



Country:	Japan
Date of submission:	9 December 2019

Format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions¹

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and builds on the format previously used for reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session. It is largely narrative, reflecting the qualitative nature of many of the targets.

2. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or that is not in other international databases is requested. The information submitted will be supplemented with quantitative data, among other things, from the following international data providers:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment/collaborative forest resources questionnaires, Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

(b) Reports on the state of the world's forests, produced every two years by FAO;

(c) Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Other data sources, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

3. Members are kindly requested:

(a) To submit their completed national reports electronically (in Microsoft Word format) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org by mid-November 2019, bearing in mind that early submissions will greatly facilitate the secretariat's preparation of the report on progress towards the goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 [title and focus to be determined] to be presented to the Forum in 2021 [to be confirmed];

(b) To submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official signed letter conveying their submission from the respective ministry, or a note verbale from their permanent mission to the United Nations in New York;

Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org by 15 November 2019.

¹ Detailed guidelines will be prepared and discussed and will, among other things, state the purpose of reporting and how the data will be used. References to voluntary national contributions will be harmonized with the process to be put in place for announcing voluntary national contributions.

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, to consult experts from relevant national ministries, such as those of the environment, economic development, finance and agriculture, in completing the reporting format and to consult the national focal points for the forest resources assessments, the Rio Conventions secretariats, other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Members may also wish to consult stakeholders when preparing their report.

4. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
5. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
6. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

General information

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Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report

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Global forest goal 1 and associated targets²

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide³
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

- 1. (a) Since 2015,⁴ what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

² Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

³ Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

⁴ Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- i. Formulation of the new “Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry” (2016) (GFG1.2, 1.3, 1.4)
- ii. Formulation of the Forest Management Act (2018) (1.2, 1.3, 1.4)
- iii. Formulation of the Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as a Growth Strategy (2019) (1.2, 1.3, 1.4)

Description of actions:

i. **Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry:** In May 2016, the Cabinet approved the new *Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry*, which serves to clarify the policy direction toward facilitating the multifunctional roles of forest, and enabling the sustainable and vital development of Japan’s forestry industry. The plan calls for maintaining the forest area of 25 million hectares, covering about 70% of the country (as of 2015), with an aim to increase its stock from 5,070 million m³ to 5,550 million m³ by 2035.

ii. **The Forest Management Act:** *The Forest Management Act* came into force in April 2019. Under the Act, municipalities are entrusted with the management of forests whose owners are no longer able to manage them appropriately. Management of these forests are carried by the municipalities or re-entrusted to highly-motivated forestry practitioners who can focus on sustainable forest management.

iii. **Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement as Growth Strategy:** The Cabinet approved the *Long-Term Strategy Under the Paris Agreement as a Growth Strategy* as a development strategy to promote lower greenhouse gas emission under the Paris Agreement. The strategy promotes the appropriate management of forests, such as re-planting and thinning, including creation of wildlife corridors, in order to enhance the resilience of ecosystems against climate change.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

See above: 1(a)i

Description of actions:

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Establishment of Forest Environment Tax and Forest Environment Transfer Tax (2019) (1.2, 1.3, 1.4)

Description of actions:

The Forest Environment Tax and Forest Environment Transfer Tax were created in 2019 under the idea that all citizens equally support conservation and management of forests in Japan. The Forest Environment Tax imposes an additional 1,000 yen per year as part of an individual's inhabitant tax starting from FY2024.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions (domestic + international efforts)

List of actions:

Domestic: Development and testing of a method to quantitatively evaluate the status of biodiversity in national forests, with a view to developing a mechanism of quantitative assessment (2015) (1.3)

International

i. Technical cooperation projects through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other forestry-related organizations. (1.1)

ii. Contributing toward the formulation of land-use planning for REDD+ under the FAO to significantly increase afforestation in developing countries (2017) (1.1)

iii. Support efforts to monitor deforestation in developing countries through ITTO. (1.1)

Description of actions:

Domestic Measures: Using a method developed in 2015 as reference, the Forestry Agency of Japan established a mechanism to quantitatively evaluate the status of biodiversity conservation efforts in national forests at the forest planning area level, using a number of indicators. The pilot operation of the mechanism is set to be carried out from 2020.

International

i. Support afforestation and reforestation by dispatching JICA experts to developing countries.

Example: Under the MoU signed with the Kenya Forest Research Institute, the Forest Tree Breeding Center of Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute of Japan are conducting joint research on breeding arid land-resistant forest trees in arid land areas of Kenya for adaptation to climate change.

ii. Support efforts in developing countries to select land suited for afforestation / reforestation and to formulate land-use plans in order to promote sustainable forest management.

iii. In cooperation with ITTO, Japan supports countries in Amazon to improve governance on logging and land-use, providing participatory monitoring system.

(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

The above efforts will help implement the following matters of the United Nations Forest Instrument Para 6:

- Formulation of the Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry: 6a, k, l

(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

- i. Forests planted during the post-war era are now ready for harvest. The challenge is to establish an optimal harvest and use cycle of “harvesting, utilizing, replanting, and treatment”.
- ii. Against expectations of an increase in harvest, the challenge is to re-plant cost effectively and having a stable supply of tree seedlings.
- iii. In addition to the steep terrain and weak geological features of Japan, natural disasters such as heavy rains and earthquakes associated with weather fronts and typhoons frequently occur and numerous mountainous disasters occur in various places every year (more than 10,000 landslides have occurred over the past 5 years). In this light, it is necessary promote forest conservation or civil engineering (*Chisan*) projects and sound forest management, including forest thinning based on the ages of forests, to improve resilience against natural disasters.

(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

N/A

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

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Global forest goal 2 and associated targets⁵

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Associated targets

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

- 2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

⁵ Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- i. Publication of the *Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (Access and Benefit Sharing Guidelines)*, in line with the Nagoya Protocol (2017) (2.5)
- ii. Advancing International Forestry Cooperation Projects (2.1, 2.2 and 2.4)

Description of actions:

- i. The Japanese government compiled a draft of the *Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS Guidelines)* in 2017. The ABS Guidelines came into force, following the Diet's ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, leading to depositing the instruments of ratification.
- ii. Through Japan's official development assistance, the Japanese government promotes international forestry projects, with the aim of developing business models that create economic value at every layer in the supply chain, from upstream to downstream, using forest resources sustainably. These models are then, introduced across developing countries.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

- i. Promulgation and enforcement of an edict on general design methods of buildings using cross laminated timber (CLT) (2016)
- ii. Establishment of the Forest Service Industry Review Committee (2019) (2.4)

Description of actions:

- i. Issuance of an edict on the general design methods of buildings using CLT. In January 2017, the Liaison Council of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on the Promotion of CLT Utilization announced the so-called *New Roadmap for the Promotion of CLT*, with an aim to stimulate further demand.
- ii. Responding to emerging demand for forests in education, health and tourism, the government established the Forest-related Service Industry Review Committee, in order to consider policy direction in creating and promoting forest-related services industry and employment/ income opportunities for local communities.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- Development and testing of a method to quantitatively evaluate the status of biodiversity in national forests, with a view to developing a mechanism of quantitative assessments (2015) (2.5)

Description of actions:

- Using a method developed in 2015 as reference, the Forestry Agency of Japan established a mechanism for quantitatively evaluating the status of biodiversity conservation efforts in national forests at the forest planning area level, using a number of indicators. The pilot operation of the mechanism is set to be carried out from 2020.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

- In cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a leading Japanese global company in musical instruments and components, developed a project proposal for a forest business that can contribute to forest conservation in Tanzania with participation of local entities. Specifically, the project focused on afforestation and sustainable forest management in the country, while enabling a stable supply and procurement of African blackwood, which is critical for musical instruments. The project aims to attain sustainable development of the local forest community, while facilitating efficient uses of resources, existing manufacturing technologies and markets for musical instruments to generate sustainable supply-demand.

- As a ITTO project, Japan supported a women's association in Côte d'Ivoire to reforest and rehabilitate gazetted forest to ensure a continuous supply of wood for charcoal production.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

The above efforts should help implement the following measures specified in the United Nations Forest Instrument, Para 6: International Forestry Cooperation Projects: d, v

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country?

- Promoting consolidation and cost reduction in forest management practices.

- Reforming the overall domestic log production and distribution structure.

- Measures to improve income, employment and morale in managing forestry businesses.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

N/A

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets⁶

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Associated targets

- 3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased
- 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased
- 3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

⁶ Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- i. Enforcement of the *Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally-Harvested Wood and Wood Products* (the Clean Wood Act) (2017) (3.3)
- ii. Revision of the protected forest system (2015) (3.1)
- iii. Formulation of policy guideline for tropical forests (2015) (3.1)

Description of actions:

- i. The Clean Wood Act stipulates that all businesses must endeavor to use legally-harvested wood and wood products, and that Wood-related Business Entities in particular shall confirm the legality of the wood and wood products they handle.
- ii. With the revision of the protected forest system for national forests, the Forestry Agency of Japan introduced a more effective and easy-to-understand protected forest classification system, focusing on the sustainability of forest ecosystems and population. Under the new system, protected forest classification was reorganized from seven, to three types. As a result of this reorganization, effectiveness in conservation of protected forests has been improved.
- iii.: In cooperation with ITTO, Japan supported an activity to publish Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forest.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?

i. Industry associations are requested to create a voluntary code of conduct to supply wood and timber products of proven legality and sustainability and to issue documents certifying its legality, etc.

ii. Japan's national forest certification system under the Sustainable Green Ecosystem Council (SGEC), has been accredited to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). (2016)

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

The actions above contribute to the following contents of the UNFI Para 6.

i. Clean Wood Act: n

ii. Mutual recognition of SGEC-PEFC: g

- (d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?

The proportion of privately-owned forests with forest management plans remain relatively low (at about 30% as of March 2018), due to aging of forest owners and difficulty of identifying ownership and boundaries of forest properties following inheritance procedures.

- (e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

N/A

- (f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets⁷

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Associated targets

- 4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased
- 4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased
- 4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased
- 4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

⁷ Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Questions on goal 4

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The government enacted the *Act on Contributions to the Green Climate Fund and the Accompanying Measures* in May 2015. Following this enactment, Japan contributed USD 1.5 billion to the Green Climate Fund, which is a key component of REDD+ results-based payments.

- Japan is also the largest donor to the 7th replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which funds a variety of forest-related activities.
- As part of its domestic measures to fund conservation of forests, the Japanese government introduced in 2019, the Forest Environment Tax and the Forest Environment Transfer Tax (See GFG1. Financial actions for detail)
- Through its ODA, Japan continues to implement projects that serve to promote legal and sustainable forest management, in collaboration with international organizations such as the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), UNFF and FAO, and development-assistance organizations such as JICA.
- In accordance with the Act on the Promotion of Forest Development and Maintenance via the Use of the Green Fund, nationwide donation campaigns for forests are held in spring and autumn of each year. The fund is used for afforestation and other purposes, such as planting and tending of forests and facilitating international cooperation serving the same goals.

- (b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

N/A

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

- (c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the sources:

☐ Public domestic funding

☐ Private domestic funding

☒ Public international funding, including official development assistance

- ☐ Private international funding
- ☐ Blended financing

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

- Competition for resources against other non-forest emerging issues.

- Lack of perceived benefit for private companies in mobilizing resources for forests.

--Payment for reducing GHG emissions under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement has yet to be determined.

Progress towards target 4.3

(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?

- Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other

Types of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- North-North
- Triangular
- Technical
- Financial
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- ☐ Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods

- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Production of timber or non-timber products
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Progress towards target 4.4

(e) Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

☐ Yes ■ No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

- ☐ 2–5 years
- ☐ 5–10 years
- ☐ 10–20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets⁸

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

⁸ Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Domestic Actions:

- The Forestry Agency of Japan conducts comprehensive training sessions, with a view to inculcate knowledge and skills for local government forest and forestry officials (about 1,600 people trained in FY2018). (5.2)

- *The Act on Promotion of Use and Distribution of Legally-Harvested Wood and Wood Products* (The Clean Wood Act) came into force in May 2017. The Act stipulates that all businesses must endeavor to use legally-harvested wood and wood products, and that Wood-related Business Entities in particular shall confirm the legality of the wood and wood products they handle (5.2).

International Actions:

Japan hosts the Secretariat of the ITTO, and has historically supported formulation of policy guidelines contributed toward the implementation of projects that facilitate sustainable forest management and measures against illegal logging and trade through capacity building and technical assistance to forest authorities of timber-producing countries.

Japan also, in collaboration with FAO, supports the collection of information for building a database on forest-related legislation of each country, especially regulations related to development and forest management practices. (5.2)

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

N/A

Progress towards target 5.1

(c) In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

■ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

■ National sustainable development plans and/or

- ☐ Poverty reduction strategies

Progress towards target 5.2

(d) Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

- Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

- New legislation
- ☐ Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- ☐ Export controls
- ☐ Import controls
- ☐ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- ☐ Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

(e) Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?

- Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

-Recognizing that forest and forestry have multifunctional roles linked to the environment, society and economy, the government is legally mandated to draft the Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry under a mechanism involving coordination among various relevant ministries.

In other policy matters where the jurisdiction lies with other ministries and agencies, but where forests are involved, the Forestry Agency of Japan participates in various forms of policy coordination.

- The following examples illustrate cooperation and coordination of the Forestry Agency of Japan with other ministries and agencies in implementing forest-linked measures:

- Driftwood disaster measures: w/ Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism;
- CLT dissemination: w/ Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism,
- Promotion of timber use in public buildings: w/ Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism;
- Revision of structural design standards for wooden school buildings: w/ Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology;
- Prevention of Global Warming, Biodiversity Conservation: w/ Ministry of the Environment/ Foreign Affairs;
- Promotion of using woody biomass: w/ Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
- Implementation of SDGs: Cabinet + All Ministries. Headed by the Prime Minister, the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, including all ministers, was established in the Cabinet. The SDGs Promotion Headquarters drafted the SDGs Implementation Guidelines, which were adopted in December 2016.

(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

- The Forestry Policy Council, an advisory body of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, was established to deliberate on important matters such as the formulation of the *Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry* and the preparation of the *White Paper on Forest and Forestry*. Members are appointed by various stakeholders, including local governments, academics, bodies related to the forest, forestry and timber industries, private companies, consumer groups and citizens.

- When laws, regulations and other important policies are to be established or amended, the government opens the process for public comments, in accordance with the rules of the Administrative Procedure Act.

Progress towards target 5.4

(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Mechanisms are in place, based on Article 9 of the National Land Use Planning Act. Under the Act, municipal governments must formulate their own land use master plans based on the Individual Regulation Act. The land-use master plans are sub-divided into five areas (=urban, agricultural, forest, national parks and nature-conservation), with four of these linked to forests, ensuring that forests are an integral part of the country's land-use policies.

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets⁹

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

In October 2019, the Forestry Agency of Japan hosted the International Symposium at the Montreal Process Working Group. The participants considered the topic “Contribution of Forests to Achieve SDGs: Use of Forest Information and Criteria & Indicators” for forest personnel and the general public. Through the presentations and panel discussions by several Montreal Process member countries and the UNFF/ ITTO Secretariats, it was broadly recognized that standards and indicators serve as important communication tools among various stakeholders in promoting sustainable forest management.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

N/A

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

⁹ Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

- Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

- ☐ National or subnational
- Regional or international¹⁰
- Other (please specify): FSC, PEFC, SGEC (domestic, non-governmental certification system)

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

- To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
- To monitor and assess forest conditions and management
- To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management
- To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

- Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

- Japan annually reports on trends in the forest sector, including forest industry developments and measures taken by the government, through the *White Paper on Forest and Forestry*.

- In addition, the Forestry Agency of Japan publishes the *Statistical Handbook of Forest and Forestry*, which collects key statistics and business-related data to provide an overview of the current state of forests, forestry and timber industries in Japan. Furthermore, such policies are reviewed annually, in accordance with the *Government Policy Evaluations Act*.

- The government also conducts a National Forest Monitoring process, whereby each Regional Forest Office gathers volunteers from the public (period of 1-2 years), promoting an inclusive and interactive exchange of opinions and information with the public on national forests. Volunteers in the monitoring exercise help provide information on national forests, cooperate with related events and questionnaires, and express their opinions on the management of national forests at the national forest monitoring meetings.

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

¹⁰ For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

- The Forestry Policy Council, an advisory body of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, was established to deliberate on matters such as the formulation of the *Basic Plan for Forest and Forestry* and the *White Paper on Forest and Forestry*. Members are appointed by various stakeholders, including local governments, academics, members from the forest, forestry and timber industries, private companies, consumer groups and citizens.

- Whenever laws, regulations and important policies are established/ amended, the government seeks public comments, in accordance with the rules of the *Administrative Procedure Act*.

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

- Of the 51,200 forestry workers in 2010, a mere 3,020 (6%) were women.

However, women have nonetheless been involved in re-planting efforts. The *Women's Forestry Research Group*, comprising of female- forest owners and forestry industry participants, has been established in various places around the country since the 1970s, with work focusing on research on re-planting and treatment technologies and improved forest management techniques. In 1993, *Ladies' Network 21 for Creating Rich Forests*, was established by female forestry industry participants in several municipalities. These networks held regular forum events for women forestry industry participants as well as developed practical solutions including work gear.

- In addition to these movements, in recent years, interest groups on forestry has been spreading among female students in the country. Ever since the establishment of the "*Ringyo Joshi-kai*" (Women's Forestry Committee) in 2010 in Kyoto, such interest groups have sprung up nationwide, totaling 16 municipalities as of March 2015. These movements have been complemented by the establishment of hunting organizations by women.

- Since 2015, the Forestry Agency of Japan has been supporting the activities of the Women's Forestry Research Group, including introductions to forestry work experience and safety training. To increase the participation and retention of female forestry industry participants, the Forestry Agency of Japan is also conducting surveys in order to understand the outstanding issues.

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

- ☐ Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
- ☐ Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
- ☒ Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions
- ☐ Other

Please provide a brief description:

(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?

- ☒ Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
- ☒ Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
- ☐ Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

- ☐ Social media activities
- ☐ Other

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

Success stories

- The Forestry Agency of Japan, along with other stakeholders, as part of the Executive Committee for the International Day of Forests, organizes tree plantings and cultural exchange events in Tokyo each year. These events are open to participation by embassy staff, international students and the general public.

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

Success story 1

Action taken:

Implementation of the afforestation campaign

Goals and targets addressed:

1.1, 1.2, 2.4, 3.3

Outcome and results achieved:

Japan made extraordinary strides in recovering forests that were devastated to a large extent during the Second World War and the postwar reconstruction era. In the areas that were deforested during the postwar industrialization era, Japan conducted a national campaign of planting forests such as cedar and cypress en masse. The area of planted forests has reached approximately 10 million hectares, which accounts for more than 20% of the total land mass. Those planted forests are coming into maturity, with more than half of them reaching over 50 years of age, making them ready for harvest. Japan's forest growing stock has reached approximately 4.9 billion m,³ signaling a transition from the intermediate treatment phase to the harvesting phase, putting a bulk of forest trees ready for harvest. Managing these planted forests appropriately to ensure the forest life-cycle of "harvesting, utilizing, replanting, and treatment" will be increasingly important.

How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

This experience could serve as a model case for restoring forests in countries where deforestation and forest degradation is occurring in size.

References:

Success story 2

Action taken:

International Cooperation in Forest Conservation Technology

Goals and targets addressed:

1.4

Outcome and results achieved:

Japan is densely populated, and is short of flat inhabitable lands. Landscapes with geologically fragile structures, intense rainfalls, volcanic activities and earthquakes, make Japan inherently prone to disasters, such as hillside failure, debris flows and landslides. Under such circumstances, Japan has systematically implemented forest conservation projects, preserved lives, productive land and properties from mountainous disasters through afforestation, headwater conservation and preserving habitats. Through these efforts, the number of fatalities from such natural disasters has significantly declined.

Japan's experience in dealing with such vulnerabilities via forest conservation is shared with developing countries through various international cooperation efforts. For example, through JICA, Japan facilitates technology transfer, such as watershed management and soil erosion prevention, and supports the implementation of technical cooperation projects that organically combine the dispatch of experts and the acceptance of trainees, through a loan assistance program.

How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

These actions linked to forest conservation projects should help in reducing the risk of mountain landslide disasters, and should contribute toward the achievement of the GFG above, by conserving livelihoods and habitats of local forest communities (farmland and housing, etc.).

References: