

Country: United States of America

Date of submission: December 23, 2014

Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Background

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum¹, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

¹ Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 _E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org, by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|---|
| C&I | Criteria and Indicators processes |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| FLEGT | Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade |
| FRA | FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment |
| GOF | Global Objectives on Forests |
| ITTO | International Tropical Timber Organization |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| NFP | National Forest Programme |
| ODA | Official Development Assistance |
| SIDS | Small Island Developing States |
| SFM | Sustainable forest management |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests |

General information

UNFF national focal point

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Name: | Rowena Watson |
| Title: | Foreign Affairs Officer |
| Address: | 2201 C Street NW, suite 2657 Washington, DC 20520 |
| Organization: | U.S. Department of State |
| Phone: | 202-647-2151 |
| Fax: | |
| Email: | WatsonRP@state.gov |

Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Name: | Aysha Ghadiali |
| Title: | Policy Analyst |
| Address: | One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005 |
| Organization: | US Forest Service |
| Phone: | 202-644-4625 |
| Fax: | 202-644-4603 |
| Email: | ajghadiali@fs.fed.us |

PART I:
Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,
including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

| | New | Amendment of existing |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Forest policy | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Forest legislation | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National forest programme | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest land tenure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other actions | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

On February 7, President Obama signed into law the Agricultural Act of 2014, better known as the 2014 Farm Bill (<http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/>). This five-year legislation allows U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to carry out its vital mission of serving rural America, creating jobs, and providing a safety net for Americans in need. The Agricultural Act contains a Forestry Title, which includes many authorities and provisions that will assist the U.S. Forest Service in accomplishing the agency mission, particularly in the areas where we have focused our highest priority work: ecological restoration, support to communities, and reducing the risk of wildfires.

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

| | Effective | Partially effective | Not effective | Not in place |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Forest policy | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest legislation | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NFP | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest land tenures | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other actions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The Forestry Title of the Agricultural Act of 2014 created new authorities for the Forest Service as well as extended some existing authorities. Among the provisions that pertain to the Forest Service, the Act includes an important provision for addressing insect and disease threats on National Forests and Grasslands. The Act also extended the authority for stewardship contracting, a tool to achieve land management goals while meeting local and rural community needs, including contributing to the sustainability of rural communities and providing a continuing source of local income and employment. (http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/Stewardship_Contracting/).

2. **Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?**

- New legislation
- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- None
- Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Domestically, law enforcement cooperation among federal, state and local entities has intensified efforts to combat forest-related crime including narcotics trafficking. Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) unit (<http://www.fs.fed.us/lei/>) cooperates with international efforts and has placed a detailee at INTERPOL's Washington National Central Bureau. Since 2012, LEI has also continued its capacity building activities on reducing international trafficking in illegally harvested forest products. The Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratory has also advanced technology in the past two years on portable wood identification tools to aid customs and border patrol professionals on the front lines of stopping international illegal timber shipments.

Recent efforts to enhance forest law enforcement and trade of legal forest products have focused on cooperative efforts to implement the amended Lacey Act (2008), which prohibits trade in wood and plant products taken in violation of domestic and international law. The United States is actively engaged in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade, which seeks to combat illegal logging and associated trade and promote legal trade. The United States also participates in cooperative efforts with China and Indonesia under bilateral MOUs on combating illegal logging and associated trade. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and U.S. Forest Service have engaged in forest law enforcement capacity building training and cooperation in several countries, including Brazil and Peru.

World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), with support and financing from USAID, launched the Forest Legality Alliance (<http://www.forestlegality.org/>), an international, multi-stakeholder initiative designed to achieve better forest governance and biodiversity conservation by reducing demand for illegally harvested forest products and increasing the capacity of supply chains to deliver legal wood and paper. The Alliance aims to educate and build capacity among forest product supply chains about emerging demand-side forest legality policies and new tools for increasing transparency and legality, provide forest product supply chain participants with practical, interactive, and freely accessible tools for exercising due care and keeping illegally harvested forest products out of the market.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supports programs to combat illegal wildlife trafficking through the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network and Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking (ARREST), with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and DOJ participating in law enforcement capacity building to combat wildlife trafficking. The US Government is also supporting the development of wildlife enforcement networks in Central America, Central Africa, and elsewhere, and participates in INTERPOL's Wildlife Crime Working Group and Project Leaf (Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests). In the last three years, USAID provided about \$76 million for Combating Wildlife Trafficking, and since 2007 has allocated around \$125 million to address this threat. Most of this investment supports community engagement and law enforcement monitoring for

anti-poaching in Africa, strengthening capacity and international coordination required to detect and stop wildlife crime in Asia, and reducing the demand for wildlife products that ultimately drives illicit trade

3. **Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?**

- Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- X Other, please list below:

Programs like the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (<http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/restoration/restoration.pdf>) and stewardship end result contracting are designed to benefit local communities and create jobs, while creating healthy forests and a robust forest industry. Watershed restoration and road decommissioning provide significant direct environmental benefits and employment. Restoring the health and resilience of America's forests also contribute to eco-tourism and recreation related industries. Healthy, resilient forests and grasslands attract outdoor recreation, with more than 170 million visitors per year to the National Forest System lands alone.

Have these steps resulted in:

- More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- X Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- X Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- Other, please list below:

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Programs such as Job Corps, Youth Conservation Corps and the Public Lands Corps provide job training opportunities and help graduates find jobs. Enrollees come from low-income communities, both urban and rural. In 2014, USDA and the Corporation for National and Community Service announced projects to provide job and training opportunities to veterans and youth. The projects will create opportunities for 300 youth and veterans who will serve through AmeriCorps and as part of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, working to restore and conserve natural and historic resources on National Forests and Grasslands in more than ten states.

4. **Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?**

- X Yes No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

In the United States, several federal agencies coordinate and work together to strengthen policies that may affect forests and SFM: U.S. Department of State, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Parks Service. These agencies coordinate to represent the United States in a number of multi-lateral processes and forest-related reporting efforts including with FAO, the ECE Timber Committee, UNFF, ITTO, UNFCCC, CITES and IUCN. The work of these agencies has increased awareness of the value of forests and their sustainable management in the U.S.

| | Effective | Partially effective | Not effective | Not in place |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Agriculture/Rural Development | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Climate Change | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Environment | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mining | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tourism | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

There are a number of efforts in the United States that promote cooperation across sectors, including interagency groups to facilitate cooperation among federal agencies, and groups that link federal agencies with state and local governments, private sector and NGOs. These include: the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (<http://www.sustainableforests.net/>); the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable (<http://sustainableangelands.org/>); the U.S. Global Climate Change Research Program and the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/initiatives/adaptation>).

5. Does your government’s national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?

Yes X No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The U.S. has pledged to restore 15 million hectares domestically by 2020 as part of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and ‘Bonn Challenge’, which has identified over two billion hectares of degraded land and lost forests globally. New analysis shows that restoring these lands would be worth an estimated US \$ 85 billion per year to national and global economies <http://www.ideastransformlandscapes.org/>.

6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:

 Afforestation ha
 Reforestation ha

X Restoration (Since 2011) 7.5 million ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- X Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- X Subsidies for forest protection
- Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- X Other, please list below:

While the United States does not face issues of deforestation, it is active in restoration efforts throughout the country. The U.S. has pledged to restore 15 million hectares domestically by 2020 as part of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and 'Bonn Challenge', which has identified over two billion hectares of degraded land and lost forests globally. New analysis shows that restoring these lands would be worth an estimated US \$ 85 billion per year to national and global economies <http://www.ideastransformlandscapes.org/>.

The total estimated number of acres of U.S. public and private forest lands restored or enhanced between 2011–2014 is 18,460,294 acres (7.5 million hectares). These numbers reflect the U.S. resiliency measure, which includes elements addressing hazardous fuels treatments, a State and Private Forestry component, and acres treated for invasive species and native pests on National Forest System and cooperative forest lands.

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The Forest Service implements programs that support sustainable forest management on private lands. For example, the Forest Stewardship Program assists private landowners with the development of comprehensive, multi-resource management plans that provide landowners with the information they need to manage their forests for a variety of products and services (<http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/fsp.shtml>). As of 2013, the Stewardship Mapping and Reporting Tool includes over 91,000 approved plans covering approximately 24 million acres (9.7 million hectares) of nonindustrial private forest land. In addition, the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) protects private forest lands from being converted to non-forest uses. The voluntary program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forest lands. FLP helps the States develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports acquisition of conservation easements, legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/aboutflp.shtml>).

7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?

- X Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- Other, please list below:

In 2012, the U.S. Forest Service issued a new National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule to guide the revision of land management plans on all U.S. National Forests and Grasslands. This rule was revised through an extensive process of public comment and revision, involving thousands of reviewers across the country and stakeholder workshops. It represents the most collaborative regulation effort in the agency's history. Implementation is guided by an advisory committee of NGOs, industry, recreation interests, tribal representatives, academia, state and local governments, user groups, and other public interests.

The U.S. Forest Service also currently has 23 Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program projects. The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. A Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program Advisory Committee evaluated proposals for projects and made recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture (<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/CFLRP/overview.shtml>).

As a requirement of the U.S. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), all local federal projects have public participation. In addition, since 2008 States have completed State Forest Action Plans, which by law include stakeholder engagement (<http://www.forestationplans.org/>).

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

| | Effective | Partially effective | Not effective | Not in place |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Private sector | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Forest workers | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local communities | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Indigenous communities | | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| NGOs | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| General Public | X | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The National Network of Forest Practitioners (NNFP) helps catalyze development of sustainable forest economies in rural America. By supporting member businesses and organizations in developing jobs in sustainable forestry and natural resources management, NNFP shifts the rural economy to more sustainable activities and helps focus resources on initiatives that maintain or enhance natural assets, build local ownership, and broaden economic prosperity (<http://www.nnfp.org/About/index.php>).

8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?

- Completely
- X Partially
- None
- Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Relevant laws include the Tribal Forest Protection Act (2004) which authorizes the Federal Government to enter into agreement or contract with tribal entities to do work on public lands to protect resources on adjacent tribal lands; the National Indian Forest Resources Management Act (1990) and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (1978, 1994) to protect and preserve the traditional religious rights and cultural practices of American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians. These rights include, but are not limited to, access of sacred sites, freedom to worship through

ceremonial and traditional rights and use and possession of objects considered sacred. The Act required policies of all governmental agencies to eliminate interference with the free exercise of Native religion, based on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and to accommodate access to and use of religious sites to the extent that the use is practicable and is not inconsistent with an agency's essential functions. The U.S. Forest Service Office of Tribal Relations (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/index.shtml>) provides oversight of agency programs and policy that may affect Tribes, encouraging and supporting respectful, supportive government-to-government relationships that strengthen external and internal coordination and communication about tribal concerns.

In addition to benefiting from adjacent public and/or private lands, many local communities and tribal governments own or manage forest lands for the social, cultural and economic benefit of their communities. The Northwest Forest Plan allows for the subsistence use, fire allowances, and recreational access of National Forest System land in the region. The Communities Committee of the Seventh American Forest Congress (<http://www.itcnet.org/>) works to advance local community well-being and the long-term sustainability of forested ecosystems including through increased stewardship and restoration of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity; participation by ethnically and socially diverse members of urban and rural communities in decision-making and sharing benefits of forests; innovative use of collaborative processes, tools, and technologies; and through recognition of the rights and responsibilities of diverse forest land owners. The Inter-Tribal Timber Council is a non-profit consortium dedicated to improving the management of natural resources of importance to Native American communities in the United States.

9. **Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?**

Yes No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- Other, please specify:

Please see information on forest stewardship contracting on page 4 of this report.

In President Obama's 2014 Climate Action Plan, public-private financing strategies play an important role. For example, restoring forests in the Lower Mississippi Delta with support from the Walton Family Foundation and the McKnight Foundation, and the Trust for Public Land will deliver outreach and technical assistance to private landowners interested in restoring carbon-rich bottomland forest to flood-prone agricultural lands in the Lower Mississippi Delta. This announcement puts the Trust on track to meet its target to achieve an additional 3,750 acres of Lower Mississippi private lands reforestation and permanently conserve 3,200 acres of bottomland forest over the next two years, leading to more than 2.1 million tons of CO2 sequestration and storage.

These strategies take into account:

- Domestic public funding
- Domestic private funding
- Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
- External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Gaps in information on forest sector research expenditures make it difficult to present an aggregate estimate for total forest-related research funding in the United States. While the forest research expenditures are available for the Forest Service and for accredited forestry schools, these figures do

not include expenditures on the part of State level forestry agencies, private sector investments, or the large amount of research activity devoted to understanding forests that occurs outside of institutions formally identified with forestry (university environmental studies programs, for example). In particular, researchers have increasingly focused on the role of forests within the broader ecosystem, and this has involved a growing number of disciplines and organizations in the consideration of forests and their role within landscapes and human society.

Sources: USDA Forest Service Budget Overview (<http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/budget-performance>). Funds expended by accredited forestry schools as reported to USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?

Yes No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- Watershed protection/water supply USD
- Carbon storage (including REDD+) USD
- Nature conservation USD
- Other, please list below: USD

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

While the United States does not currently have a national level market or mechanism for payment for ecosystem services (PES), there are state and local efforts, and a number of local opportunities are being explored. These include a variety of mechanisms, ranging from federal subsidies to generally support responsible forest management, to specific payments for targeted ecosystem services such as water purification/management and carbon sequestration. The categorization and measurement of these payments, however, remains imprecise and very incomplete. The following table was taken from the National Report on Sustainable Forests—2010, and lists certain types of payments for 2005-2007. An important point to note is that the types of payments do not translate into specific ecosystem services, and many of the payments fall under a general conservation category that is likely designed to protect a bundle of various ecosystem services. Also, the table only tallies major categories with associated data reporting mechanisms. Many of the specific arrangements that characterize PES, municipal payments for watershed protection, are likely not tallied here. As a result, the values presented here likely underrepresent total payments by a significant amount.

Table 27-1. Total payments for environmental services by source (in thousands of constant 2005 dollars).

| Payor | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Government payments | 378 | 381 | 366 |
| Wetland mitigation banks | 727 | 727 | 727 |
| Hunting leases and entrance fees | 405 | 405 | 410 |
| Conservation easements | 162 | 195 | 315 |
| Conservation banks | 34 | 34 | 34 |
| Wildlife viewing | 31 | 32 | 34 |
| Carbon offsets | 0.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| | 1,737 | 1,775 | 1,887 |

Table 27-1. Total payments for environmental services by source in 1000s of constant 2005\$

Source: USDA Forest Service. 2011. National Report on Sustainable Forests—2010

(<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/>).

Beyond the general payment categories identified in the table above. Water conservation and

purification projects in association with municipal water supplies are one of the most common forms of PES in the U.S. Since forests provide nearly two-thirds of the water in the continental U.S., innovative work with public and private partners - particularly near municipal watersheds - has been underway for many years. Partnership programs to protect municipal drinking water sources are spreading from Denver and Santa Fe, and are now being developed in other cities including staff. Analysis showing the value of proactive stewardship is being used to support investments in fuels reduction and watershed protection. For example, in California's Mokelumne watershed, it was found that proactive forest management can significantly modify fire behavior by reducing fire severity, size and rate of spread. Modelled treatments reduced the size of fires by 30 to 76%, or a total reduction in size of approximately 41%. Significantly, the economic benefits of modeled fuel treatments are two to three times the costs.

A related PES takes the form of municipal investments in trees and green space as a form of "green Infrastructure," which, in the case of water management, can substitute for investments in sewer and related water run-off systems. The additional ecosystem services supplied by green infrastructure are an added benefit, but projects are usually assessed in terms of their direct costs and benefits in water management. For example in Philadelphia City, (http://www.phillywatersheds.org/what_were_doing/documents_and_data/cso_long_term_control_plan). U.S. Forest Service analytical tools are being used to support green infrastructure investments. State and private collaboration has produced the free i-Tree software suite designed to quantify the benefits of trees and assists communities in gaining support and funding for the trees in parks, schoolyards and neighborhoods (<https://www.itreetools.org/>). Markets for forest-based carbon sequestration credits constitute an explicit PES, where payments are made for specific and discreet commodity units (e.g. tons of carbon sequestered). To date, such markets are not consistently applied across the U.S., but California has instated a cap-and-trade program that recognizes forest-based carbon credits (<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/capandtrade.htm>).

11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:

| | 2007 | 2013 |
|--|------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding | USD | USD |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+) | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> External private funding | USD | USD |

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

USAID Forestry Programs: Year 2008 USD113 million; Year 2009 USD109 million
 REDD+ (Sustainable Landscapes): Year 2010 USD 249 million; Year 2011 USD361 million; Year 2012 USD276 million

12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?

- Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to

SFM

X Other; please list below:

Co-financing and seed financing of public-private initiatives and public grants are important examples of how the U.S. encourages private sector investment in SFM.

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Technical and financial assistance (e.g., tax incentives, cost-share, rental payments, grants) to promote sustainable forest management on private forest lands are available through U.S. Department of Agriculture (<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/nre/nre.cfm#>), State and Private Forestry programs (<http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/>) and local governments. Other incentives include grants to promote use of various technologies such as the use of wood biomass to provide a renewable energy source suitable for heat and power in public and private buildings. US grants were awarded to small businesses, community groups and tribes to develop renewable energy projects.

The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020), (<http://www.usaid.gov/climate/tfa2020>), is a public-private partnership in which partners take voluntary actions, individually and in combination, to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with the sourcing of commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper and pulp. The Alliance does so by tackling the drivers of tropical deforestation using a range of market, policy, and communications approaches. It arose in 2012 from discussions between the U.S. Government and the Consumer Goods Forum, a network of more than 400 companies with annual sales topping \$3 trillion. TFA 2020 now has nearly 40 partners from private companies, national governments, and civil society and will soon be launching a global secretariat to scale up partnership efforts.

13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?

X Yes No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- X Government
- X Intergovernmental Organization
- X Private sector/philanthropy
- X NGOs
- X Others

Type of cooperation:

- X North-South
- South-South
- X Technical
- X Financial
- X Others, North-North

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- X Forests and climate change
- X Forest biodiversity
- x Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- X Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- X Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- X Scientific cooperation
- x Forest monitoring/data collection
- X Technology transfer and capacity development

Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

US Government international cooperation has several objectives specifically related to forests. These include: slowing the loss and degradation of remaining natural forest ecosystems; improving the sustainability of forest resource utilization across the broader production and supply chain; reforestation of degraded areas to serve production and livelihood needs, enhancing food security; maintaining ecosystem services; and improving conservation of natural forests. The United States is active in major multilateral and regional efforts, including the UNFF, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Tropical Timber Organization. The United States proposed the establishment of the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade in APEC, is currently the Facilitator for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and endorsed the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests. The United States invests in the range of \$250-300 million a year in forest-related foreign assistance and cooperation, largely through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Treasury, and the U.S. Department of State.

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

Due to the global economic recession in recent years, U.S. timber markets are still recovering from a downturn. It remains a challenge for private landowners, the majority of U.S. forested lands, to keep productive forests working forests. Thus, a trend toward fragmented lands in the U.S. poses obstacles for the practice of sustainable forest management.

In international cooperation, the United States continues to focus on, among other things, strengthening public participation, forest law enforcement and governance, and enabling environments for public and private investment. All of these are critical to advancing SFM and continue to be challenges in many countries and locations. Providing financial and technical assistance often requires that partner governments clearly identify natural resources and forests as priorities for development and international cooperation.

14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?

X Yes No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- X Forest inventory systems
- X Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- X Wood production for energy
- X Wood processing technology
- X Waste reduction and recycling
- X Other, please list below:

In an effort to support sustainable forestry, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase opportunities for rural America, the Department of Agriculture will launch the U.S. Tall Wood Building Competition to design and demonstrate high-rise building construction using innovative wood products. Selected teams of architects, engineers, and developers will receive funding to support incremental costs of pioneering wood construction techniques to address engineering and code variance needs. The private sector is also investing in wood products, the Binational Softwood Lumber Council and the Softwood Lumber Board projects that the softwood lumber industry will invest \$20 million over the next two years in programs that utilize wood as a lower carbon-footprint building

material.

Are these programs directed at:

- X Forest owners
- X Timber companies/forest products industry
- X State agencies
- X Local communities
- X Indigenous communities
- X NGOs
- X General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

Yes X No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The U.S. has public, private, and academic institutes, historic Land-Grant Universities, and centers engaged with the development and application of technological innovations for SFM. Translating science into a form that is usable by field and industry practitioners is among the responsibilities of Forest Service Research and Development who coordinates with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/forests.cfm>) to disseminate information to practitioners. Most notable is cutting edge work on wood products utilization, water quality and urban forestry, as well as state-of-the-art remote sensing, and forest inventory and analysis methods that are in demand globally (<http://www.fia.fs.fed.us/>). Recent research by the National Forest Products Laboratory on the environmental benefits of wood as a green building material provides incentives for private landowners to maintain forest land (<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/>). The Center for Wood Anatomy Research produces state-of-the-art information including computer-assisted identification tools (<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/research/centers/woodanatomy/index.php>). The National Agroforestry Center accelerates the application of agroforestry through a national network of partners through research, developing technologies, and coordinating demonstrations and trainings to natural resources professionals (<http://nac.unl.edu/>).

Extension services, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in the United States in 2014, help forest owners learn about the benefits of cultivating crops other than timber (http://www.nifa.usda.gov/newsroom/lqunews/ag_systems/mushrooms_ginseng_ginger.html). In addition, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/>) and Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry (<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/ipif/>) conduct research and provide technology transfer on the management, preservation, and restoration of tropical ecosystems and landscapes around the world.

The Forestry and Biodiversity Office (FAB) at USAID has been investing in the research of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) since 2012. Specifically, FAB supports work on forest wildlife ("bushmeat") hunting, marketing and consumption, forests and food security, analysis of the impacts of certification and forest landscapes across multiple functions.

The USAID-funded Global Development Lab and its Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program have increased activity and funding in the last two years and have specifically increased forest-related research partnerships between a developing country participant and a U.S. Government partner as well as providing funding opportunities for South-South research collaboration (<http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pqa/peer/index.htm>).

15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?

- X Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- X Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
- X Meetings with the general public
- X Art events/Exhibitions
- X Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
- X Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The United States has increased public awareness of the importance of forests through various methods and strategies over the past two years. For International Day of Forests 2014, the Department of Agriculture posted a blog piece on its website citing the importance of forests and its benefits for all citizens (<http://blogs.usda.gov/tag/international-day-of-forests/>). The U.S. Forest Service created a public service announcement with Hollywood actress Christina Hendricks (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YhVpLiSPH-Y>) on the importance of forests, data sharing, and international cooperation for the Montréal Process—a voluntary partnership of 12 countries.

In October 2014, the United States hosted the IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City. At the Congress, the U.S. built a Host Country Pavilion showcasing forest projects and programs throughout the country for the thousands of attendees. The Host Country Pavilion organized eight side events on a range of forest-related issues, over 45 different videos from all over the country, and countless informal conversations and networking opportunities for our guests. Thanks to a diverse U.S. stakeholder group, the Pavilion included forest research, programs, and products from the U.S. public, private, and academic sectors.

The year 2014 marked numerous important forest-related anniversaries in the United States creating a strong push for public awareness. The 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act (<http://wilderness50th.org/>), a landmark act of U.S. legislation which provided federal rules for protected areas, was celebrated throughout the year. Examples include events, activities, art exhibits at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC (<http://www.wilderness50th.org/smithsonian>), films such as *Untrammelled* http://missoulian.com/news/local/film-finds-generational-shift-in-wilderness-stewardship-missoula-to-host/article_4825a442-bdef-11e3-b9db-001a4bcf887a.html), and online content regarding the importance of protected areas for U.S. citizens on federal agencies' websites and You Tube pages. This year was also the 100th anniversary of extension forestry in the United States (<http://extension100years.net/>) with events to celebrate and highlight the importance of informal technical education and transfer in rural America, as well as a new advertising campaign for the 70th birthday of Smokey Bear (<http://www.adcouncil.org/News-Events/Press-Releases/Smokey-Bear-Celebrates-70th-Birthday-Awards-Smokey-Bear-Hugs-In-New-Wildfire-Prevention-PSAs>), the iconic mascot of forest fire prevention. Finally, the U.S. Forest Service and the Ad Council continued its efforts to reach Spanish speakers in the United States through its *Descubre El Bosque*, Discover the Forest, campaign (<http://www.descubreeelbosque.org/about/>) and Spanish language advertisements.

16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:

- National set of C&I
- X Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- X Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The U.S. is a member of the Montréal Process and uses the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests (MPC&I). The most recent report—The National report on Sustainable Forests – 2010—was published in 2011 and the next edition is slated for release at the end of 2015 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/> -- for project details and electronic version of the 2010 National Report).

The U.S. Forest Service works in collaboration with the Sustainable Forest Roundtable, an open membership stakeholder group, to promote the utilization of the MPC&I and related sustainability frameworks at sub-national and local levels. Notable examples include:

- (1) U.S. Forest Service's sustainability assessment activities for the Northeastern region of the United States (<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/sustainability/assessments/assess.shtm>)
- (2) Oregon Department of Forestry's Sustainable Forestry Indicators Project (http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Pages/resource_planning/Sustainable_Forest_Indicators_Project.aspx)
- (3) Baltimore County's Forest Sustainability program (<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/forestsandtrees/programbackground.html>)

In terms of practical application of forest sustainability C&I, the National Report on Sustainable Forests maintains a relatively strict adherence to the MPC&I framework. Other efforts, including those noted above, have applied the framework in a more flexible fashion, choosing and adjusting indicators to fit local conditions and priorities.

The U.S. is also engaged in a number of multi-lateral processes and forest-related reporting efforts including with FAO, the ECE Timber Committee, UNFF, ITTO and IUCN, and non-governmental organizations such as the World Resources Institute. Much of this work includes reporting out on specific measures (e.g. the FAO Global Forest Resource Assessment Questionnaire) which may not be explicitly identified as sustainability C&I but can nonetheless serve as inputs to sustainability assessments. Likewise, numerous other documents, ranging from the national RPA assessment (<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa/>) to numerous local planning processes involve institutionalized reporting of explicit measures of forest conditions, measures comprehensive forest assessments and management activities.

Are these C&I used to:

- Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

Montréal Process. Other reporting activities (FAO GFRA) often rely on the same base data but are packaged and presented differently.

17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?

No.

18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:

The Global Objectives on Forests are:

- (1) Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management (SFM), including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to

- prevent forest degradation;
- (2) Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
- (3) Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and
- (4) Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM.

Domestically, the U.S. has promoted goals 1, 2 and 3 through various institutions, programs, and actions. The mandate of the federal U.S. Forest Service and its domestic forest management objectives are strongly compatible with goals 1 and 3. For instance, forest restoration and health maintenance remains a core objective of the U.S. Forest Service in its management of National Forest lands and assistance to other land owners (<http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/>).

At the same time, however, slightly over half of total forest land in the U.S. is owned privately, and implementation of forest planning or sustainable management provisions is beyond government control. In these cases, training activities and subsidies from federal or local government sources may serve as incentives for implementing management plans, and market premiums and/or access may motivate private owners to seek sustainability certification. Data indicates an expansion of total forest area, as well as forest area under management plans and/or sustainable management provisions (e.g. certification), as shown in the table below.

Forest area by management attribute in the U.S.

| (1,000 ha.) | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2000-2010 |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Total Forest Area | 319,113 | 320,209 | 324,682 | 2% |
| Sustainable Forest Management | 135,086 | 149,033 | 155,545 | 15% |
| Under Management Plan | 195,731 | 200,907 | 202,342 | 3% |
| Protected Areas | 22,995 | 28,189 | 33,384 | 45% |

Source and note on data: U.S. Forest Service Research and Development (data will be published as part of the upcoming UNECE Regional report to UNFF on Global Objectives on Forests). Due to jurisdictional changes in definitions, there is an increase in protected areas as a result of re-classification rather than major land use shift.

Various policies at the national, state and local levels aim to increase the many benefits forest supply to people and thus contribute to goal #2. Many of these programs and benefits can be difficult to quantify. A number of specific efforts, including cooperative arrangements with communities, are listed in this report.

Internationally, the U.S. promotes the Global Objectives through numerous activities. At the institutional level, the U.S. is fully engaged in the UNFF, UNECE COFFI (e.g. through helping to draft the UNECE Regional Report on the Global Objectives), the Montréal Process and ITTO.

In terms of direct assistance to countries, the U.S. promotes the Global Objectives through the actions of our assistance and collaborative projects mentioned above.

PART II

Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

| By: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Improving livelihoods | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Providing employment, including employment in informal economy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2010, 15% of all persons in the U.S. lived in poverty. Poverty in the United States may not fit the definitions set forth in the MDGs, nonetheless, the U.S. does have pockets of endemic rural poverty in forested areas. Forests in these areas provide essential livelihood support to local populations through the provision of subsistence food stuffs, employment opportunities, and natural lifestyle amenities. The U.S. has made investments in silvopasture in our southern States with high-poverty communities. U.S. Department of Agriculture's StrikeForce Program for Rural Growth and Opportunity Initiative (http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=STRIKE_FORCE) is part of a commitment to growing economies, increasing investments and creating opportunities in poverty-stricken rural communities. In 2014, Strike Force efforts expanded into Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, and West Virginia. There are now over 700 persistent poverty counties, parishes, boroughs, Colonias [unregulated settlements of informal housing] and tribal reservations in twenty states receiving StrikeForce attention.

20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

| By: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Providing habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | X |
| Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Stabilizing soils and slopes | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Safeguarding water resources | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sequestering carbon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Providing timber, energy and other products | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

The United States has a large forest estate, totalling over 300 million hectares. This area has remained relatively constant to slightly increasing over the last five decades, and the ecosystem services associated with these lands likewise have been stable. Recently, increasing levels of forest disturbance associated with such factors as fire and insect infestation, may be reducing the health of forest ecosystem in some regions, and climate change may further exacerbate these problems in the future. Likewise, increasing forest fragmentation and loss of forest lands to development are reducing the integrity of forests in more populated areas. The effects of these factors, however, are largely felt at the subnational and local scales and are not yet clearly evident in national level statistics.

Close to 45% of U.S. forests are in public ownership and are subject to participatory public planning processes and management often focused on sustainability objectives beyond simple commodity production. Private forest owners are likewise subject to state level best-management-practices — sometimes mandatory othertimes suggested— regarding forestry practices, including strictures for the maintenance of streamside buffers and similar constraints. All ownerships are subject to federal laws governing the conservation of habitat where endangered species are present. As a result, management guidelines are generally in place to secure forest ecosystem services, though the extent to which these guidelines are effective in every case is an open question.

At the national scale, the National Report on Sustainable Forests (<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/sustain/>) and the Resource Planning Act Assessment (RPA--<http://www.fs.fed.us/research/rpa/>) provide broadscale assessments of forest resource conditions and their sustainability. The National Report on Sustainable Forests, through its adherence to the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators, explicitly addresses many of the specific ecosystem services identified in the table above.

21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

| By: | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fostering partnerships with the private sector | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The United States has been a supporter of sustainable forest management internationally for decades, through bilateral and multilateral work, partnerships, and resource mobilization. US Government international cooperation has several objectives specifically related to forests. These include: slowing the loss and degradation of remaining natural forest ecosystems; improving the sustainability of forest resource utilization across the broader production and supply chain; reforestation of degraded areas to serve production and livelihood needs, enhancing food security; maintaining ecosystem services; and improving conservation of natural forests.

The United States is active in major multilateral and regional efforts, including the UNFF, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and the International Tropical Timber Organization. The United States invests in the range of \$250-300 million a year in forest-related foreign assistance and cooperation, largely through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Department of Treasury, and the U.S. Department of State. The United States supports country-driven development priorities, including natural resource and forest conservation and management, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation. The United States works cooperatively with other countries, under free trade agreements and other initiatives, to address pressing environmental issues, including strengthening forest governance and combatting illegal logging. The United States proposed the establishment of the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade in APEC, is currently the Facilitator for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and is a member of the Montreal Process Working Group on Criteria and Indicators.

The United States is also active in building public-private partnerships. The U.S. Government supports the Forest Legality Alliance, an international, multi-stakeholder initiative designed to achieve better forest governance and biodiversity conservation by reducing demand for illegally harvested forest products and increasing the capacity of supply chains to deliver legal wood and paper. The United States has actively participated in and supported, through financing and action, the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration since its founding. The United States also is a founding member of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020), (<http://www.usaid.gov/climate/tfa2020>), a public-private partnership in which partners take voluntary actions, individually and in combination, to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with the sourcing of commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper and pulp.

22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

Project Learning Tree (<https://www.plt.org/>) is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. Its award-winning curriculum resources help over half a million educators teach complex environmental issues. They can be integrated into lesson plans for all grades and subject areas to help students learn how to make sound choices about the environment.

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

MDG5: Improving maternal health

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases