

# THE STATE OF THE WORLD FORESTS

## 2018 REPORT BY FAO

The 2018 edition of *The State of the World's Forests* published by FAO, is aimed at enhancing the understanding of how forests and their sustainable management contribute to achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, the central framework for guiding development policies throughout the world.

The *State of the World's Forests* reports on the status of forests, recent major policy and institutional developments, and key issues concerning the forest sector. It makes current, reliable and policy-relevant information widely available to facilitate informed discussion and decision-making with regard to the world's forests.

In the Introduction of the Report, the FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva underlines that...*Seventy years ago, when FAO completed its first assessment of the world's forest resources, the major concern was whether there would be enough timber to supply global demand; now we recognize the greater global relevance of our forests and trees. For the first time, the State of the World's Forests 2018 provides an assessment of the contribution of forests and trees to our landscapes and livelihoods. We have greater evidence of how forests are critical to livelihoods, with a better understanding of the trade-offs and more exact confirmation that healthy and productive forests are essential to sustainable agriculture. And we have proof of the significance of forests and trees for the quality of water, for contributing to the energy needs of the future, and for designing sustainable, healthy cities...*

*Forest pathways to sustainable development will be fundamentally strengthened by legal frameworks that recognize and secure the rights of local communities and smallholders to access forests and trees, by fortifying an enabling environment and helping to incentivize private sector engagement in pro-sustainability activities. There is also great potential in transforming the informal sector, both for those who rely on it for their livelihoods and because it will also bring wider economic, social and environmental benefits.*

The Report presents eight case studies in countries across continents, describing how actions and landscape approaches that simultaneously address forests, agriculture, food, land use, and rural and national development have led to progress.



The *State of the World's Forests 2018*, available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, identifies the necessary actions that can be taken by governments, private sector and the informal forest sector to increase the contributions of forests and trees to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and to bring broader economic, social and environmental benefits.

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