

**National Report to the Third Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

AUSTRIA

January 8, 2003

I. Key Contacts

Head of Forestry in: Austria

Name: Gerhard Mannsberger
Title: Director General of the Forestry Department

Contact information:

Address: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna
Phone: +43-1-71100-7301
Fax: +43-1-71100-7399
E-mail: gerhard.mannsberger@bmlfuw.gv.at

UNFF national focal point for: Austria

Name: Ingwald Gschwandtl
Title: Director of Division IV/1 - Forest Policy and Forest Information

Contact information:

Address: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Marxergasse 2, 1030 Vienna
Phone: +43-1-71100-7305
Fax: +43-1-71100-7399
E-mail: ingwald.gschwandtl@bmlfuw.gv.at

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

II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

General

1. Please provide additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned further to the information on forests included in your national reports to the Commission on Sustainable Development¹ on the following points:
 - assessment (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context

In June 2002, a study commissioned by the *Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management* (BMLFUW) was completed. It evaluates the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and their implementation by Austria. The task was to identify the **relevant** IPF/IFF Proposals for Action with respect to their **implementation** in Austria, to assess the present degree and form of implementation by activities, and finally to identify any implementation gaps. The report is published by the Universität für Bodenkultur, Wien the title "Evaluierung der Umsetzung der IPF- and IFF-Aktionsvorschläge in Österreich/Assessment of the implementation of IPF and IFF proposals for action in Austria", ISSN 1016-7323.

The main findings are:

According to the study, 34% of all Proposals for Action are relevant and call for international action and only 29% call for national action. 17% of all Proposals for Action are relevant to national as well as international action by Austria. It seems surprising that more Proposals for Action are actually asking for international action than for national action, but from a global point of view it is not. The global forest dialogue deals first and foremost with international forest policy problems which require international approaches.

Austria is a member of the European Union. Although no common European forest policy exists, but only a forest strategy, other policy areas of the European Union such as trade, development co-operation, environment and agriculture) might well deal with forestry issues or have an impact on Austrian forest policy. This means that international action must be seen as both supranational and international action.

The responsibility for implementation of the Proposals for Action is mostly primary. This means that in most cases where Proposals for Action (69%) are deemed relevant, the Austrian federal level holds the primary implementation responsibility. 9% of the Proposals for Action are of secondary implementation responsibility for the Federal level. These are areas where the main implementation responsibility lies with the Federal Provinces or where the European Union has a primary implementation responsibility (e.g. the exclusive trade competence of the European Union).

The degree of implementation of the Proposals in Austria is quite good although the Proposals for Action are not well known. Austria has implemented a major part of the Proposals for Action at national level. Some of the Proposals have so far been implemented only partly or their implementation has only started.

¹ For further explanation, please refer to "content" in section 6 of the "Guidelines for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reports to the Third Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests", attached above. The most recent information on forests submitted to the CSD by most countries is in their "Country Profile". The text, on CD Rom and in hard copy, has been distributed along with these guidelines to each country.

Austria's authorities regard an Austrian national forest programme as the main tool for implementing the remaining work.

A gap analysis in the study has been based on the previous assessment of the relevance of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and the implementation responsibility for Austria. As has been pointed out before, only in the case of few Proposals for Action no progress has been made. At the national level, a strikingly small number (16) of Proposals for Action has not been implemented at all.

Implementation gaps on a national scale can be identified under the following headings:

Traditional forest knowledge (4), forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems (9), rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and the promotion of natural regeneration and planted forests (12), financial resources (14), trade (15), international co-operation in capacity building and technology transfer (16)

These issues will be addressed specifically within the Austrian National Forest Programme Process.

- development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests, and

In August 2002, the Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management launched the Austrian Forest Dialogue, a process according to the internationally agreed principles for NFPs, in order to develop a Forest Programme for Austria. The aims are to be able to cope with the diverse interests in the utilisation of forests also in the future, and to comply with the international obligations to promote sustainable forest management. The Austrian Forest Dialogue (AFD) aims at reaching a social consensus with respect to ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable forest management and at emphasising the role of the forestry sector within the framework of sustainable development. The AFD thus constitutes an essential part of the Austrian Strategy for Sustainable Development.

- mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

The management, the protection and the sustainable development of Austrian forests is based on a well established legal and institutional framework. In general Austrian policy has a number of participatory mechanisms in place, which are applied also to forest policy. A specific and very effective form is the legally based so called "social partnership" providing structures and procedures for balancing diverging interests of different groups of society, represented by chambers and similar organisations (for agriculture and forestry, commerce and trade, labour etc.). They have a strong impact on the formulation of policy programmes and legislation.

In Austria, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is primarily responsible for the forestry sector. At the same time, a number of areas directly or indirectly relating to forests or forestry are the responsibility of the nine federal provinces called "Bundesländer". The most important regulatory instrument is the Forest Act of 1975, amended in 2002. Implementation of the law is in the hands of forest authorities. About 3000 forest experts at district, regional and federal level implement the decisions and ensure compliance with forestry legislation. Provincial laws regulate regional planning, agriculture, nature conservation, and hunting. In Austria, the representation of group interests is transferred from the state to self-governing bodies called "chambers" (Kammern) at the provincial level. Chambers are statutory interest organisations, established by public law and with obligatory membership. Forestry interests are represented by the Chambers of Agriculture. All farm and

forest owners are automatically considered members of the Chambers of Agriculture. Although the Chambers of Agriculture as such exist only at the provincial level, the presidents of the Chambers of Agriculture are informally organised at national level. The Presidents' Conference of Chambers of Agriculture (Präsidentenkonferenz) represents agrarian and forestry interests within the social partnership. As a constituent part of the social partnership, the Chambers of Agriculture through the Presidents' Conference, have the opportunity to influence policy formulation. They are consulted early in the legislative drafting process and are invited to comment. In addition to statutory interest organisations, there is a network of interest groups based on voluntary membership. Participation has also gained importance at a local level involving environmental NGOs, and tourism e.g. in dealing with the establishment of hiking and mountain biking routes.

The Austrian National Forest Programme AFD facilitates the interaction between various stakeholders and provides a new forum for participation.

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

2. Please provide information on: i) activities undertaken in your country, ii) progress made, iii) lessons learned, iv) constraints encountered (including those related to financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and needs for capacity-building) and v) initiatives planned and vi) the role of enhanced co-operation and policy and programme co-ordination to facilitate progress in:
 - valuation of forest goods and services (this may include, among other things, the development and use of new valuation methodologies, valuation of a wider range of goods and services, and policy decisions that reflect a more comprehensive assessment of forest values)

Austria actively collaborates on EFSOS (forest outlook studies) and regularly delivers reports. Furthermore, within the EU 5th Framework Programme (Research and Technological Development) several topic related projects are carried out at the University for Agriculture, Vienna.

In addition please see next topic.

- the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes

In general, the amount and quality of market data for wood forest products is very good. For non-wood forest products however, the quality of the data is variable. In particular, there are major deficiencies in the indicators describing recreational functions as well as those related to the protective functions of forests.

In order to improve the statistical information on forestry and to establish respective satellite accounts, the EUROSTAT Task Force on Forest Accounting developed a scheme for the Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Forests (IEEAF). In 2002, a project carried out by the University for Agriculture, Vienna, investigating the suitability of the EUROSTAT framework for monitoring the non-wood functions of forests from the Austrian point of view was carried out. This study was commissioned by the European Community represented by the European Commission and co-financed by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of the Republic of Austria under the heading '*Machbarkeitsstudie zur physischen und monetären Dokumentation der Nicht-Holz-Leistungen des österreichischen Waldes im Rahmen von Satellitenkonten zur Volkswirtschaftlichen Gesamtrechnung*'/Feasibility study on the physical and monetary documentation of the non-wood services of the Austrian forest within the context of satellite accounts to the national accounting.

The report also deals with the prospects of monetary accounting. It addresses 5 categories of interest one after the other, pointing to the current situation as regards monetary valuation and proposing further measures.

In addition, the Presidents' Conference of the Chambers of Agriculture publishes monthly reports on the state of the wood-market.

Furthermore, Austria as a member of ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) regularly publishes wood-related data and prices. There is considerable research undertaken within the framework of ITTO.

Austria also participated in the 'Joint Questionnaire' exercise undertaken by UNECE (EFSOS) by submitting data on the production and marketing of timber in Austria.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management itself publishes data e.g. in its "Austrian Forest Report".

- use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)

Beside the Austrian Forestry Law and policy instruments like a national forest programme, the most important instrument is a well established system of forest subsidies. Annual investment in forests is approximately EURO 130 million, almost all of which is raised by forest owners themselves. While much of this activity almost certainly goes unnoticed by the public at large, there is no doubt that it produces many public benefits. In recognition of this, Austria provides forest owners with a measure of support from public funds of around 18 million EURO a year for specific activities.

On September 1, 1999 Austria was the first Member State to submit its Rural Development Programme (“Österreichisches Programm für die Entwicklung des ländlichen Raums”), under Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/99 to the European Commission. It has now been in force since July 27, 2000. The complex document has been worked out since the beginning of the year 2000 in an Austria-wide discussion process and with the participation of all relevant institutions. The programme comprises all measures which, from 2000 onward, are to be offered in Austria within the framework of the relevant Council Regulation.

Forest subsidisation pursues the following goals:

- Maintenance and sustainable development of the multiple functions of forests, in particular with respect to their economic, ecological and social functions
- Integration of forestry into the activities promoting the preservation and sustainable development of rural areas
- Conservation, development and sustainable management of forests
- Coherence with other Community policies and compliance with Community law

3. Please provide information on i) initiatives taken, ii) progress made, iii) lessons learned, iv) constraints encountered (including those related to financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and needs for capacity-building) and v) initiatives planned, and vi) the role of enhanced co-operation and policy and programme co-ordination to facilitate progress related to trade in forest products or environmental services (e.g. carbon trading), including in:

- efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,

In Austria there is a well established legal framework concerning trade. For instance, the 1995 Plant Protection Act, together with the corresponding ordinances, is designed to prevent the introduction of foreign organisms harmful to plants and plant products.

Austria supports the European Commission initiative "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)". See below (efforts to reduce illegal trade).

- participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and

Since the discussion on the problematic aspects of tropical timber launched in the early 90s, wood certification has again and again been an issue for discussion both on the national and international level. The law relating to tropical timber imports (labelling) was updated.

For domestic timber the Austrian Forest Act and other laws already provide for the sustainable use of timber in Austria's forests.

To provide consumers with assurances on the source and sustainability of its wood and wood products, in September 1996 Austria's forest and wood sector introduced a national label of origin (OK! Timber from Austria).

Despite this development there has remained a powerful view that international standards should be applied and that compliance with them should be controlled by an independent institution (third party). This eventually led to the introduction of two certification schemes in Austria, the Pan-European Forest Certification (PEFC) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

While currently the whole (100%) of Austria's forest area is PEFC certified, approximately 3,400 hectares are FSC certified.

Since June 2000 international efforts have been made to make the mutual recognition of credible certification schemes a reality ("mutual recognition").

The Austrian government's position is that, while it is strongly in favour of certification, it does not promote any individual scheme, believing that these kinds of choices are best left to the market.

Certification relates on the one hand to the quality of forest management. To provide the final consumer with a guarantee for quality, both certification schemes implement a monitoring system for the entire production and marketing chain of wood and wood products from the certified forest enterprise to the final point of sale (chain-of-custody).

- efforts to reduce illegal trade (exports from or imports into your country) in wood or non-wood forest products. Please indicate achievements made, lessons learned, constraints encountered, and planned initiatives.

There is a need for modern, stable, effective, enforceable and simple legislation. For that reason, Austria supports the European Commission initiative "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)".

Since 1982 Austria is signatory to the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora".

It is important to avoid the creation of unfair competition or prejudice to companies that operate legally. Some companies are already applying best practice in this field on a voluntary basis. The establishment of producer groups should be encouraged, and a series of conciliatory in-depth discussions between all interested parties should be promoted.

See also above " efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade".

In addition, this topic is regulated by the Austrian foreign trade law, which includes strong controls, thereby helping to reduce illegal trade.

Forest health and productivity

4. If damage to forests from air pollution is a significant problem in your country, please provide information on recent national strategies or programmes to minimize damaging air pollution. Please indicate if your country is involved in any international co-operation efforts aimed at strengthening scientific knowledge, increasing information access or reducing the impacts of long-range air pollution on

forests, as well as your views on the role of enhanced co-operation at the regional and international levels to facilitate such work.

There is a well established legal framework regulating this topic, e.g.:

EU-wide

--EC Regulation 3528/86 which comprises measures to protect forests against air pollution including the respective monitoring systems

National

-- Clean Air Acts of the Federal Provinces

prevent threats to the natural living conditions of animals and plants, provided that the sources of air pollution fall within the competence of the Provincial Government (house fires, agriculture).

-- 1975 Forest Act, as amended subsection IVC including the Second Ordinance against Forest damaging Air-Pollutants

-- Clean Air Act for Boiler Systems and Ordinance (1999)

-- 1997 Act on Air Pollution Control and Ordinance

In support of the MCPFE Austria is a signatory to the Strasbourg Resolutions S1, S2, S5 and S6. Beyond this Austria has signed and ratified the UN-ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols. Like other EU Member States Austria has also signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.

In Austria, ozone, nitrogen oxides and sulphur dioxide, nitrogen, acid and sulphur inputs as well as, locally, ammonia and heavy metal inputs are the main air pollutants of concern with regard to forests.

The data from the crown condition survey carried out by the Austrian Federal Office and Research Centre for Forests are also Austria's contribution to the report "Forest Condition in Europe", published annually and jointly by the European Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (<http://www.icpforests.org>). Assessment methods and presentation of results thus follow international guidelines. Austria is also participating in the UN-ECE ICP Forest Level II and the UN-ECE Integrated Monitoring Programme.

A very important point is the promotion of sustainable forms of renewable energy. Burning wood maintains a neutral carbon balance because, unlike fossil fuels such as natural oil, natural gas or coal, the amount of the greenhouse gas CO₂ released matches exactly the amount the tree has absorbed while growing. In addition, burning wood produces almost no sulphur. This has an important impact on reducing air pollution. Austria holds a leading international position with regards to biomass utilisation. Presently, about 17% of Austrian households use wood for heating. Apart from individual installations the growth in the number of biomass district heating stations is particularly encouraging.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

5. Please indicate progress made and lessons learned in efforts to harmonize or to make compatible policy frameworks in your country (e.g. national forest programme or a similar policy framework for forests, biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action plans to combat desertification, etc.) that collectively address the full range of forest values.
6. Please provide information on recent efforts to assess long-term trends in national supply and demand for wood, non-wood forest products and services and whether your country's national forest programme or similar policy framework for forests takes into consideration future needs for forest goods and services. Please provide views on how enhanced co-operation at the regional and international levels, including through UNFF, could further facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action

There are two principal measures, the national forest programme and the use of subsidies as described above in the section covering the use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward

sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)

With the process of working out an Austrian National Forest Programme a new form of dialogue is being introduced in forestry policy. This dialogue focuses on finding means of reconciling the diverse range of sometimes competing interests in the forestry sector.

In order to launch a comprehensive discussion process towards a National Forest Programme in Austria the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management in spring 2000 commissioned an (internal) working party with the task of preparing an initial paper "Reflections on an Austrian National Forest Programme". In August 2002 Minister Wilhelm Molterer officially launched this process.

In Spring 2003 the process will enter its implementation stage. In principle, this is open to everyone with an interest in forests and forestry. Thus for example the representatives of the Federal Government and of Provincial Governments, the representatives of associations of forest owners, the timber and paper industries, the tourism industry, nature conservation organisations and other NGOs, research institutions, trade unions, as well as the general public will be encouraged to participate fully in this process.

For this process to be successful, the various demands placed on the forest and the diverse interests in the forest have to be identified, the interest situation has to be made transparent, common issues have to be worked out, negotiations between partners with different interests have to be promoted, and efforts towards reaching a consensus have to be made.

The intention is that the Austrian NFP, should take the form of a continuous, process of open dialogue providing among other things a framework for the implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

Objectives and importance for Austria

The Austrian National Forest Programme aims to reach a broad social consensus about the way of dealing with the resource forest and thus ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable forest management. By means of the Austrian National Forest Programme it will be possible to reach an inter-sectoral integration and co-ordination of existing forest-relevant discussions and instruments at provincial and federal levels.

By means of the National Forest Programme synergy effects, deficits and differences of expectation can be demonstrated and programmatic links to the Austrian sustainability strategy will be established. The National Forest Programme will also help to strengthen the role of the forest sector within the framework of sustainable land-use development. Moreover, the National Forest Programme offers the opportunity to intensify, structure, and institutionalise the existing forest political dialogue with the interested public.

The National Forest Programme not only contains recommendations for action, but also constitutes the framework for specific forest political measures. Hence it is the objective of the Forest Programme to formulate operational guidelines on discussion areas, which will mark the short-, medium- or long-term future development of forestry policy in Austria.

In 1996 the Austrian Biodiversity- Commission was established. The main tasks of this commission are the Austrian wide coordination and harmonization of activities and programmes aiming at the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the exchange and flow of related information. In 1998 the Austrian Biodiversity- Commission developed a national biodiversity strategy. Currently experts of the Biodiversity- Commission are discussing the call for action in Austria in context with the very extensive decision adopted at the 6. conference of the parties. In context of the work programme on forest biological diversity of the CBD (UNEP/COP/VI/22) a study is being carried out to provide information on the implementation and the relation to the IPF/IFF proposals of action.

The Federal Ministry arranges for the collection of data on both non-wood forest products, such as hunting and also on fuelwood.

Other information and emerging issues

7. Please provide any additional relevant information on the implementation of proposals for action or emerging issues² related to: i) economic aspects of forests, ii) forest health and productivity, or iii) maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.

The maintenance of income levels for forest owners must be a concern for the future. Without adequate revenue there is a risk that forest management will be neglected and this might in turn have an impact on forest health and our ability to maintain forest cover. Where timber prices alone do not fully compensate forest owners for the full range of benefits that forests provide, mechanisms need to be found, not only to assess the value of these non-market benefits, but to ensure that owners are adequately rewarded. If market mechanisms cannot provide these rewards in full, then society might need to find ways of supplementing incomes.

Austria currently is in the favourable position that in most circumstances forest revenues allow owners to manage sustainably. Where this is not the case, the system of forest subsidies provides the necessary additional support. In the future the process of developing a National Forest Plan may help to identify circumstances where further action may be needed. A NFP should also help to increase awareness among the population at large of the value of forestry in its broadest sense.

III. Preparation of the Report

8. Describe the process of preparing this report, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on challenges encountered and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

The primary source of information for this report was the Study "Evaluierung der Umsetzung der IPF- und IFF-Aktionsvorschläge in Österreich/ Assessment of the implementation of IPF and IFF proposals for action in Austria", which was drawn from interviews with representatives of various government departments, stakeholders and stakeholder groups. The report then underwent a consultation process with major forest relevant stakeholder groups in Austria.

² "Emerging issues" refer to issues that have not been addressed by UNFF but that are related to UNFF "elements". For example, some countries may consider forest fires and forest pests and diseases as important emerging issues for the UNFF to address under the UNFF element, forest health and productivity. Kindly limit the emerging issues to three per UNFF element addressed by this report.

**Annex 1 (of proposed format for
voluntary national reports to UNFF 3)**

**Indicative summary of IPF/IFF proposals for action relevant to each of the three
substantive issues on the agenda of the third session of UNFF**

This summary of IPF/IFF proposals for action related to economic aspects of forests, forest health and productivity, and maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs builds upon work initiated by the Program on Forests (PROFOR) at the World Bank and the Government of Australia. The summary of actions is provided for illustrative purposes only. Countries are urged to refer to the full text of the proposals for action as provided in the reports of IPF 4 (E/CN.17/1997/12) and IFF 4 (E/CN.17/2000/14).

UNFF 3 substantive issue	Type of action called for	IPF Proposal(s) for action	IFF Proposal(s) for action
Economic aspects of forests	Valuation of forest goods and services	58h, 104a, 104b	107a, 107b, 107c, 107d
	Data and information on prices and markets for forest products		41e, 121d, 122e
	Full-cost internalization of wood and non-wood forest products and services	58b(iv), 134a, 134b	41c, 41d, 64h, 122f
	Development and use of economic and policy instruments and forest revenue collection systems to increase rent capture and promote sustainable forest management	70b	115a, 115b, 115c, 115d, 115e, 115f, 115g, 122b, 122d
	Market and trade on forest products	128a, 128b, 128c, 131a, 131b, 132a, 132b, 133a, 133b, 133c, 133d, 133e, 133f, 133g, 135a, 135b	41a, 41b, 41e, 41f, 41g, 64i

UNFF 3 substantive issue	Type of action called for	IPF Proposal(s) for action	IFF Proposal(s) for action
Forest health and productivity	Adopt a preventative approach to the reduction of damaging air pollution	IPF 50a	
	Strengthen international cooperation in strengthening related scientific knowledge and information access and in reducing long-range air pollution	IPF 50b, IPF 50e	
	Develop national and regional programmes for monitoring air pollution and provide factual information about transboundary air pollution	IPF 27c, IPF 50c, IPF 50d	
Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs	Assess and meet long-term trends in supply and demand for wood through sustainable forest management policies within and between the public and private sectors (including Incorporate supply of fuelwood and wood energy as well as efficient wood energy technologies in policy development)	28 (a) 58b (i)	122 (a) 122 (b) 122 (d) 122 (c)
	Develop and implement strategies for the protection of the full range of forest values, including cultural, social, spiritual, environmental and economic aspects; particularly biological diversity, indigenous needs and planning and management on an ecosystem basis		85 (b)
	Improve data collection and information dissemination on forest resources, both wood and non-wood forest products and services		121 (b) 121 (c)

Provisional Agenda for the Third Session of UNFF

The provisional agenda for the third session of the United Nations Forum on Forests was adopted at the first session of UNFF, and amended slightly by ECOSOC in its session in June 2002. The agenda is as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests:
 - (a) Progress in implementation:
 - (i) Economic aspects of forests;
 - (ii) Forest health and productivity;
 - (iii) Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs.
 - (b) Means of implementation (finance, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building for sustainable forest management) as a cross-cutting issue, considered in the context of items 3(a) (i)(ii) and (iii);
4. Common items for each session:
 - (a) Multi-stakeholder dialogue;
 - (b) Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination;
 - (c) Country experience and lessons;
 - (d) Emerging issues relevant to country implementation;
 - (e) Intersessional work, including further discussion on the ad hoc expert groups;
 - (f) Monitoring, assessment and reporting;
 - (g) Promoting public participation;
 - (h) National forest programmes;
 - (i) Trade;
 - (j) Enabling environment.
5. Date and venue for the fourth session of the Forum.
6. Provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Forum.
 7. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its third session.