Forest Declaration Platform
Transforming commitments into action

Forest and Climate Resources for National and Local Governments

LAST UPDATED MARCH 2023

TOOLS, GUIDELINES, AND BEST PRACTICES

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- FACT Roadmap (2021) – Outlines four themes of forest governance (market development, smallholder support, traceability and transparency, and research, development, and innovation) and identifies actions for further discussion, development, and implementation.

- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Global Forest Goals Report (2021) – An evaluation of global progress towards the UN Strategic Plan for Forests that highlights best practices and policies some governments have followed to meet the UN's 6 forest goals.

- Improving Governance of Forest Tenure: A Practical Guide (2013) — A compilation of tools from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization to assist policymakers' understanding, organization, engagement, and accountability regarding forest resource tenure.

- Making Forest Concessions in the Tropics Work to Achieve the 2030 Agenda: Voluntary Guidelines (2018) – Guidelines from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization on how governments can ensure that public forest land concessions to companies, NGOs, local communities, etc., can lead to effective and sustainable forest management.

- Tools and Approaches for Addressing Issues Related to Forest Landscapes, Gender, and Poverty (2017) – A list compiled by PROFOR of 15 tools concerning forest governance's intersection with poverty and gender-based issues, with thorough and graspable explanations of each (including what exact government agency each concern).

  - Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, and 13 are especially relevant to the government's role; the others more generally concern research institutions and NGOs.

  - Tools 4, 6, 12, and 13 are particularly written for institutions and governments with no knowledge or very minor familiarity with gender concepts and gender analysis.
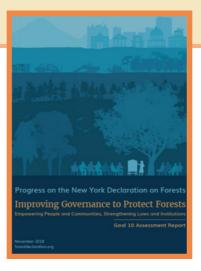
TOOLS, GUIDELINES, AND BEST PRACTICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- The State of Jurisdictional Sustainability: Synthesis for Practitioners and Policymakers (2018) – A multi-platform report synthesizing jurisdictional sustainability in 39 subnational tropical jurisdictions, assessing progress on core elements of jurisdictional sustainability, and exploring barriers to and opportunities for enhancing jurisdictional sustainability.

- WWF Guide to Building REDD+ Strategies (2013) – Guidance on reducing carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) that explains (among guidance for national governments) how sub-national entities can support national REDD+ policies.

- How Jurisdictional Approaches Work (2020) – A series of charts on the theory of change for jurisdictional approaches explaining different stakeholders' actions, dependencies, and impacts needed to establish sustainable jurisdictional approaches.

- PROFOR's Poverty-Forests Linkages Toolkit (2017) – A framework, fieldwork methods, and analytic tools to understand and communicate the contribution of forests to rural incomes. Divided into two parts, it provides guidance at both national and local levels (see national government resources for an overview on part 1):

  - Part 2: The Field Manual: Aimed at gathering data, it offers guidance for local-level officials (along with NGOs) on how to conduct research, gather information, and understand forests' links to poverty alleviation at the village-level.

RELEVANT FOREST DECLARATION ASSESSMENT REPORTS

IMPROVING GOVERNANCE TO PROTECT FORESTS (2018)

Progress on the New York Declaration on Forests
Improving Governance to Protect Forests
Empowering People and Communities, Strengthening Laws and Institutions
Goal 10 Assessment Report
November 2018
forestdeclaration.org

NETWORKS, COALITIONS, AND PLATFORMS

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- United Nations Forum on Forests – A forum of all United Nations member states that promotes "the management, conservation, and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end".

- Forest, Agriculture, and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue – a 30-country dialogue that brings together the major producer and consumer countries of agricultural commodities.

- Global Environmental Facility (GEF) – Intergovernmental organization addressing environmental problems in global south countries. It has several forest-specific initiatives:

  - Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program – a program allocating large investments towards fragile biomes like the Amazon and Congo Basin.

  - Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program – brings 27 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America together to address deforestation with a system-wide approach by engaging stakeholders at the landscape level.

- Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) – a scientific institution that conducts research on forests and landscape management's challenges. Its extensive network includes both national governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

- Program on Forests (PROFOR) – A program supporting knowledge-sharing, innovation, and dialogue on forest policy and finance, with funding from the World Bank, 7 governments, and the European Union.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- Governor's Climate and Forest Task Force – A collaboration of 39 subnational entities "working to protect tropical forests, reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promote realistic pathways to forest-maintaining rural development".

- ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability – A global network of more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable and nature-based development. These governments range from region or province governments to city and town governments. Though primarily aimed toward urban areas, it includes some rural and suburban governments, too.

- Jurisdictional Exchange Network – An initiative from the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) mobilizing the TFA partner community to coordinate and align existing jurisdictional initiatives, support their engagement with the private sector, and showcase their progress.