responsible market systems

1.1) by 2030, bring to zero the number of people living in extreme poverty, currently estimated at less than \$1.25 a day in low income countries. **Necessary but inadequate in specifying how structural barriers to ownership and employment – in forest context around commercial forest rights – will be changed to reduce poverty.<sup>24</sup>**

**Goal 5. Inadequate references to equality in employment (relevant to forest sector) where male bias in forest enterprise can be pronounced.<sup>25</sup>**

7.1) by 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services. **Necessary and essential, given high reliance on biomass for cooking and heating by many households, although challenged by inadequate support for biomass as a 'modern' and sustainable energy by many national policy frameworks in Africa and South Asia.<sup>26</sup> Also inadequate as 'universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy' is problematic, as fossil fuels cannot be classified as sustainable (see 7a); therefore it implies a target of 100 per cent modern energy services based on renewable energy, which is not realistic by 2030. Inadequate mention of 'decarbonising' the energy system.<sup>27</sup>**

8.4) by 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value. **Danger of large-scale industry overriding the interests of SMEs and inadequate attention to 'green growth / jobs', mixing economic growth with environmental improvements.<sup>28</sup> Inadequate attention to differentiation between domestic and international demand and the latter necessarily restricted by concerns over illegal logging.**

9.b) ensure a conducive policy environment at all levels for industrial development, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, with special attention to national circumstances in developing countries. **Inadequately expressed, as 'industrial development' on large scales is often incompatible with the multiple benefits of forests; nor is it the best way to deliver local and public goods.**

<sup>20</sup> RRI/Oxfam/ILC (2014)

<sup>21</sup> Beyond 2015, GCAP-IFP (2012); APWLD (2013); HLP (2014); Unnayan, Onneshan (2014).

<sup>22</sup> TST (2014)

<sup>23</sup> See CPGSD (2012)

<sup>24</sup> CONCORD (2014)

<sup>25</sup> UNGC (2013)

<sup>26</sup> CONCORD (2014); HLP (2014)

<sup>27</sup> SDSN (2013)

<sup>28</sup> French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013); UNFPA (2013); ECA (2014b).

**Goal 13. Inadequate in terms of not specifically mentioning historical responsibility,<sup>29</sup> or anything relating to instruments and incentives for low-carbon developments or carbon sequestration through REDD+.<sup>30</sup> Inadequate in terms of specifying fairer and more challenging target on per capita carbon taxes, and so on.<sup>31</sup>**

## Organisational capacity to manage multi-functional landscapes

2.4) by 2030 implement sustainable and resilient agricultural practices including for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought and disasters, and progressively enhance soil quality. **Inadequate mention of sustainable and integrated land use policies that are critical for forest outcomes in light of ongoing agriculture-driven land use change/deforestation.<sup>32</sup> Little attention to issues such as food sovereignty.<sup>33</sup> Inadequate specificity relating to the balance between large-scale industrial monocultures (forest risk commodities) and locally controlled, multi-functional smallholding agro-ecologies.<sup>34</sup>**

6.5) by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, and through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. **Necessary but inadequate, as no mention of watershed restoration or the integrated land use planning on which watershed management depends.**

**Goal 9. Inadequate from forest outcome perspective due to withdrawal of text on environmentally sustainable industrialisation.**

15.1) by 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with international agreements. **Necessary and essential. However, rather silent on how to achieve the targets in practice.<sup>35</sup> Inadequate in terms of targeting of reforestation activities by the very large number of forest-dependent people living below poverty lines,<sup>36</sup> conducting national ecosystem assessments to inform land use planning<sup>37</sup> and no mention of a proportion of land area covered by forests.<sup>38</sup>**

15.4) by 2020 take urgent and significant action to halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species. **Insufficient mention of Aichi biodiversity targets.<sup>39</sup>**

16.7) promote free and easy access to information, freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. **Essential but still inadequately phrased; beyond the right to freedom of association there should be proactive commitment to support the engagement of organisations of forest and farm producers in decision-making.**

## Incentives and practical metrics

2.a) increase investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology development, and capable institutions, particularly in countries that are net food importers. **Inadequate specificity from a forest outcome perspective relating to the balance between large-scale industrial development (one area of threat to forests) and locally controlled multi-functional landscapes (one area of opportunity), with regard to the targeting of developments and control over seed and plant materials.<sup>40</sup>**

**Goal 3. Inadequate mention of reproductive health given population related pressures on forests – and mention of family planning dropped.<sup>41</sup>**

10.a) respect the principle of special and differential treatment for least developed countries in relevant international agreements including the WTO. **Inadequate from forest outcome perspective, as market access is necessarily restricted by concerns over illegal logging; also no mention here of the US Lacey Act or EU FLEGT Action plan.**

**Goal 13. Inadequate from forest outcome perspective because forest-based sequestration will be threatened unless temperature limits are targeted.<sup>42</sup>**

15.b) mobilize significantly resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation. **Necessary and essential, since much of what is currently informal in forest sector – and is a source of rent seeking – needs to be better managed, taxed, and invested in. Still inadequate from forest outcome perspective, however, as it is very generic, without specific mention of financing mechanisms such as REDD+, and no principal of ‘user pays’ for the loss of ecosystem services.<sup>43</sup>**

<sup>29</sup> CPGSD (2012)

<sup>30</sup> UN Secretary General (2012)

<sup>31</sup> Unnayan Onneshan (2014)

<sup>32</sup> TST (2014)

<sup>33</sup> CPGSD (2012)

<sup>34</sup> APWLD (2013); DPINGO (2013); French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013); SDSN (2013); HLP (2014).

<sup>35</sup> DPINGO (2013); FSC (2013); ECA (2014a); IASS (2014).

<sup>36</sup> See IASS (2014)

<sup>37</sup> SDSN (2013); TST (2014); IASS (2014).

<sup>38</sup> Unnayan Onneshan (2014)

<sup>39</sup> CBD (2010); Griggs *et al.* (2013); ECA (2014b); Lucas *et al.* (2014)

<sup>40</sup> SDSN (2013)

<sup>41</sup> SDSN (2013); PSDA (2014).

<sup>42</sup> ECA (2014b)

<sup>43</sup> See SDSN (2013)



17.2) improve market access for exports of developing countries, in particular Least Developed Countries, African countries, LLDCs and SIDS with a view to significantly increasing their share in global exports, including doubling the LDC share by 2020. **Necessary but inadequate due to being potentially at odds with programmes such as FLEGT on timber legality.**

17.17) by 2030 develop and progressively introduce a broader system of national accounting including natural, social and human capital and measures of progress beyond GDP, with supportive statistical capacity building in developing countries. **Necessary and essential but no mention of environmental accounting and very weak generic wording on when and how GDP alternatives will be introduced.**<sup>44</sup>

### 3.3 Repetitions

A large number of the unnecessary repetitions that appeared in the original zero draft of the OWG were subsequently remedied in the revised draft of 30 June 2014. The only remaining substantive repetition is between 8.2 and 9.4 – and indeed in several elements of Goals 8 and 9 that could usefully be combined into a single goal.

8.2) create a sound macroeconomic environment with employment-friendly policies and an **enabling environment at national, regional and international levels for productive investment, creativity and innovation, and formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.**

9.4) ensure that **small-scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in LDCs, have affordable access to credit and are integrated into national, regional and global value chains and markets.**

<sup>44</sup> CBD (2010); SDSN (2013); UNCSD Youth Caucus (2013); HLP (2014)

# Emerging conclusions

# 4

## 4.1 Are the SDGs and associated targets transformative from a forest perspective?

### Do they address systemic barriers and leverage systemic drivers of change?

The existing revised zero draft of the proposed goals and targets on sustainable development are moving towards a transformative agenda by helping to address and leverage four systemic drivers for forests to contribute towards sustainable development.

Firstly, targets aim to improve the security of rights, access and control of land and productive resources for men and women.<sup>45</sup> There are complementary targets on participation and prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities in decision-making and natural resource management,<sup>46</sup> equal access to justice systems,<sup>47</sup> benefit sharing from genetic resources,<sup>48</sup> and the capacity, accountability and transparency of subnational and local governments<sup>49</sup> – essential in contested land use situations.

Secondly, there is emphasis on reducing inequalities and promoting social and economic inclusion<sup>50</sup> – prevalent in remote forest areas – including employment and decent work. Complementary targets focus on supporting small and medium enterprises,<sup>51</sup> and increasing resource efficiency of economic activities.<sup>52</sup> Together, these could drive inclusive forest-based income growth that incentivises efficient and sustainable forest use.

Thirdly, several targets centre on life-long education and training,<sup>53</sup> which can develop organisational capabilities for natural resource management, enterprise development and climate change preparedness. Targets to develop capabilities for integrated landscape management include sustainable, resilient agricultural practices,<sup>54</sup> integrated water resources management,<sup>55</sup> ecosystem management,<sup>56</sup> land restoration,<sup>57</sup> and sustainable tourism.<sup>58</sup>

Fourthly, in terms of potentially transformational metrics, links between ecosystem services, human wellbeing and inclusive growth would be enhanced by introducing broader measures of progress beyond GDP into national accounting.<sup>59</sup>

### Do the combined goals and targets promote equity at all levels?

Key forest sector stakeholders at risk of inequitable outcomes include women, Indigenous People, forest farming communities, and family smallholders. These groups are often dependent on subsistence agriculture and hunting and frequently involved in the informal sector, or, more rarely, in formal enterprises that tend to be at the smaller end of the business spectrum. While one proposed goal is focused entirely on reducing inequality,<sup>60</sup> greater specificity can be found within a wide number of other forest-relevant targets. Equity-related targets, for example, those aimed at fulfilling economic opportunity, individual potential and well-being, cover the securing of rights, control and ownership,<sup>61</sup> access to productive employment,<sup>62</sup> building resilience to disasters and shocks,<sup>63</sup> access to education, skills development and vocational training,<sup>64</sup> and enabling SMEs.<sup>65</sup>

Participatory, transparent and accountable governance frameworks are pivotal for sustainable forestry. A number of targets make specific reference to the inclusion of these most vulnerable groups, covering issues of participation, leadership and decision-making,<sup>66</sup> benefit sharing from the utilisation of genetic resources,<sup>67</sup> and equal access to justice systems.<sup>68</sup>

One area of concern revolves around the potential for some targets to discriminate in favour of large-scale industrial actors, as opposed to locally controlled forestry and small-scale enterprises. For example, the emphasis of industrial development and diversification.<sup>69</sup> In the case of agriculture, there is an explicit focus on small-scale food producers when addressing improving access to inputs, knowledge, financial services and markets.<sup>70</sup> This same principal should apply to the forest sector, in which locally controlled, multi-functional smallholding agro-ecologies tend to be lost out to large-scale industrial concessions and plantation monocultures. The promotion and use of disaggregated

<sup>45</sup> Targets 1.4 and 5a

<sup>46</sup> Targets 5.5, 16.4

<sup>47</sup> Target 16.5

<sup>48</sup> Target 2.5

<sup>49</sup> Target 16a

<sup>50</sup> Targets 8.4, 10.2, 10.3

<sup>51</sup> Targets 8.2, 9b, 9.4

<sup>52</sup> Targets 8.3 and 12a

<sup>53</sup> Targets 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 13.3

<sup>54</sup> Target 2.4

<sup>55</sup> Target 6.5

<sup>56</sup> Target 15.1

<sup>57</sup> Target 15.3

<sup>58</sup> Target 12d

<sup>59</sup> Target 17.17

<sup>60</sup> Goal 10 especially targets 10.1, 10.2, 10.3 and 10.4

<sup>61</sup> Targets 1.4 and 5a

<sup>62</sup> Target 8.4

<sup>63</sup> Target 1.5, 2.4 and 2c

<sup>64</sup> Targets 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6

<sup>65</sup> Targets 8.2 and 9.4

<sup>66</sup> Targets 5.5, 10.2, 16.4

<sup>67</sup> Target 2.5

<sup>68</sup> Target 16.5

<sup>69</sup> Target 8.1 and target 9.b

<sup>70</sup> Target 2.3

data<sup>71</sup> will be central to measuring whether equitable outcomes are being met.

## Do the combined goals and targets build economic, social and environmental resilience?

Forests play an important role in developing greater environmental resilience at community level, for example by maintaining soil fertility, reducing erosion, affecting watershed dynamics, pollination cycles, and so on. They also play a role at the global level, for example, carbon sequestration by forests offers some resilience to greenhouse gas emissions driving global climate change. Forests also provide economic and social resilience, such as by providing diverse livelihood options for income-generation and natural assets in support of wellbeing. Forests therefore directly contribute towards building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards in many vulnerable countries.<sup>72</sup> This role is recognised in the targets that directly encourage the sustainable management of all ecosystems and of forests in particular.<sup>73</sup>

More specifically, the SDGs target the implementation of agricultural practices that strengthen resilience and adaptation to extreme weather, drought, climate change and natural disasters, particularly for small-scale farmers.<sup>74</sup> This will require the integrated use of trees and stabilisation of forest cover in sensitive areas. This link between agricultural resilience and forests/trees is not specified in the existing framework, however, so can only be realised through the forest modular approach.

In the forest context, ensuring diversity and using local and traditional knowledge are two key elements for greater economic, social and ecological resilience. For example, the resilience of poor people – forest farmers and landless – can be greatly enhanced by diverse forest- and tree-based livelihood options governed by local control and knowledge. Indigenous, family and community cultures are also the most effective at protecting natural forests, and therefore key to protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage.<sup>75</sup> The existing framework contributes towards building and mainstreaming such resilience in a forest context, including the protection and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity,<sup>76</sup> the promotion and respect of cultural diversity,<sup>77</sup> although the specific reference to the use of traditional knowledge in natural resources management has now been removed.

## Do the combined goals and targets maintain the ecosystem services on which human well-being depends?

Forests provide numerous ecosystem services, so the link between forest ecosystem services and human well-being is easier to make than with other thematic issues. Looking at the existing framework, the collective set of targets in the forest modular approach reflects the value of forest ecosystem services for human wellbeing. In practice, it will depend upon diverse stakeholders recognising the links between diverse, individual components/targets and the sustainable development outcomes, such as water, food, energy, air quality, housing materials, climate regulation, biodiversity and incomes (see figure 4). This raises the importance of certain targets that help to establish and incentivise the links between ecosystem services and human well-being. This includes the introduction of broader measures of progress beyond GDP into national accounting<sup>78</sup> and incentives to reverse the loss of and enhance forest cover<sup>79</sup> and promote sustainable consumption and a circular economy.<sup>80</sup>

Introducing broader measures of progress beyond GDP<sup>81</sup> is currently inadequate, as it does make specific mention of environmental accounting and is unclear on when and how GDP alternatives will be introduced.

### For a truly transformative agenda, the targeting of these systemic drivers should be complemented by making mention of:

- (i) **Land tenure rights<sup>82</sup> covering both the individual and collective right to own land and property.** Individual rights enable households and individuals to develop viable farm-forest enterprises. Collective rights allow community-level governance of tenure that is relevant for many Indigenous People and local forest-dependent communities.
- (ii) **Policy coherence through sustainable and integrated land use planning.** Goal area 15 should reflect this fundamental need to ensure that landscapes meet both local and global public goods. Land-use planning is a prerequisite for balancing competing land demands for food, fuel, fodder and fibre.

<sup>71</sup> Target 17.15

<sup>72</sup> Target 13.1

<sup>73</sup> Targets 15.1 and 15.2

<sup>74</sup> Target 2.4

<sup>75</sup> Target 16.4

<sup>76</sup> Target 2.5

<sup>77</sup> Target 16.4

<sup>78</sup> Target 17.17

<sup>79</sup> Target 15.2

<sup>80</sup> Target 12.1

<sup>81</sup> Target 17.17

<sup>82</sup> Target 1.4

- (iii) **Restoration of watershed ecosystems is central for ensuring freshwater supply.** Forests play a central role in protecting water catchment basins. Target 15.1 needs to include restoration alongside conservation and sustainable use.
- (iv) **Processes of redistributive justice to deal with unfair historic forest land allocations.** Participatory, transparent and accountable governance frameworks are pivotal for sustainable forestry. While several targets make reference to vulnerable groups, redistributive justice is of importance to Indigenous Peoples and displaced communities.
- (v) **Strengthening forest and farm producer organisations for collective action.** While the current framework offers support for SMEs, there is insufficient mention of representational structures. Improved organisation and representation can improve the efficiency and capability of enterprises, and enable them to engage politically in the shaping of resource rights and economic opportunity.
- (vi) **Recognising locally controlled forestry.** In the same way that agriculture interventions<sup>83</sup> specify small-holders, so reforestation<sup>84</sup> requires the targeting of locally controlled forestry.
- (vii) **Recognising 'small forest holders' in support of diverse small-scale forest-farm systems** that produce more and better food than large-scale monoculture plantations. Given the roles of trees in providing food and climate-smart agriculture, target 2.3 should include 'small forest holders' alongside family farmers and pastoralists to ensure family and community farm-forest systems receive due levels of support.

## 4.2 Are the SDGs universal from a forest perspective?

### Do the combined goals and targets promote the empowerment of every individual?

Some of the poorest people and marginalised communities, including Indigenous People, live in or depend on forests and for that reason alone the SDG framework needs to have an adequate forest module. As described above (see section on equity), a number of forest-relevant targets specify these

stakeholders in a positive manner, in terms of fulfilling economic opportunity, individual potential and well-being. Examples are the engendered targets in relation to secure rights to own land, property and other productive resources, control over ownership and use of assets and natural resources, and access to work and employment, education and skills development.<sup>85</sup> The combined set of targets in the forest modular approach can, therefore, help promote the empowerment of every individual to rise and/or remain out of multi-dimensional poverty and above a social protection floor. While targets focus on the importance of secure rights, there is a lack of specificity on the need for both individual and collective rights. Individual rights enable households and individuals to develop viable farm-forest enterprises, while collective rights for community-level governance of tenure is relevant for many Indigenous People and local forest-dependent communities.

Given both the direct role of forests in providing food and the indirect role of trees in climate-smart agriculture, mention is needed of 'indigenous forest peoples and community foresters' alongside women, family farmers and pastoralists,<sup>86</sup> to help ensure those groups do not inadvertently suffer from a lack of support.

Achieving lasting social progress in LDCs requires differential and preferential treatment. It is apparent that current framework offers opportunities for building productive capacity, which is a priority area identified by LDCs,<sup>87</sup> specifically through technological upgrading, greater value addition and product diversification.<sup>88</sup> As discussed above, however, there is concern that application of such targets could discriminate against locally controlled forestry and small-scale enterprises while favouring large-scale industrial actors. Favourable outcomes will be dependent upon inclusive governance processes<sup>89</sup> and redistributive justice. Similarly, the formalisation of informal sector activities and employment<sup>90</sup> is relevant, as the informal forest sector dominates domestic supply in many countries, but the outcome will depend very much how formalisation takes place so as not to exclude marginalised groups.

### Do the combined goals or targets address any inter-dependencies where outcomes in one country depend upon policies or actions in other countries?

Achievement of the combined targets in one country depends upon policies or actions in other countries, especially when considering the transboundary status of some forests, the international nature of many drivers of deforestation and the need for international cooperation

<sup>83</sup> Target 2.3

<sup>84</sup> Target 15.2

<sup>85</sup> Target 1.4 and 5.a

<sup>86</sup> Target 2.3

<sup>87</sup> Please see the Istanbul Programme of Action

<sup>88</sup> Target 8.1

<sup>89</sup> Target 16.4

<sup>90</sup> Target 8.2

to ensure access to technology and markets. Some of these dependencies are addressed in the current framework, as described below.

Achieving universal scope is only possible through the forest module approach, rather than focusing on forest outcomes alone, as different countries have very different forest cover and forest cover change dynamics. It accommodates the diverse roles of forests among nations and how the contribution of forests is variously approached by negotiators. Ensuring universal scope also requires consideration of policy coherence and collective action. Achieving success in one country frequently depends upon policies or actions in other countries. For example, addressing drivers of deforestation in one country must also take into account economic growth and market dynamics in other countries. A typical situation leading to forest loss, for example, is that economic growth and market demand in countries distant from the tropical forests drives the transformation of economies towards higher levels of productivity<sup>91</sup> in forest-risk commodities in tropical forest countries, such as palm oil, soy bean or beef. Such transformations are often supported by transport infrastructure<sup>92</sup> and conducive policy environments for industrialisation.<sup>93</sup> The outcome is in many cases directly antithetical to halting deforestation.<sup>94</sup> At present, there is insufficient recognition of such trade-offs in the goals and targets.

A number of targets are included to improve market access for developing countries<sup>95</sup> and technology transfer<sup>96</sup> in support of resource efficiency and decoupling<sup>97</sup> backed by renewable energy.<sup>98</sup> Yet the emphasis in Goal 13 on low carbon development is now nowhere to be found. Domestic and international market access and technology transfer are key factors for enterprises and trade in timber and biomass energy. It remains unclear in the current framework, however, how domestic, small-scale enterprises will be protected and enabled to benefit in an equitable manner, rather than at the expense of industrial scale operations and OECD protective policies. This is especially the case when considering emergent concerns over policy coherence, such as the effect of EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements on the ability of small-scale timber and biomass energy enterprises to not only access international markets but also to supply domestic markets in producer countries.

## Do the combined goals or targets install the required level of collective action among nations to overcome such trade-offs?

The distribution of many natural resources across political boundaries often requires collective action at the regional and international level for their management, for example the Congo and Amazon. There is insufficient attention to means of implementation that foster regional cooperation under proposed Goal 15, for example in the sustainable management of forests,<sup>99</sup> sustainable use of ecosystems,<sup>100</sup> and conservation of biodiversity.<sup>101</sup>

Given the importance of international trade in some agricultural commodities as primary drivers of deforestation and in changing land property rights, the focus on sustainable patterns of consumption and production,<sup>102</sup> business practices and reporting,<sup>103</sup> public procurement,<sup>104</sup> and shifting lifestyles<sup>105</sup> can provide international coherence alongside incentives to reverse forest loss and enhance forest cover.<sup>106</sup> Of particular relevance to timber and biomass energy, a number of relevant targets improve market access for developing countries<sup>107</sup> and technology transfer<sup>108</sup> in support of resource efficiency and decoupling.<sup>109</sup> But there is a real risk that the significant difficulty in implementing policies on sustainable patterns of consumption, as highlighted on policies on economic growth, will lead to continued rising pressure on forests land that undermines key forest targets.

## Are the combined goals and targets relevant to all countries?

The role and importance of forests in sustainable development varies between countries and regions, depending on the political priorities and policies, state of socio-economic development and position along the forest transition curve, among other factors. Examples include the need for forests to: contribute towards a green economy; alleviate poverty and improve social well-being; produce forest products, meet domestic demand and develop markets; generate and protect ecosystem services; mitigate climate change and strengthen resilience; be compatible with other competing land uses; and contribute towards generating productive capacity. Currently, the specific mentions of forests within targets are primarily of an

<sup>91</sup> Target 8.1

<sup>92</sup> Target 9.1 and 9.2

<sup>93</sup> Target 9.b.

<sup>94</sup> Target 15.2

<sup>95</sup> Target 17.1 and 17.2

<sup>96</sup> Targets 17.7 and 17.8

<sup>97</sup> Target 12.1 and 12.a

<sup>98</sup> Target 7.2

<sup>99</sup> Target 15.2

<sup>100</sup> Target 15.1

<sup>101</sup> Target 15.4

<sup>102</sup> Targets 12.1, 12.b

<sup>103</sup> Target 12.5

<sup>104</sup> Target 12.6

<sup>105</sup> Target 12.c

<sup>106</sup> Target 15.2

<sup>107</sup> Targets 17.2, 17.3

<sup>108</sup> Targets 7.a, 12.a, 17.7

<sup>109</sup> Targets 8.3



environmental nature, falling under proposed Goal 15, to protect and restore terrestrial ecosystems and halt all biodiversity loss. This inadequately captures the contribution of forest resources and ecosystem services to multi-dimensional poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth. The situation is different, however, when considering the combined set of forest-related targets. To a large extent, these different perspectives are well reflected in the forest modular approach.

Secure rights to land, property and productive resources<sup>110</sup> are relevant to all countries in different ways and for different forest actors. In the context of many LDCs, however, redistributive justice is also required given the frequency of land claims and conflicts.

One central issue facing policy coherence is to ensure synergies with international conventions including CBD, especially in relation to Goal area 15, and synergies with UNFCCC, particularly in relation to proposed Goal 13, and specifically when it comes to means of implementation. Insufficient mention of Aichi biodiversity targets has been mentioned by some observers.<sup>111</sup> The goal framework needs to be applicable to all countries, while taking into account different national circumstances.

**While the existing SDG framework provides a solid basis for universal scope, changes would be needed to ensure policy coherence.**

- (i) A specific target is lacking for formalising **sustainable biomass energy**, despite being the primary cooking fuel in many African and Southeast Asian households, and considered modern if used with improved efficiency cook stoves and removal of smoke.
- (ii) Omission of a target on holding the **global average temperature rise** represents a missed opportunity to link with UNFCCC on a global imperative.
- (iii) From a forest perspective, the potential for **policy trade-offs** exists among targets under Goals 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth and productive employment), 9 (sustainable infrastructure and industrialisation) and 10 (reducing equality). Specifically, some targets could favour large-scale industrial actors over locally controlled forestry and small-scale enterprises. For example, targets to promote diversification,<sup>112</sup> technological upgrading,<sup>113</sup>

regional and global integration<sup>114</sup> and industrial sector jobs<sup>115</sup> may act against the income growth of the bottom 40 per cent.<sup>116</sup> While policy trade-offs can be resolved during national-level implementation, the lack of coherence suggests the need to consolidate the most important elements of Goals 8 and 9 into one single goal.

- (iv) **Financial incentives and trade measures reached through regional cooperation.** This is required given the cross-border distribution of many forests and the need for collective action in their sustainable management,<sup>117</sup> restoration of degraded ecosystems,<sup>118</sup> and conservation of biodiversity.<sup>119</sup> Existing international forest-related programmes<sup>120</sup> require explicit mention in means of implementation under Goal area 15.

## 4.3 Are the SDGs integrated from a forest perspective?

**Do the combined goals and targets address social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainability?**

The combined set of forest-related targets (the forest module approach) does appear to incorporate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, both at outcome level and individual component level. At the outcome level, forest-related contributions include the following, which are separated into three pillars of sustainable development, although recognising overlaps do exist:

- Primarily social outcomes:
  - reduce the proportion of people living below national poverty lines;<sup>121</sup>
  - end hunger and ensure access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food all year round;<sup>122</sup>
  - decrease the number of deaths and illnesses from indoor and outdoor air pollution;<sup>123</sup>
  - ensure universal access to affordable, sustainable and reliable energy services;<sup>124</sup> and

<sup>110</sup> Target 1.4

<sup>111</sup> CBD (2010); Griggs *et al.* (2013); ECA (2014b); Lucas *et al.* (2014).

<sup>112</sup> Target 8.1

<sup>113</sup> Target 9.5

<sup>114</sup> Targets 9.2, 9.4

<sup>115</sup> Target 9.3

<sup>116</sup> Target 10.1

<sup>117</sup> Targets 15.1, 15.2

<sup>118</sup> Target 15.3

<sup>119</sup> Target 15.4

<sup>120</sup> For example, payments for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) and voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) within Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade Action Plans.

<sup>121</sup> Target 15.4

<sup>122</sup> Target 1.2

<sup>123</sup> Target 3.7

<sup>124</sup> Target 7.1

- ensure universal access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services for all, and eliminate slum-like conditions everywhere.<sup>125</sup>
- Primarily economic outcomes:
  - substantially increase small-scale food producers productivities and incomes, particularly of women, family farmers and pastoralists;<sup>126</sup>
  - double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix;<sup>127</sup> and
  - sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.<sup>128</sup>
- Primarily environmental outcomes:
  - implement integrated water resources management at all levels, and through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate;<sup>129</sup>
  - strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate induced hazards and natural disasters;<sup>130</sup>
  - conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas;<sup>131</sup>
  - by 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with international agreements;<sup>132</sup>
  - by 2030, ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, and increase reforestation by x% globally;<sup>133</sup>
  - by 2020 take urgent and significant action to halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species.<sup>134</sup>

Implementing the forest modular approach at the individual component level, there also appears to be a reasonable reflection of the social, economic and environmental issues required to provide the right enabling environment for forests to deliver the above-mentioned sustainable development outcomes.

While the entire forest modular approach offers good integration of social, economic and environmental issues (see diagram above), the wording of several targets is notably well-integrated from a forest perspective. These include:

1.4) by 2030 secure equal access for all men and women, particularly those most in need, to basic services, the right to own land and property, productive resources and financial services, including microfinance

2.4) by 2030 implement sustainable and resilient agricultural practices including for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought and disasters, and progressively enhance soil quality

4.6) by 2030 integrate into education programs knowledge and skills necessary for sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence and culture's contribution to sustainable development

5.a) ensure women's equal right to own and control assets and productive resources

6.5) by 2030 implement integrated water resources management at all levels, and through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

15.1) by 2020 ensure conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, in particular wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with international agreements

15.2) by 2030, ensure the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, and increase reforestation by x% globally

15.3) by 2030, achieve a land degradation neutral world, and restore degraded land including land affected by desertification and drought

15.4) by 2020 take urgent and significant action to halt the loss of biodiversity, and protect and prevent the extinction of known threatened species

In contrast to the above list, some targets display lack of integration from a forest – and wider – perspective. This is most notable under proposed Goal 9, which is predominantly economic in nature and therefore carries the risk of delivering negative environmental and social outcomes, such as environmental damage and exclusion of domestic, small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Integrated approaches are further facilitated by the mainstreaming of environmental perspectives and needs within national development processes. This includes the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into development plans and poverty reduction strategies,<sup>135</sup> helping to raise the role of adaptable, climate smart forestry/farming. Integrated approaches are further facilitated by the mainstreaming

<sup>125</sup> Target 11.1

<sup>126</sup> Target 2.3

<sup>127</sup> Target 7.2

<sup>128</sup> Target 10.1

<sup>129</sup> Target 6.5

<sup>130</sup> Target 13.1

<sup>131</sup> Target 14.4

<sup>132</sup> Target 15.1

<sup>133</sup> Target 15.2

<sup>134</sup> Target 15.3

<sup>135</sup> Target 13.2

of forest and other natural resource perspectives within national development processes. This includes broader systems of national accounting,<sup>136</sup> the integration urban-rural linkages,<sup>137</sup> and sustainable production and consumption plans.<sup>138</sup>

**Identifying suitable indicators is important to help ensure forests fulfil their role in supporting sustainable development.** To help ensure coherence and feasibility, indicator development should look towards existing forest-related frameworks<sup>139</sup> and concepts,<sup>140</sup> as well as relevant international conventions including CBD and UNFCCC.

<sup>136</sup> Target 17.17

<sup>137</sup> Target 11.a

<sup>138</sup> Target 12.1

<sup>139</sup> Global Forest Resources Assessment, Sustainable Forest Management, Montreal process, FLEGT Action Plan, UNREDD and FCPF etc.

<sup>140</sup> Green economy, etc.

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# Acronyms

10YFPP	10-Year Framework of Programmes	NAPP	National Adaptation Programme
BAPP	Biodiversity Action Plan	NAPAP	National Adaptation Programme of Action
CBDP	Convention on Biological Diversity	NTFPP	Non-timber forest product
CLUAP	Climate and Land Use Alliance	OECDP	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EUP	European Union	OWGP	Open Working Group
FLEGTP	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade	REDD+P	Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation; plus the role of forest conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks
GDPP	Gross Domestic Product	SDP	Sustainable development
HICP	High-Income Country	SDGsP	Sustainable Development Goals
IIEDP	International Institute for Environment and Development	SFMP	Sustainable Forest Management
ILOP	International Labour Organization	SIDSP	Small Island Developing States
IRFP	Independent Research Forum	SMARTP	Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound
LCFP	Locally Controlled Forestry	SMEP	Small and medium enterprise
LDCP	Least Developed Country	UNP	United Nations
LLDCP	Landlocked Developing Country	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MDGsP	Millennium Development Goals		
MICP	Middle-Income Country		
NAMAP	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action		



Forests and landscapes with trees are such an important part of a number of different Sustainable Development Goals that we recommend working towards a transformative 'forest module'. The modular approach improves on the more limited current focus on sustainable forest management, deforestation and reforestation targets. It makes explicit the diversity of targets needing inclusion and resolution in order to create an enabling environment that would yield much greater sustainable development outcomes for forests, landscapes and livelihoods. With the negotiation phase nearing, our assessment of the UN Open Working Group's zero draft finds a strong set of goals and targets, yet with several potentially serious trade-offs and missing issues. Application of our modular approach can help negotiators seek coherent outcomes across the goal framework and enable integrated implementation at the national level. What are the most important sustainable development outcomes delivered by forests and what are the key levers of change?

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