

Global Sustainable Forest Management Network Program

(Background paper)

Global development faces serious challenges such as climate change, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, natural disasters, food security and worsening poverty, posing a serious threat to global sustainable development. To address these challenges, the international community have actively taken measures to promote achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The government of China proposed the Global Development Initiative in 2021 aiming to assist realization of the SDGs by enhancing international cooperation. All these efforts aim to encourage the international community to take concrete actions to strengthen international cooperation, achieve balanced and sustainable development, and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Forest, as the main body of terrestrial ecosystem and the eco-shelter and material basis of global sustainable development, help conserve water, bring in economic benefits, boost grain production and also serve as a carbon sink. Sustainable forest management is of importance not only for the safety of terrestrial ecosystems and human well-being, but also for the sustainable economic and social development.

After the concerted efforts of the international community over years, the global forest management has been greatly improved, deforestation has been initially contained, and forest restoration has been further enhanced. However, the trend of forest area reduction has not been initiatively reversed, and the multiple functions of forest ecosystems have not been fully played. Though greatly concerned by international community, global sustainable forest management is a difficult task which has a long way to go. The 26th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change adopted *the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use*, pledging to strengthen sustainable forest management, curb deforestation, accelerate forest restoration and reverse forest loss.

In order to promote sustainable forest management to contribute to global development, Chinese government proposed the establishment of Global Network for Sustainable Forest Management (GFN) at the High-Level Dialogue on Global Development held in June 2022, which is one of the 32 important outcomes of the Dialogue.

I. Purpose and Objectives

1. Purpose

By promoting global sustainable forest management, GFN aims to advance the Global Development Initiative, accelerate the implementation of the *United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, promote global green, low-carbon and sustainable development, and build a harmonious community between humans and nature.

2. Objectives

- i. To strengthen the global sustainable management of forests, promote forest protection and restoration, slow down the decline of forest area, reduce deforestation and forest degradation, protect biodiversity and address climate change;
- ii. To advocate the concept of synergy between protection and development, and coordination between people's livelihood and eco-conservation, improve the economic, social and ecological functions of forests, and serve the global green and low-carbon transition development;
- iii. To promote global forestry cooperation, increase demonstration and extension, promote synergy of forest policies, improve management capacity, and strengthen information sharing to achieve common development;
- iv. To support and promote new development models in forestry sector to increase forest quality and people's income, promote the coordinated

development between forestry and rural revitalization to improve people's livelihood.

II. Implementation

Demonstration projects: Carry out demonstration projects to showcase and promote good practices and development models;

Policy dialogue: Set up platforms and explore channels to conduct policy exchange and dialogues in comprehensive manner to promote policy synergy;

Capacity building: Carry out capacity building through programs such as scholarships, visiting scholars, training courses, and joint research;

Information sharing: Build exchange mechanisms to promote sharing of basic information, research results, policy dynamics, international trends, experience and best practices.

III. Target

GFN is open to all countries, especially members of the Group of Friends of the Global Development Initiative, and welcomes the participation of international institutions.

IV. Management

Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) is entrusted to operate GFN.

V. Financing

Chinese government will provide financial support for GFN. Meanwhile efforts will be made to seek financial support from other governments, enterprises, civil society groups, relevant UN agencies and international organizations.