



8th WORLD FOREST WEEK

GROWING A BETTER PLANET

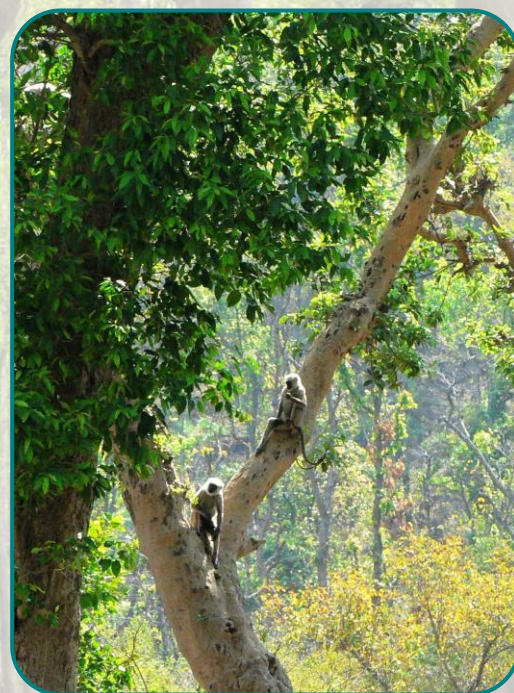
29 SEP-7 OCT 2022

Biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry

6 October 2022

08:15-09:45 AM

Forests are home to most of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. Yet, forests and their biodiversity continue to be lost at an alarming rate. Deforestation is the greatest driver of the loss of valuable plants and animals, with almost 8 million hectares of forest cleared every year, mainly for agricultural expansion. Other threats include over-harvesting of timber, invasive species, climate change, desertification and forest fires. The conservation of the world's biodiversity is utterly dependent on the way in which we interact with and use the world's forests. The critical importance of sustainable forest management in halting deforestation and forest degradation, and the associated decline in supply of ecosystem services, is well recognized. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity are embedded at every level of forest management.



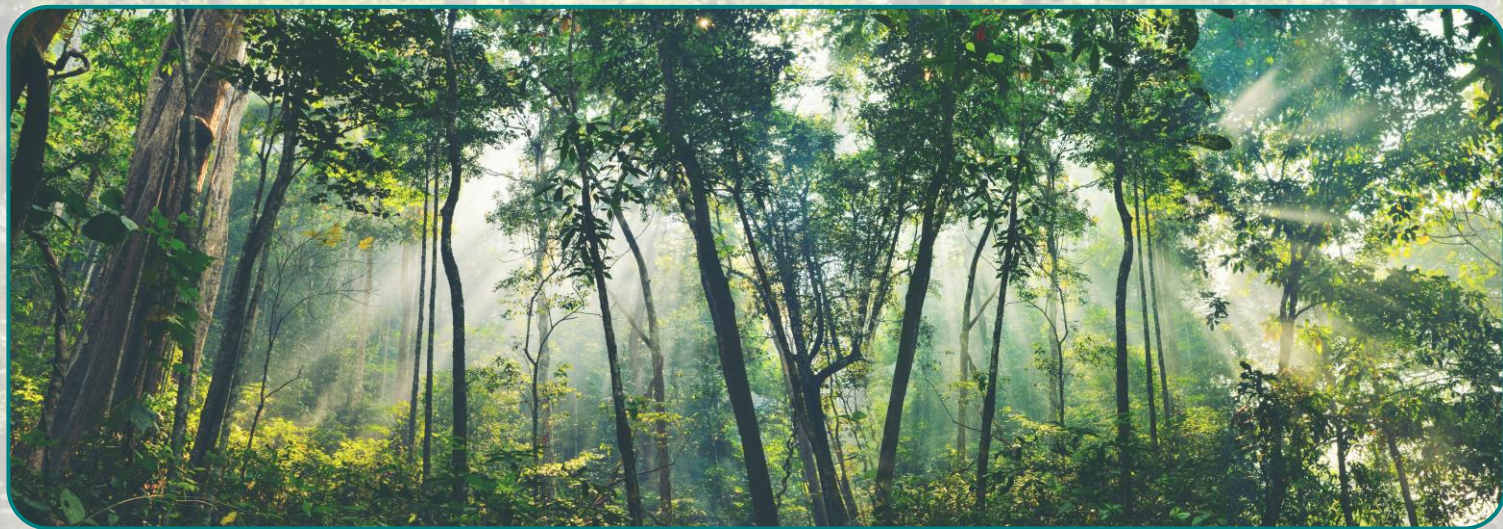
Background

The 25th Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO 25) in 2020 requested FAO to conduct a review of biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry and share good practices on solutions that balance conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, and report on progress made at COFO 26 in 2022. The Committee also invited Members to strengthen the mainstreaming of biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use in the forest sector, and requested FAO to strengthen forestry considerations in the work on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural

sectors. To address these requests, FAO, in partnership with CIFOR, conducted a review of biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry. The study aimed to: assess the state of mainstreaming biodiversity in the forest sector; take stock of existing concepts and tools for integrating biodiversity in forest management; review the range of policy instruments that, beyond legal protection, can enhance biodiversity conservation; and recommend actions to advance biodiversity mainstreaming in the forest sector.

Objectives of the session

- 1) Report on the key findings of the review on biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry as requested by COFO 25;
- 2) Launch the FAO Forestry Paper “Mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry; and
- 3) Discuss the way forward with member countries and partner organizations to validate and support the on-the-ground implementation of recommendations from the review.



Session programme

The Special Session will be moderated by Mr. Henry Bonsu, a distinguished journalist and broadcaster, and will feature opening remarks by Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, FAO and keynote address by Mr. Robert Nasi, Director General, CIFOR. FAO will present the key findings from the review of biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry conducted in partnership with CIFOR, which will be followed by panel discussions with country officials and representatives from CIFOR, the CBD Secretariat, and the International Model Forest Network.

Access to the session

The Special Session “Biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry” will be held on 6 October, 08:15-09:45 am CEST, in the Red Room at FAO-HQ. The event is organized as part of the [8th World Forest Week](#) at the margins of the [26th Session of the Committee on Forestry \(COFO26\)](#).

If you wish to participate in the session online, please register [here](#).

The publication

The FAO-CIFOR publication “Biodiversity mainstreaming in forestry” will be available for download from 6 October 2022 by clicking [here](#).