

UNFF Major Group Children and Youth 2018-2022 Work Plan

1. The Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) is one of nine Major Groups represented in the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The United Nations (UN) system recognises that these groups represent key sectors of society; supporting Member States in the achievement of goals and objectives within each process.
2. MGCY within UNFF strive to represent the voice of children and youth around the world, and are represented by individuals 35 and younger. Across the broader UN system the MGCY is a dynamic international network of young people and organisations who seek to effect positive change in the world. We care about the future, the sustainability of our planet and the development of the people on it. We organise to advocate for, and create, a space for the voices of children and youth globally. We are changing the way the world works; at the UN and in our local communities. We are designing the future.
3. The UNFF MGCY 2018-2022 work plan will support the implementation of the [United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030](#) (UNSPF).
 - a. The UNFF MGCY work plan is the work plan of the MGCY representatives and representative organisations to the UNFF (UNFF MGCY).
 - b. The UNFF MGCY work plan exists to support the whole of UNFF Major Groups work plan, and guide youth in delivering meaningful and realistic outcomes and outputs to support the UNSPF and its Global Forest Goals.
 - c. UNFF MGCY welcomes collaboration with all UNFF Major Groups in delivering the activities detailed within this work plan.
 - d. UNFF MGCY will, from time to time, update this work plan as required.
4. This document serves as a global plan of action, detailed through a series of key activities, to be undertaken by the UNFF MGCY and its network over the period of 2018-2022. Success will require appropriate financial support.
 - a. These activities seek to increase stakeholder engagement on all levels, create an environment where we can reduce and halt deforestation and forest degradation, encourage reforestation, afforestation and restoration activities, and promote gender equality and diversity across forest-based industries.
5. Activities will primarily be undertaken through the [International Forestry Students' Association](#) (IFSA), the global MGCY focal point for the UNFF process, as the project lead, unless otherwise stated or later determined.
6. UNFF MGCY will demonstrate commitment to the delivery of the UNSPF, highlighted by the support youth can provide in ensuring the achievement of the [Global Forest Goals](#).

Vision

7. Young people around the world call for an awakening to the reality that youth are valuable partners and agents of change in efforts to deliver sustainable forest management, particularly in facilitating collective action, building capacity, and sharing the message with everyday people.

Scope of MGCY in UNFF

8. The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), as the primary representatives and global focal point for UNFF MGCY, actively consults with a broad and diverse range of stakeholders to be representative in youth contributions to the UNFF.
9. The key successes and contributions to the UNFF have included UNFF MGCY:
 - a. Crafting a youth vision for the future of forests at the [2015 Interlaken+10 youth workshop](#)
 - b. Conducting focus groups and surveys collating the UNFF MGCY position for the UNSPF vision and mission.
 - c. Participating in Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) member initiatives, for example:
 - i. Development of forest education content for the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS).
 - ii. Participation in the 2016 Organization Led-Initiative (OLI) on the development of global core set of forest indicators.
 - iii. Development of the "[Youth Uniting Sectors to Halt Deforestation](#)" youth program at the 2018 conference on '*Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action*'. 50 young people from different sectors received training on the landscape approach, gender in resource management, and contributed to the UNFF MGCY work plan.
 - iv. Co-sponsor of the UN ECOSOC Youth Forum 2018 breakout session for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (Life on Land), and moderator of the 'Interlinkages Between SDGs and Across Sustainable Development Frameworks' side event.

Reporting and Evaluation

10. As stated in paragraph 89 of Resolution A/RES70/1 (*Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*) adopted by the UN General Assembly on September 25 2015, actors are called upon to report on their contributions to the implementation of the Agenda 2030.
11. UNFF MGCY in collaboration with the broader UN MGCY constituency is in the process of onboarding Verdentum (<https://verdentum.org>), an online monitoring and evaluation tool. This will help streamline the process of reporting and evaluating all UN MGCY activities, including those detailed in this work plan.

12. The effectiveness and success of this work plan will be measured by response from stakeholders (other Major Groups, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and Member States) and the successful delivery of the activities.
13. UNFF MGCY will undertake annual reviews, to assess progress towards implementation of the work plan. A final review will be completed and tabled at the UNFF session in 2022.

1. Capacity Development: Understanding the Landscape Approach

Youth have been empowered as valuable partners and agents of change in efforts to halt deforestation and promote the delivery of sustainable forest management. Youth must ensure that:

- there is diverse representation of youth in these global policy processes and technical discussions
- we are equipped to deliver coherent and meaningful messages, which add value to the discussion and decision making to deliver tangible and measurable outcomes.
- our perspectives and considered positions are included in local, regional and global dialogue, with the recognition that forestry and landscape management timeframes take place over many years and will more greatly impact younger and future generations.

IFSA, with the support of its partner organisations, will conduct pre-conference training workshops to build the skills of youth delegates and equip them with new knowledge and perspectives to enrich their experience and to enable young people to meaningfully contribute to the discussions. UNFF MGCY recognises the critical role that indigenous and local knowledge, women and youth play in sustainable forest and landscape management. UNFF MGCY wants to contribute to the effort of having policy-literate young people who are able to fully engage with policy makers while also connecting with their broader networks and sharing conference messages with those outside policy fora.

With these themes in mind, UNFF MGCY will conduct youth capacity development workshops, to redesign forestry, and ensure these elements are adequately considered in policy discussions, technical dialogues, and decision making. This includes equipping participants with the skills to contribute constructively, support proceedings (rapporteur, moderation, etc), write with policy language, and actively network.

Objectives:

- Educate youth (18-35) on key challenges and opportunities in the margins of major regional and global conferences through workshops.
- Highlight the challenges facing indigenous communities and showcase the opportunities they provide to support the delivery of sustainable forest management.
- Showcase the benefits of engaging women in forests and forestry at all levels, and encourage youth advocacy.
- Educate participants on constructive contributions to policy discussions, technical dialogue, and decision making.
- Equip youth with necessary skills to be panel members, panel moderators, and conference speakers.
- Help youth participants reflect upon their conference experiences.
- Encourage long-term actions and outcomes from conferences.

Interlinkages:

This program links to Global Forest Goals 1, 2 and 3. Further, it supports delivery of the SDGs, particularly SDG17.

Potential partners:

IFSA partners, the Youth in Landscapes Initiative, other Major Groups, and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Workshops are conducted throughout the year in every region of the world. UNFF MGCY will provide the list of upcoming events and training upon request.

Resources:

Component	Description	Cost
Workshop content development	<p>A series of basic workshop structures will be developed, allowing for simplified rollout at each event.</p> <p>This will include workshop toolkits comprised of structure, content and digital support materials.</p>	In-kind (IFSA)
Workshop support content	<p>Materials will be created to support advertising and maximise uptake of the activities. Materials will also be used as workshop devices to create an immersive experience.</p> <p>These materials will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Videos in English - Flyers in English <p>Costs will include design, production, content development and testing, and translation where required. Printing costs are separate.</p>	<p>Video resources – USD10,000</p> <p>Flyers - USD1,000</p>
Conducting workshops	<p>Workshop moderators will travel to the conferences to conduct the workshops.</p> <p>Moderators will arrange for the printing of materials, and provision of stationery for the events.</p>	<p>Transportation and per diem: up to USD500 per event per moderator</p> <p>Workshop materials: upto USD1,500 per 50 person event</p> <p>Venue hire: variable</p>

Participation of underrepresented groups	UNFF MGCY remains committed to inclusivity and ensuring representation in training workshops. We seek to educate and change behavior in all areas, and this requires engaging broader representation. These participants can include but are not limited to: indigenous youth, rural youth, participants from developing countries, and emerging entrepreneurs.	Transportation and per diem: USD10,000 per event
--	---	--

Additional resources will also be required to support participation in these events. On a per event basis, we will work with participants, conference organisers and potential donors to determine the costs of participation and seek appropriate funding to maximise participation. This may include:

- Funding to support youth travel to events.
- Partial or full subsidisation of attendance costs.
- The provision of youth services to offset costs - this may include young sponsored participants providing secretariat services, assisting with conference organisation, and assisting organisers on the day.

2. YOUth ACTivation - Educating children, building capacity in youth

University students educating primary students on forests and forestry. Using global networks of university students (e.g. IFSA Local Committees), UNFF MGCY will deliver localised messages to educate young primary school students on the benefits of forests and forestry locally and globally.

University students and young professionals will be taught the fundamentals of communication and provided with workshop toolkits. Youth will be empowered as 'Forest Ambassadors' by equipping them with the soft skills to become the future leaders of the forests sector, while sharing the values of forestry with the broader community.

This scheme will encourage discussions within families, bridge the divide between environmentalism and production forestry, and create a social licence for sustainable forestry.

Objectives:

- Help children, students and young professionals understand the benefits of forests and sustainable forestry.
- Deliver capacity building and training for students and young professionals.
- Promote Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and the benefits of using wood products.
- Kick-start consumer-side discussion of sustainable supply chains for forest products.
- Promote cross-sectoral learning and collaboration (agriculture, geography, etc).
- Foster greater collaboration of IFSA local committees through collaborative development of country-specific programs.
- Encourage engagement with governments to tailor programs for country-specific needs, support the achievement of mutual goals and meet funding requirements.
- Deliver grassroots action.

Interlinkages:

The UNFF MGCY educational program links to Global Forest Goals 1, 2 and 3 by equipping people under 35 with the knowledge and skills to play a meaningful role in their delivery. This also directly supports youth contributions to the following SDGs:

- SDG15 (Life on Land) - as the key point of intersection between the UNFF and the UNSPF, and the SDGs.
- SDG4 (Quality Education) - to ensure quality education adequately includes forestry, environmental science and sustainable development, and continues to adapt;
- SDG5 (Gender Equality) - to ensure childhood and early career learning highlights importance of equal opportunity as a means to deliver sustainable outcomes.

Potential partners:

UNFF MGCY will seek to engage with external partners including the Youth in Landscapes Initiative, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), IFSA's partners, other Major Groups, and individual governments.

Timeframe:

May 2019 – Develop a workshop toolkit to educate primary school students.

December 2019 – Pilot implementation of the workshops.

2020 (Ongoing) – Full implementation of the workshops.

Resources:

Component	Description	Cost
Workshop content development	<p>A basic workshop structure will be developed for the program, which is then customised on a per-country/region basis.</p> <p>This will include a workshop toolkit and guidelines comprised of structure, content and digital support materials. The content will be adaptable for each region.</p>	In-kind (IFSA)
Workshop support content	<p>Materials will be created to support advertising and maximise uptake of the program. Materials will also be used as workshop devices to create an immersive experience for participants.</p> <p>These materials will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Videos in five languages - Flyers in English (initially) - Other printed articles <p>Costs will include design, production, content development and testing, and translation. Printing costs are separate.</p>	<p>Video resources: USD30,000</p> <p>Flyers and other printed articles: USD5,000</p> <p>Note: translation to be done in-kind.</p>
Conducting workshops	The Forest Ambassadors will travel to local schools to conduct the workshops.	<p>Transportation and per diem: USD100 per facilitator per workshop</p> <p>Printed materials: USD25 per 25 student workshop</p>

3. Young innovators initiative

Youth are innovators and agents for change. The success of the UNSPF and achievement of the Global Forest Goals hinges on doing things differently. This includes assessing the status quo and the underlying reasons why things have not been working as planned in the past. We must take this knowledge and move forward by implementing solutions for present and future challenges. Young people can make huge contributions to fostering these innovative solutions and be drivers of change. In order to be able to use the potential among young people they need to be equipped with the trust, resources and freedom to approach the challenges, and opportunities, from a different angle.

UNFF MGCY wants to provide young people with a platform that will cater to these conditions, affording young people the opportunity to explore new ways of tackling complex challenges. Iteration and feedback loops are a crucial part of developing new and innovative ideas. While some might regard iteration loops as failures, young people see them as an opportunity to test, learn from errors and build powerful solutions with a strong focus on the needs of the people on the ground. The young innovators initiative aims to bring together not only young people—providing them with the means to explore their ideas—but it also seeks to bring experienced professionals to the table, so they can be mentors and contribute their extensive knowledge and experience to maximise the chances for success.

UNFF MGCY will work with standout individuals and groups, identified through its other activities, to help them further develop concepts and launch their own projects or initiatives. These projects and initiatives will be subject to a selection process based on set of well-defined criteria. These criteria are established by IFSA to ensure this process is both effective and transparent for everyone involved.

Objectives:

- Equip youth with the skills to turn ideas into tangible project proposals.
- Foster innovation both in young people, and within spaces for policy and technical dialogue.
- Identify innovative solutions for accelerating progress to achieve the Global Forest Goals.
- Build a culture of constructive criticism in which new approaches to complex problems can be tested and thrive without the constraints of bureaucracy.
- Link youth with scientific and policy bodies to share knowledge and advice, as well as foster strong networks.

Interlinkages:

This initiative has the possibility of linking with all of the Global Forest Goals, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Potential Partners:

IFSA partners, Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Resources:

As innovative ideas cannot be predicted, there is no set budget for this activity. To support aspirational goals and facilitate space in which such ideas can grow, UNFF MGCY will seek to establish a seed fund within the IFSA budget. As a baseline this fund should have a volume of USD50,000. This money is to be used as seed capital to support ideas, get them off the ground, and then learn how to improve and iterate the idea while already demonstrating an impact.

On an as-needed basis, where project proposals demonstrate merit, UNFF MGCY will seek out additional support from financial donors. UNFF MGCY will also reach out to scientific, policy and business/entrepreneurial experts to share knowledge and advice which could support the success of projects and/or complete existing works.

4. Social media campaigns and toolkits

Major Groups are acknowledged for their role in interacting with the UNFF and supporting key sectors of society, particularly within the UNSPF. Communication and outreach is a key area where children and youth can make an impact by leveraging our networks and scaling up. Youth, as digital natives, are seen as agents of change who can support smart and innovative use of new communication mediums to improve the reach of UNSPF messaging.

UNFF MGCY will seek to maintain forest-related dialogue across social media challenges long after each annual International Day of Forests. Through the development of social media toolkits, UNFF MGCY will work with other Major Groups and partners to disseminate social media campaigns aimed at reaching broader civil society. Key areas of interest may include:

- Sustainable forest management
- Sustainable supply chains for forest products
- Forest products innovation
- Youth contributions to sustainable development
- Forest and landscape education
- Contributions of forests to healthy cities, healthy landscapes and healthy people
- Intersections between the UNSPF and other global agreements and processes (i.e. the SDGs, Paris Agreement)
- UNFF MGCY, MGCY and partner projects.

Objectives:

- Utilise the skills of youth, as digital natives, to support smart and innovative use of new communications mediums to improve the reach of messaging for the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030.
- Improve reach and engagement of youth on forests and forestry-related matters across social media platforms.
- Build greater online audience engagement to promote and celebrate the annual International Day of Forests.
- Create greater awareness of the value and contributions of forests and forestry.
- Promote parallel initiatives of the UNFF MGCY work plan.

Interlinkages:

This work links with all of the Global Forest Goals.

Potential Partners:

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, Major Groups, Collaborative Partnership on Forests Communicators Network, and IFSA partners.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Resources:

All resourcing for the social media campaigns and toolkits is ad hoc, and therefore costed on a per event basis. Costs below are indicative only.

Component	Description	Cost
Graphic development	<p>To maximise the success of our major campaigns, UNFF MGCY will engage the services of professional graphic designers.</p> <p>These will include campaigns for events such as International Day of Forests.</p>	USD1,000 per event
Professional video content	<p>To maximise the success of our flagship campaigns, UNFF MGCY will develop professional video content.</p> <p>These will include campaigns for events such as International Day of Forests and fundraising/awareness campaigns.</p>	USD10,000 per event
Promoted posts	<p>Promoting posts (paid advertisement) will support increased reach of campaigns to maximise chances of success.</p> <p>UNFF MGCY will review opportunities for promoting posts based on available finances.</p>	USD200-2,000 per event
Strategy consultant	<p>For major campaigns, UNFF MGCY may seek the services of a social strategist to provide advice on target audience and means of engagement.</p> <p>This will improve the the chances of success of campaigns by improving reach and engagement.</p>	USD500 per event

5. Youth participation in regional and international policy dialogues

As the leaders of tomorrow, it remains important that we facilitate active youth participation in international dialogues. This includes, but is not limited to, the United Nations Forum on Forests, FAO regional meetings, and FAO Committee on Forestry. The attendance of children and youth at these events serves to:

Further, as stated in the Appendix 1, UNFF MGCY will seek to ensure adequate youth representation in conference panels around the world. This will include actively lobbying for all forest-related panels to have a panelist under 35 to provide innovative and progressive insight.

This links to Activity 1 of the UNFF MGCY work plan.

Objectives:

- Deliver youth engagement and avoid skills shortages.
- Educate youth on the process of policy dialogue.
- Expose youth to role models.
- Expand youth networks.
- Allow youth to contribute meaningfully to the discuss, and provide fresh new perspectives.
- Ensure youth perspectives, and forward-thinking insight, is included in dialogue.

Interlinkages:

This work links with all of the Global Forest Goals.

Potential Partners:

United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat, Major Groups, Collaborative Partnership on Forests Communicators Network, and IFSA partners.

Timeframe:

Ongoing

Resources:

IFSA, as the primary deliverer of this initiative, will reach out to individual event coordinators to identify ways to ensure youth engagement. This may include:

- Funding to support youth travel to events.
- Partial or full subsidisation of attendance costs.
- The provision of youth services to offset costs - this may include young sponsored participants providing secretariat services, assisting with conference organisation, and assisting organisers on the day.

6. Strengthening Education - Enhancing Forest Education Worldwide

To ensure that the leaders and practitioners of 2030 are able to sustainably manage terrestrial ecosystems, it is imperative that we evaluate and address gaps in the educational experience of today. Youth are done a disservice when forestry curricula remain stagnant and slow-moving in the midst of rapid global changes and evolving approaches to land management. UNFF MGCY, through IFSA, has developed several partnerships and programs to ensure that we fill the knowledge gaps of today's students while systematically analyzing competencies of graduates as well as curricula to improve forest education for tomorrow's students.

Objectives:

- To identify, compile and communicate the gaps and challenges in forest education.
- To conduct a 'Future of Work' global study on forest-related employment, with a focus on green jobs.
- To pilot and provide consultation of new educational tools, primarily through E-learning.
- To promote and facilitate education opportunities (formal, non-formal, traineeships).

Interlinkages:

These projects link to Global Forest Goals 1, 2 and 3, as well as SDG4 on Forest Education. This work is greatly underpinned by the work of the IFSA-IUFRO Joint Task Force on Forest Education.

Partners:

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), European Forest Institute (EFI), UN Food and Agriculture Organization, IFSA, CPF

Timeframe:

'Daring to Explore' Traineeship - to be launched in 2019

Future of Work - September 2021

Resources:

Component	Description	Cost
'Daring to Explore' Traineeship Program	To conduct a leading traineeship program centered on integrating youth into the exciting challenges and opportunities faced in either science-policy or science-community interactions. This program will consist of three calls annually and match-make motivated students with leading institutions to initiate the intergenerational collaboration needed to implement the UNSPF. Traineeships must	3-9 month programs, costs variable depending on length and location.

	<p>pass a criteria of providing challenge, ownership, and support to the trainee and will be conducted by the proposed IFSA-EFI-IUFRO Joint Project.</p>	
<p>Piloting, Promoting and Consulting Students</p>	<p>New tools and approaches are most effective when co-designed with their target audience and enable youth to recommend a pathway forward. This combined promotion and consultation allows organizations to tap into UNFF MGCY's broad network and co-design new tools through structured student consultations. IFSA will collaborate and design workshops to pilot tools or collate feedback from our global network. Key recommendations will be compiled at the end of the period and presented to ensure maximum uptake and increase effectiveness.</p>	<p>USD40,000 (6 months, inclusive global and regional consultations)</p>
<p>Global Forest Information Service - Education</p>	<p>In collaboration with the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) and the IFSA-IUFRO Joint Task Force on Forest Education an online education page and database was established, listing university programs worldwide which focus on forest issues. It is envisioned to continue developing to a more interactive tool, encompassing additional information on online education and research opportunities.</p>	<p>USD15,000</p>
<p>Future of Work - Increasing partnerships for the Global Study</p>	<p>The global study on employment in the forest and forest-related sectors with a special focus on "green jobs" will be conducted by the proposed IFSA-EFI-IUFRO joint collaboration. A literature review, global survey of forestry graduates, and interviews among employers is to be conducted. This project will rely on a wealth of knowledge derived from strong partnerships. This funding will focus on increasing partnerships with existing forest education research efforts and refining methodologies through a joint effort.</p>	<p>USD10,000</p>

Appendix 1: Youth Message to the UNFF13 from the Rome Co-Chairs Summary¹

Unlocking the potential of youth to halt deforestation

Though young people represent diverse stakeholder groups—rural and urban, formally educated and not, privileged and underprivileged—we share a vested interest in ensuring the sustainable use of global landscapes and are prepared to work across sectors and leap from aspiration to action.

Key Message: We call for an awakening to the reality that youth are valuable partners and agents of change in efforts to halt deforestation, particularly in facilitating collective action, building capacity, and sharing the message with everyday people.

As youth we:

- recognize that now is the time for young voices to be included in policy dialogue, technical discussions and decision making, at all levels. Our inclusion is critical to not only halting deforestation but moving forward the UNSPF and the 2030 Agenda.
- have demonstrated that we are not just a voice but deliver tangible outcomes as evidenced by the UNFF Major Group Children and Youth (MGCY) Work Plan 2018-2022.
- see diverse representation across gender, ethnicity and age as a basic requirement to achieving success; and will advocate for inclusion in conference panels and the ranks of decision makers.
- acknowledge the opportunity for us to grasp momentum and drive meaningful change, but stress that the MGCY Work Plan and broader youth efforts will be inhibited without financial and institutional support from government and business.
- are willing to take risks, move to implementation at scale and adapt to coming challenges.
- recognize that we cannot do this work alone and are prepared to spark an intergenerational effort alongside governments, businesses and civil society in support of the UNSPF and 2030 Agenda.

What do youth require to succeed?

- Urgency in the current situation - youth are prepared to lead the way.
- Youth representation in steering committees for events and workshop planning from the outset.
- Financial, institutional and vocal support for the MGCY Work Plan to deliver success by 2022.
- Project ownership and budget responsibility in our efforts to drive change.
- Adequate youth representation in conference panels around the world; we challenge all future forest-related panels to have someone under 35 to provide innovative and progressive insight.
- Organizations, businesses and governments to provide their young staff with leave and financial support to engage in events, workshops and other opportunities to advance our collective cause.
- Trust in our capability, intellect, and drive to succeed.

¹ This message reflects the outcome from a cross-sectoral youth session held 19 February 2018 at FAO HQ in partnership with the International Forestry Students' Association, Global Landscape Forum and CPF. This session, led by youth for youth, provided training on gender and the landscape approach as well as a consultation to develop the MGCY Work Plan for the UNSPF. 50 youth delegates took decisive action and developed a 5-day online 'short-course' communicating the key messages of the conference which reached more than 30,000 people.