



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources

Regional Briefing
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21 March 2017





Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

invites you to celebrate the

International Day of Forests 2017

at a

Special Event on Forests and Energy

21 March 2017, 11.30 – 13.00

Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy





http://www.fao.org/international-day-of-forests/en/

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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International Day of Forests 2017

Key Messages Events Logo & Banners Video Campaign



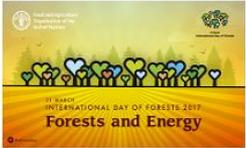
Globally, forests hold an energy content approximately 10 times that of the world's annual primary energy consumption. They thus have significant potential as renewable resources to meet global energy demand.



21 March International Day of Forests

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012. The Day celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns. The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. The theme for 2017 is Forests and Energy.

Special event at FAO



Related links

- Collaborative Partnership on Forests





Regional Briefing - Purpose

Global Plan of Action on forest genetic resources

- Provide an update concerning the implementation strategy of the Global Plan of Action;
- Discuss and clarify reporting requirements and a schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;
- Gather comments for the finalization of a questionnaire for preparing Country Progress Reports; and
- Share experiences on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in different countries

Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

- Ideas for improving the reporting process etc





Regional Briefing - Agenda

Introduction

- Global Plan of Action on forest genetic resources
- 4th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources
- 16th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Monitoring schedule

- Questions and clarifications

Targets, indicators and verifiers

- Questions and clarifications

Coffee/tea break (11:00 – 11:30)





Regional Briefing: Agenda

Preparation of Country Progress Reports: a questionnaire

- Glossary of terms
- Questions and clarifications

Lunch break (12:30 – 14:00)

Preparation of Country Progress Reports: a questionnaire

- Continued

Coffee/tea break (16:00 – 16:30)

Wrap-up and recommendations





Background

Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

- Established in 1983, 178 member countries and the EU
- In 1995, the FAO conference broadened the Commission's mandate to cover all components of biodiversity relevant for food and agriculture





Background

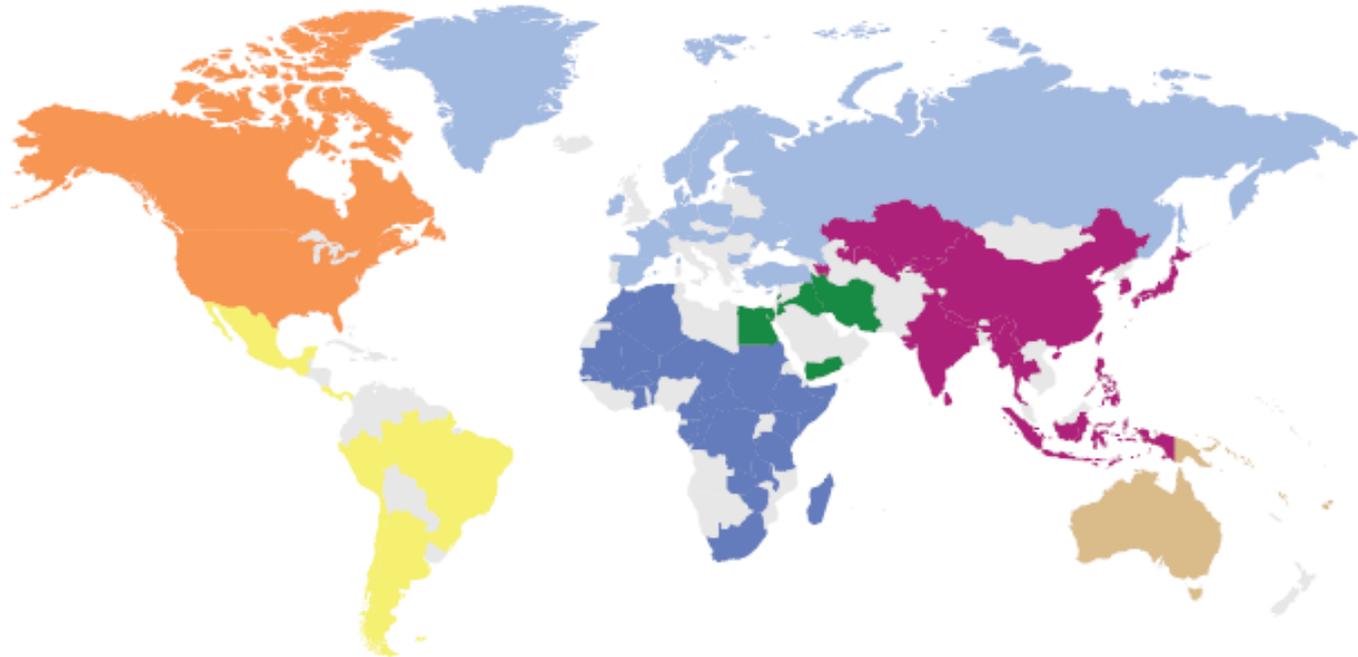
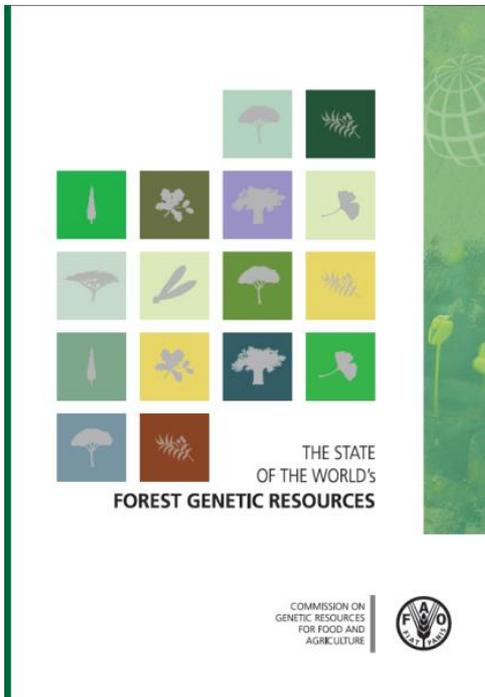
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

- 11th Session of the CGRFA (2007) requested FAO to initiate the process for preparing the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*
- The Intergovernmental Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR) was established in 2009 (28 countries)
- The Asia region is currently represented by: China, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam
- 5th Session of the ITWG-FGR, Rome, May 2018 (tbc)





The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources





The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

Forest genetic resources are the heritable materials maintained within and among trees and other woody plant species that are of actual or potential economic, environmental, scientific or societal value.

When forest genetic resources are well-managed, forests can provide important benefits



Better protection of
ecosystems and landscapes



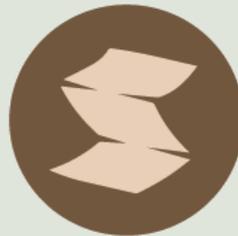
Better food
from trees



Improved
medicinal plants



Timber, rattan
and bamboo



Better cellulose for paper
and artificial fibres



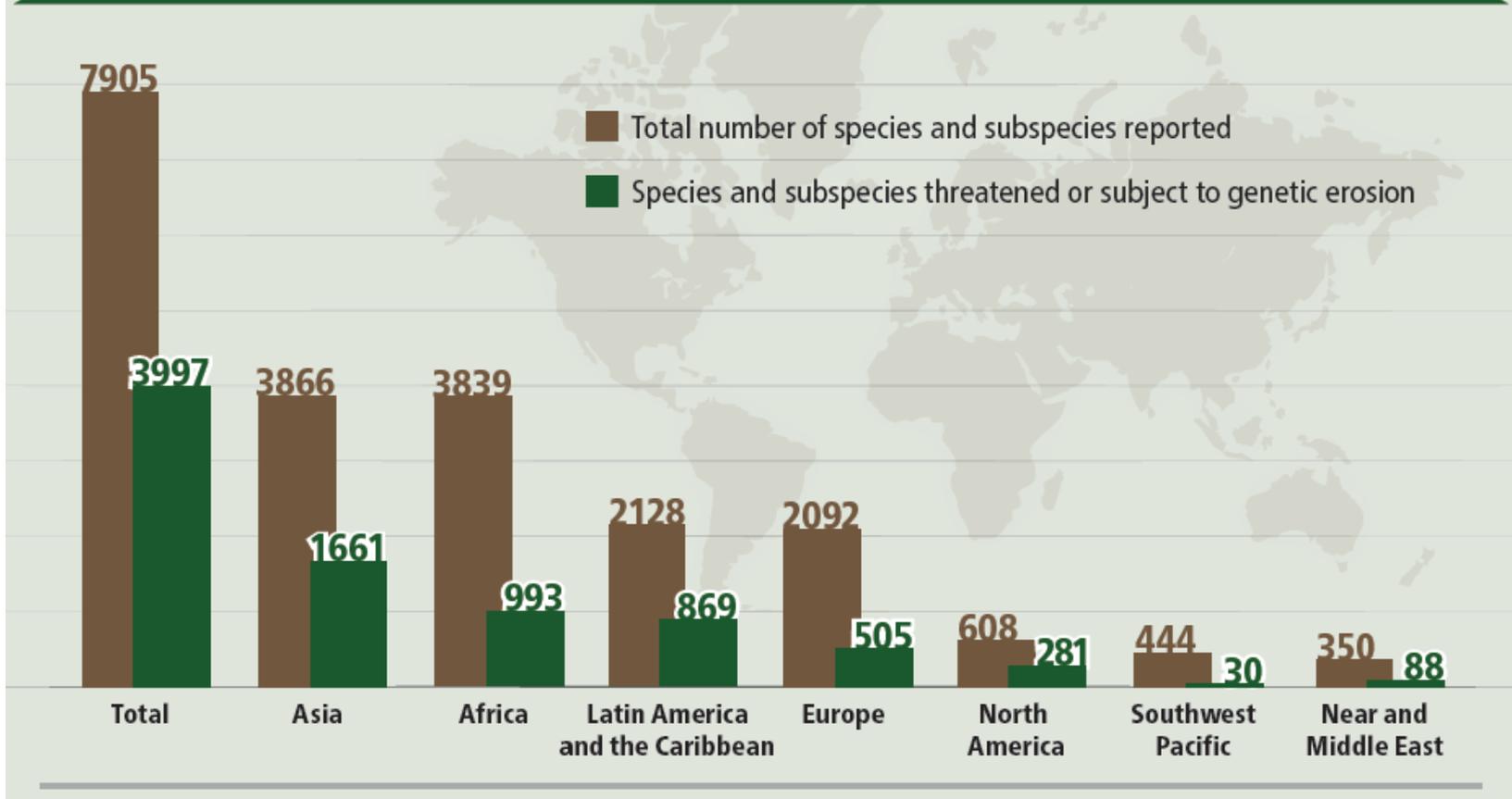
Healthy evolution of trees and
forests and adaptation to changes





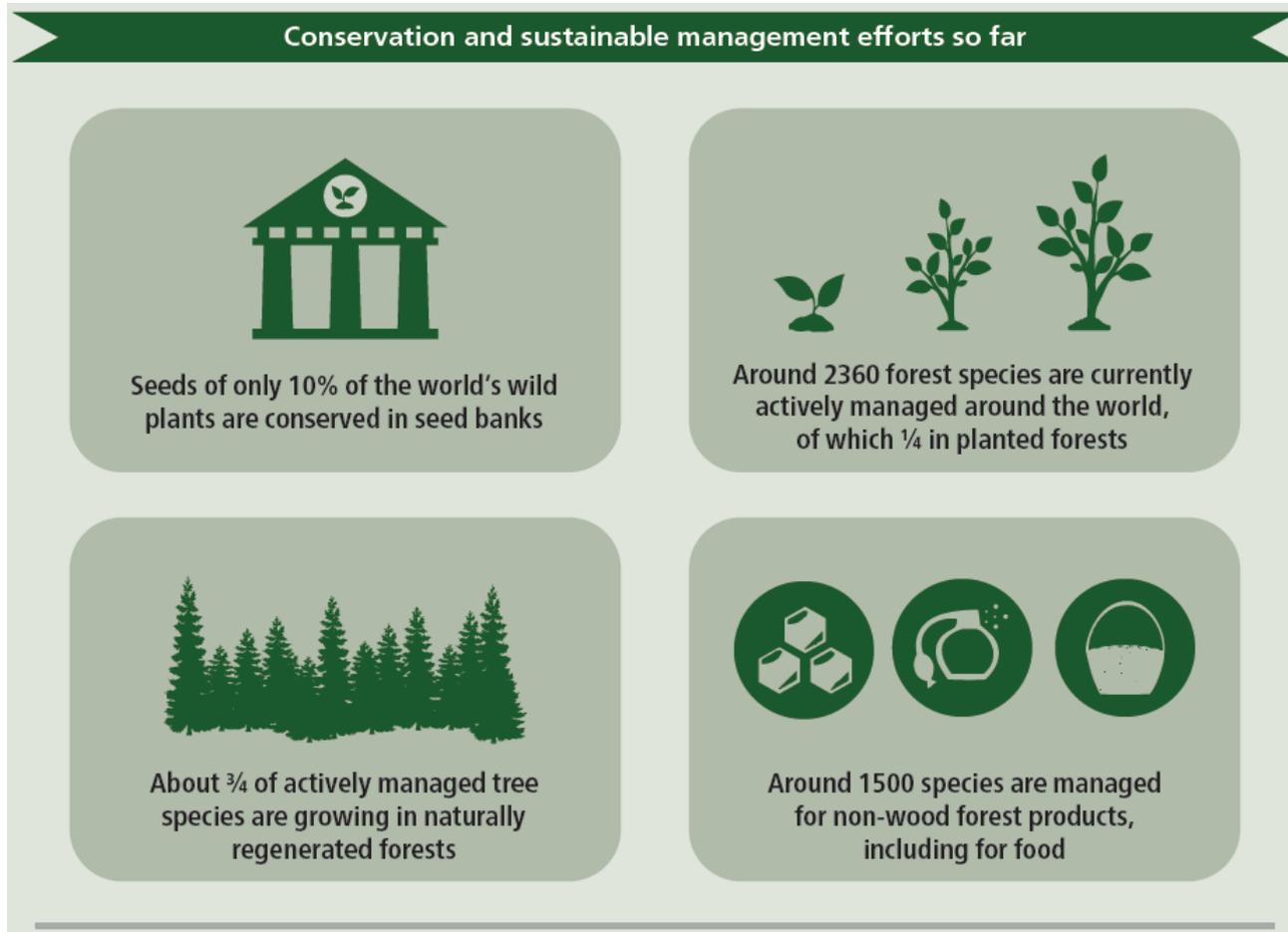
The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

Half of the forest species reported by countries are threatened or subject to genetic erosion





The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources





The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources

Urgent action is needed

- Improved availability of and access to information
- In situ* and *ex situ* conservation
- Sustainable use, development and management of forest genetic resources
- Better policies, institutions and capacity building

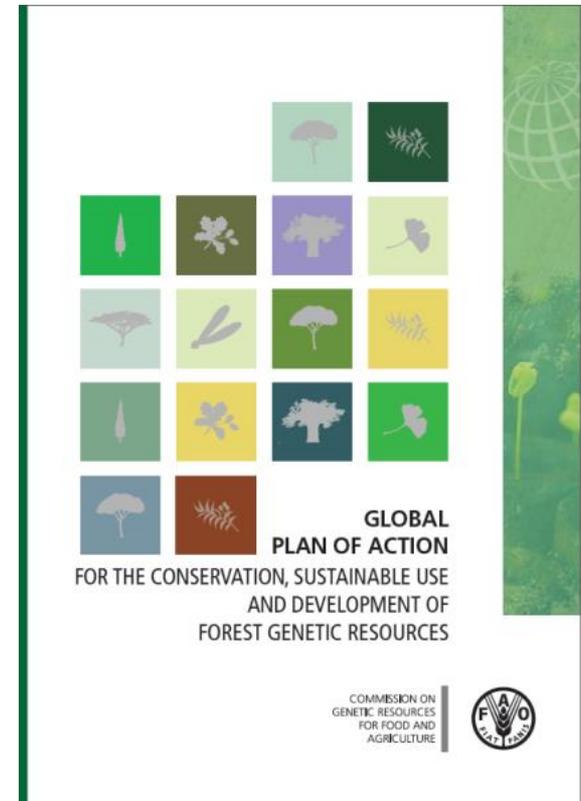




Global Plan of Action on FGR

Background

- Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (ITWG-FGR) drafted strategic priorities for action (2012)
- Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-14) revised the draft strategic priorities and agreed on them as the Global Plan of Action (2013)
- Adopted by the FAO Conference in June 2013
- ITWG-FGR discussed a draft strategy for the implementation of the GPA-FGR (2014)
- CGRFA-15 adopted the implementation strategy (2015)





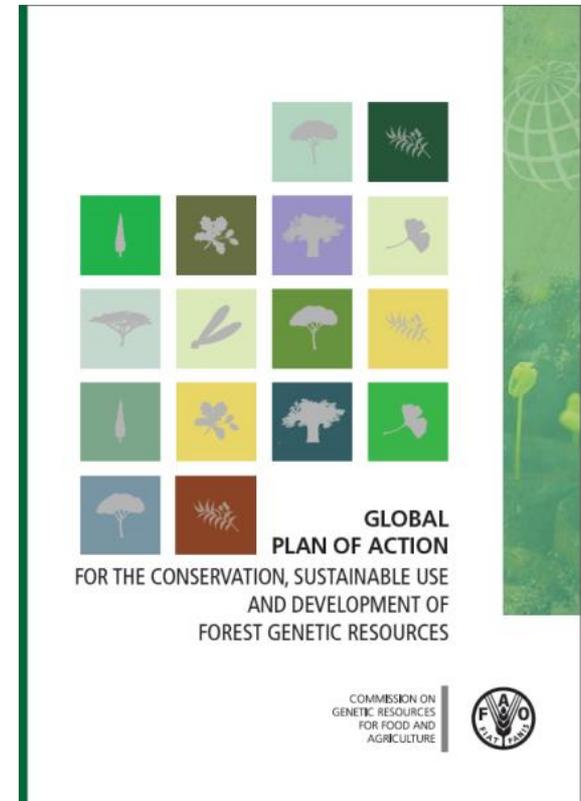
Global Plan of Action on FGR

Four priority areas – 27 strategic priorities

- 1) Improving the availability of, and access to, information on FGR
- 2) Conservation of FGR (*in situ* and *ex situ*)
- 3) Sustainable use, development and management of FGR
- 4) Policies, institutions and capacity-building

Strategic priorities

- National level (18)
- Regional Level (3)
- International level (6)



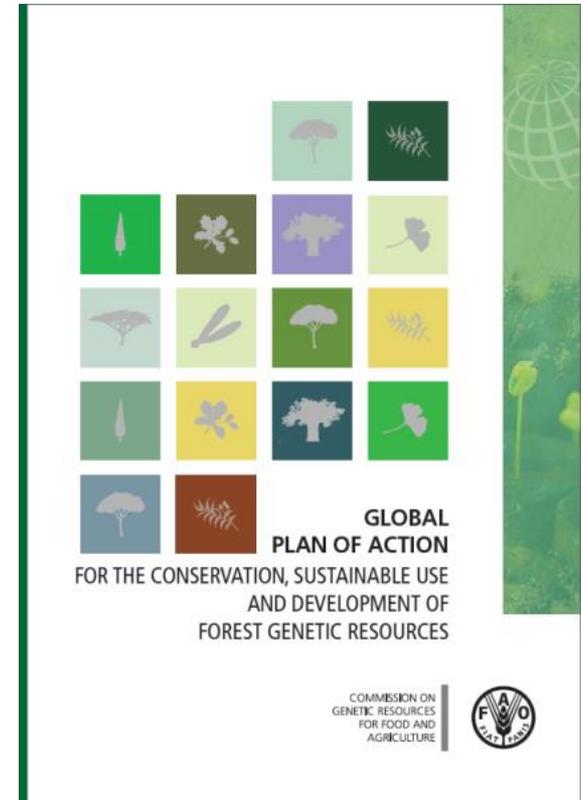


Global Plan of Action on FGR

GPA-FGR is voluntary and non-binding, it should be implemented in line with existing national legislation and international agreements.

GPA-FGR constitutes a rolling document that can be updated by the CGRFA.

The relative priority of each strategic priority may differ significantly in different countries and regions.





Global Plan of Action on FGR

Implementation strategy

1. Advocacy and international awareness
2. Development and support of relevant global and regional networks
3. Supporting countries in the development of national and regional strategies for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action
4. Supporting countries in securing adequate and sustainable funding for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action
5. Development of international technical standards for forest genetic resources
6. Funding strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action
7. Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action





Global Plan of Action on FGR

Regional networks and the implementation of the GPA-FGR



- EUFORGEN Steering Committee, Edinburgh, UK, 16-18 June 2014
- APFORGEN workshop, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17-19 Sep 2014
- LAFORGEN workshop, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 13-17 Oct 2014
- SAFORGEN workshop, Douala, Cameroon, 12-14 April 2016





Global Plan of Action on FGR

Supporting countries in implementing the GPA-FGR

- FAO has provided, based on requests received from its Member countries, financial support for field projects that focus, or include a component, on forest genetic resources through its decentralized Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP).
- TCP projects are developed and implemented by the FAO Country and Regional Offices, and they typically last two years with a budget ranging from USD 200,000 to USD 500,000.
 - Recently, a TCP project was launched in Burundi to strengthen the national tree seed programme.





Global Plan of Action on FGR

Funding strategy

- Options and modalities have been explored for a funding strategy.
- Lessons learnt from the existing funding strategies for AnGR and PGR.
- FAO is also considering various existing forest-related funding mechanisms and institutions that take a more holistic view in supporting the development of the forest sector (e.g. Global Environmental Facility, regional development banks).
- Furthermore, FAO is investigating emerging and new funding instruments that could support countries' efforts to strengthen the management of their forest genetic resources (e.g. Green Climate Fund).
- The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network, established by the United Nations Forum on Forest in 2015, provides a readily available platform for countries to mobilize financial resources for implementing sustainable forest management.





Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

**4th Session of the Intergovernmental
Technical Working Group on
Forest Genetic Resources
(May 2016)
&
16th Regular Session of the Commission on
Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture
(Feb 2017)**

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ITWG-FGR-4 agenda

Follow-up to the Global Plan of Action on FGR

- Implementation of the Global Plan of Action
- Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources
- Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action
- Development of national strategies and action plans for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources

Access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources

Review of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work





CGRFA-16 agenda

Relevant topics for this meeting

- Forest genetic resources
- *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*
- Access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work





CGRFA-16: Forest genetic resources

- Called upon countries to continue implementing the Global Plan of Action to contribute to sustainable forest management, the 2030 Agenda and other relevant international commitments on forests, including the Cancun Declaration.
- Encouraged countries to support, as appropriate, the regional networks on forest genetic resources and contribute to the activities of these networks, to strengthen regional collaboration on forest genetic resources.
- Recommended that countries also pay attention to the regional networks on forest invasive species and encouraged the various networks to exchange information relevant to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.





CGRFA-16: Forest genetic resources

- Requested FAO to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in collaboration with the regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations, bodies and processes.
- Requested FAO to prepare draft voluntary guidelines for preparing a national strategy for forest genetic resources in line with the proposed outline and taking into account existing guidelines for the preparation of national forest programmes and for the formulation of forest policy to avoid duplication of work.
- Requested FAO to continue pursuing extra-budgetary funds, developing the funding strategy to assist countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and encouraging donors to provide support.





CGRFA-16: Forest genetic resources

- Adopted the proposed targets, indicators and verifiers for forest genetic resources to be used as assessment tools to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.
- Also adopted the proposed schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.
- Requested FAO to prepare draft guidelines for the preparation of country progress reports and reporting guidelines for regional networks and international organizations.
- Also requested FAO to consult the Working Group and the NFPs, by electronic means, on the draft guidelines for the preparation of country progress reports prior to their finalization by 31 March 2017.





CGRFA-16: Forest genetic resources

- Requested FAO to pursue extra-budgetary funds to support developing countries, in particular least-developed countries, in the preparation of country progress reports.
- Also requested FAO to invite regional networks on forest genetic resources and relevant international organizations to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.
- Requested FAO to collaborate with other relevant assessments and data providers in monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.





CGRFA-16: SoW-BFA

- Considered a draft report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.
- Invited countries that have not yet done so to submit their reports by 30 June 2017.
- Requested the Secretariat to make the revised draft report and a draft in-brief version available by 1 March 2018 and to invite Members and observers to provide comments on them by 16 June 2018.
- Requested the Secretariat to finalize the report in the second half of 2018, taking into account comments received from Members and observers, and prepare and publish an in-brief version of the report in all UN languages.





CGRFA-16: SoW-BFA

- Considered the document *Biodiversity for food and agriculture – needs and possible actions*
- Requested the Secretariat to review and revise, as appropriate, the draft needs and possible actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture in the light of comments and suggestions received.
- Requested the Secretary to convene the NFPs nominated by the regions for a three-day meeting in June 2018, subject to the availability of funds, to review and revise draft needs and possible actions, and to submit these for consideration by CGRFA-17





CGRFA-16: Access and benefit-sharing

- Considered
 - Report of the Third Session of the Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing
 - Elaboration of subsector-specific elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Requested the Secretariat to continue working on ABS for GRFA, with a view to contributing to the achievement of SDG Targets 2.5 and 15.6, and to enable the subsectors to engage in a meaningful way and promote communication in relevant processes at local, national, regional, and international levels;
- Agreed to produce explanatory notes describing the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of GRFA.





CGRFA-16: Access and benefit-sharing

- Requested the Secretariat to convene, as soon as practicable after CGRFA-16 and in collaboration with the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD, an international workshop to assist countries to identify and raise awareness of distinctive features and specific practices of subsectors of GRFA.
- Requested the Secretariat to make the proceedings and outcomes of the international workshop available to the Commission, the Working Groups, the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources, and the ABS Expert Team, for their information and consideration.





CGRFA-16: Implementation of the MYPOW

- Established a new work stream on “digital sequence information on GRFA” and requested the Secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of the necessary resources, an exploratory fact-finding scoping study, including terminology used in this area, actors involved, and the types and extent of uses of this information, such as:
 - characterization,
 - breeding and genetic improvement,
 - conservation, and
 - identification of GRFA





CGRFA-16: Implementation of the MYPOW

- Requested the Secretary to submit a preliminary draft of the exploratory fact-finding scoping study to the Executive Secretary of the CBD, as a timely contribution to the process set by decision CBD COP XIII/16.
- Requested the Working Groups and the seven experts nominated for micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources to review and provide inputs to the draft exploratory fact-finding scoping study on “digital sequence information on GRFA” prior to its submission to the Commission for consideration at its next session.
- Requested the ABS Expert Team to provide comments on the exploratory fact-finding scoping study for consideration by the Commission at its Seventeenth Regular Session.





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Schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action on FGR

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Monitoring schedule

Preparatory steps	
2017	<p>CGRFA-16 considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• Targets and indicators for forest genetic resources;• Schedule for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.
March 2017	<p>Finalization of <i>Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Progress Reports</i> in consultation with Members of the Working Group and National Focal Points.</p> <p>Circulation of <i>Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Progress Reports / guidelines for progress reports</i> by regional networks and international organizations.</p>





Monitoring schedule

First Implementation Report	
December 2017	Deadline for the submission of First Country Progress Reports/ progress reports by regional networks and international organizations.
2018	ITWG-FGR-5 considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• Draft First Implementation Report, prepared on the basis of First Country Progress Reports and progress reports by regional networks and international organizations;• Preparation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (SoW-FGR-2)</i>;• <i>Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Reports</i> (combined reporting for Second Implementation Report and for SoW-FGR-2).
2019	CGRFA-17 considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• First Implementation Report, as reviewed by ITWG-FGR-5;• Preparation of the SoW-FGR-2;• <i>Draft Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Reports</i> (combined reporting for Second Implementation Report and for SoW-FGR-2).





Monitoring schedule

Second Implementation Report / Preparation of SoW-FGR-2	
June 2019	Circulation of Guidelines for the Preparation of Country Reports/ guidelines for progress reports by regional networks and international organizations.
2020	ITWG-FGR-6 considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• Status of preparation of the SoW-FGR-2;• Status of submission of progress reports by regional networks and international organizations.
June 2020	Deadline for the submission of Country Reports to the Second Implementation Report and the SoW-FGR-2. Deadline for the submission of progress reports by regional networks and international organizations.





Monitoring schedule

2021	<p>CGRFA-18 considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• Status of preparation of the Second Implementation Report and the SoW-FGR-2.
2022	<p>ITWG-FGR-7 considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• Draft Second Implementation Report;• Draft SoW-FGR-2.
2023	<p>CGRFA-19 considers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAO progress report;• Second Implementation Report, as reviewed by ITWG-FGR-7;• Draft SoW-FGR-2, as reviewed by ITWG-FGR-7.

