**Title:** Broadening the evidence-base and narrowing data gaps through socioeconomic surveys in forestry

Assessing and enhancing socioeconomic contributions of forests and environmental resources are gaining relevance in the context of achieving SDGs, particularly those related to eliminating hunger and poverty, as also those focusing on economic growth, and life on land. However, the availability of reliable data on socioeconomic benefits from forests, especially at the national level, remains weak and it constrains evidence-based decision-making about the role of forests and trees in achieving the SDGs. The forestry modules in the FAO Forestry paper 179 (http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6206e.pdf) enables systematic measurement and multi-level comparisons of the socioeconomic contributions of forests and trees and linkages with landscape management. Adapted versions of these modules have been implemented at the national level in Turkey and Georgia, while customized version for application within the National Forest Inventory is currently being implemented in Bangladesh. This paper will share lessons from the experiences with the use of the forestry modules. It will also demonstrate how integrating the modules further in upcoming projects, including the Forest Monitoring and Assessment projects, LSMS-type surveys, agricultural censuses, and social safeguard assessments, can narrow data gaps on the relationship of forests, trees and other environmental resources with households’ livelihoods and welfare. The paper will show how better measurement of socioeconomic data on forestry can contribute to the assessment of the inter-linkages between the SDGs, in particular the links between SDG 15 and SDGs 1 and 2 as well as the Global Forest Goal 2 under the UN strategic plan for forests, 2017-2030. The paper will also explain how further refining the extended/additional modules could be useful in assessing vulnerability and forest-related adaptation strategies.