

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

**SWITZERLAND**

## **I. Key Contacts**

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## **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 Development 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*

### **Status of implementation:**

As for the international dialogue on forests, an assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action (PfAs) against the Swiss national context has been conducted in consecutive steps:

- In 1998, the Swiss Forest Agency commissioned a first assessment of the IPF proposals for action in the Swiss forest policy context (national relevance, degree of implementation and follow-up strategy). This expert study was carried out in close collaboration with all federal agencies concerned with the implementation of the IPF proposals for action (expert interviews, workshop and agency review). Main findings of this study were published in a strategic paper defining the priorities of action and responsibilities for the implementation and follow-up of the IPF proposals for action in Switzerland (mainly at national level).
- With the adoption of the IFF proposals for actions in 2000, the Swiss Forest Agency commissioned a second assessment in 2001 to evaluate the degree, nature and form of the implementation of both the IPF and the IFF proposals for action in the Swiss policy context. This complementary study was launched in parallel to the National Forest Programme, which started in December 2001 (see below), as a means to include the IPF/IFF PfAs within the national forest policy process. The aim of this study was (i) to identify IPF/IFF PfAs with respect to their relevance in the Swiss forest policy context; (ii) to define preliminary priorities of action and responsibilities in implementation; (iii) to identify relevant IPF/IFF PfAs to be included in the discussion on the National Forest Programme; (iv) to define the overall strategy to further assess the IPF/IFF proposals for action in Switzerland. This expert study was carried out in close collaboration with all federal agencies concerned with the implementation of the IPF/IFF PfAs in Switzerland (expert interviews and agency review).
- Following the adoption of the CBD Expanded Work Program on Forest Biological Diversity in April 2002, the Swiss Forest Agency decided to include considerations of the CBD forest work programme in the ongoing discussions and reflections of the Swiss National Forest Programme. To this end, a preliminary assessment of CBD's forest activities was carried out in a similar way as for the IPF/IFF PfAs (see above). Relevant CBD forest recommendations were identified and included in the national forest policy process. In a second step (to come), the interface between the IPF/IFF proposals for action and the proposed CBD programme of work on forest biological diversity should be evaluated and gaps in implementation between both processes should be assessed consecutively.

### **Experiences gained:**

- Need to increase synergies and coordination between IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and the CBD programme of work on forest biological diversity: For a country like Switzerland, the parallel assessment and implementation of both the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action (over 270 PfAs) and the

CBD programme of work on forest biological diversity (130 activities) is a very challenging task. This not only because of the high level of resources that these processes require (see above), but also because of the increasing institutional and sectoral complexity of the implementation process. This situation clearly does not follow the international efforts to develop synergies between IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and the CBD programme of work on forest biological diversity and thus to harmonise the reporting system in order to ease the burden on individual countries to provide too many and often too lengthy reports.

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

**National Forest Programme:** In 2001, Switzerland launched a Swiss National Forest Programme (SNFP) process. The process is participatory and cross-sectoral, involving public and private stakeholders of various interests and levels. By means of this process long-term visions, specific objectives for the year 2015, strategies and measures for fulfilling the proposed objectives will be defined. The six pan-European criteria for sustainable forest management build the basic reference framework of the forest programme. The pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management will among other be used for monitoring progress towards sustainable forest management. The SNFP forms the basis for the future Swiss federal forest policy, for the message to the Swiss Federal Council with recommendations for a revision of the Federal Forest Law, and for Switzerland's report to international fora.

**Main actors and instruments used:** The Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape/Swiss Forest Agency has the overall lead of the SNFP. Approximately 100 forest owners and representatives of various associations and institutions (including cross-sectoral) actively participate in working groups. The SNFP-Forum is comprised of 25 members of Parliament, directors of other public policy sectors and various associations. The Forum provides additional feedback and political appraisal. At forest summits the general forest public is invited to contribute to the process. Furthermore, all documents are readily available on internet in order to enable the general public to contribute their opinions.

**Experiences gained:**

- The launching of the Swiss national forest programme gave raise to several other parallel discussions (e.g. at local or regional levels, within associations) on topical forest policy subjects
- The participation of the various stakeholders is very important; it is an invaluable means for building ownership for a national forest programme process
- Cross-sectorial issues are discussed and solutions sought. In general, there is a heightened awareness of an increasing number of decisions taken in other political or economic sectors influencing the forest sector.

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

**Swiss policy-making:**

The policy-making in Switzerland is characterized through:

- the principle of *direct democracy* which gives citizens direct opportunities to influence government activities through people's initiatives and referendums,
- the *federalism system* delegates to the cantons the responsibility of enforcing federal laws within their territory (principle of subsidiarity);

– *tradition of consensus seeking* in decision-making at all levels of society.

Switzerland offers a wide range of opportunities for citizens to participate in political activities and influence government decision-making (democratic procedures and political rights, administrative procedures, contentious procedures, etc.). All these forms of democratic and administrative procedures have a -- more or less -- substantial influence on forest policy and management activities.

### **Stakeholder participation in forest policy:**

In Switzerland the cantons, political parties and other relevant stakeholders must be consulted when important decrees and other projects with far reaching effects are prepared (Federal Constitution, Art. 147). Thus it is common practice to have relevant stakeholders participating not only in the development of forest policies and programmes but also in any major important forest relevant undertaking. The dialogue with the Cantonal Forest Directors and the Cantonal Senior Foresters is institutionalised, and takes place several times a year. In the process leading to the adoption of a revised Federal Forest Law all relevant stakeholders (e.g. cantons, NGOs, forest owners, associations) must be consulted, as they are entitled to state their positions and propose modifications. The Confederation and the cantons must ensure that the authorities and the population are kept informed on the role of forests, their condition, and general matters to do with forestry and the timber industry (1991, Federal Law on Forests, Art. 34). In this context, the public is entitled to participate in forest planning (1992, Ordinance on Forests, Art. 18).

### **Public participation in Regional Forest Management Planning:**

In the new Swiss Law on Forests, which took effect on 1 January 1993, public participation procedures have been formally introduced in forest management planning at regional level. Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Ordinance on Forests says that when elaborating a regional forest plan which goes beyond the scope of a single forest estate (regional level), cantons need to ensure that the public:

- a) is **informed** about the objectives and the course of the planning process;
- b) is able to **participate** in an adequate way;
- c) is **consulted** on the planning documents.

Regional Forest Plans (RFP) are strategic and management planning documents which set medium and long-term objectives that address society's interests in forests beyond the scope of a single -- public or private -- forest estate. They represent a framework for the future orientation and decisions of forest authorities. They have to be distinguished from "operational" Forest Management Plans (FMP) which lay down short and medium term objectives for forest practice at estate level. However, as public participation at estate level is not required, forest management plans have to take account of long term objectives set out by regional forest plans.

### **Experiences gained:**

- The participation of the relevant stakeholders is very important; it provides invaluable input on one hand and on the other it gives the stakeholders the opportunity to identify themselves with the issues.
- An area requiring improvement is the involvement of private (small) forest owners.

## **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 cooperation and policy and programme coordination 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)*

### **Multiple-use forestry**

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the perception has been growing that beside their economic and protective functions, forests also have a great importance as natural and social environment. Therefore, the revised Federal Law on Forest, which took effect on 1 January 1993, encompasses the forest's multiple use: ecological, social, protective and economic.

Forests in Switzerland provide a wide range of marketable goods and services such as revenue from timber, employment generation, etc. They also provide a wide range of non-market benefits such as environmental (e.g. biodiversity, nature conservation, filtering of water etc.), educational (e.g. public awareness), and social benefits (e.g. open-access, recreational activities, etc.). Considering the recurrent under-valuation of non-market social and environmental benefits of forests, several projects were launched to assess and measure these benefits in economical terms (see below).

### **Valuation of forest goods and services**

- Since mid 1980's, several studies conducted by various universities and research institutes were funded to evaluate both the "recreational value" – *i.e. the value that recreational visitors would be ready to pay for a visit to the forest* - and the "existence value" – *i.e. the value that woodland possesses by virtue of its very existence* - of forests in Switzerland
  - In 1996, the Swiss Agency funded a first study to assess quantity and value of non-wood products actually being utilized in Switzerland, whereby only those products were taken account of that are actually produced within the forest area
  - The project VAFOR (Valorisation of forests) developed in the mid 1990's is encouraging forest owners to increasingly rely on their entrepreneurship rather than on public funds, by seeking remuneration for the numerous services offered by forests, particularly with respect to social and leisure activities (e.g. mountain biking, horse riding, etc.).
- *the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes*

### **Qualitative and quantitative data on Forests**

Thorough knowledge and close monitoring are a prerequisite for sustainable forest management. Among the various programmes and individual projects that have been established in Switzerland for this purpose, the National Forest Inventory (NFI) represents the most comprehensive database on the subject. As part of the National Monitoring Programme of the Swiss Forests, the National Forest Inventory documents the structure of the forest and its evolution. The first National Forest Inventory (NFI-1) was realised between 1983 to 1985, followed in 1993-1995 by the second National Forest Inventory (LFI-2). The third National Forest Inventory is planned for the years 2004 to 2006.

### **Market data on wood products**

Various tools and instruments serve the collection of data on timber products and markets in Switzerland:

- the National Forest Inventory documents the structure and evolution of the Swiss forest (see above);
- the Swiss statistic on forest and timber collects on an annual basis information about the forest area, the state of the forests, timber reserves/growth/tree species, timber yield, information on public

forestry and private enterprises, assistance to forestry activities, timber market, round timber production and consumption, foreign trade in timber, promotion programmes, work force in the forest sector, protection forest and natural hazards. The Swiss Federal Statistical Office and the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape jointly publish the Forest Statistic (annual publication).

- At international level, Switzerland collaborates with the UN/ECE Forest Outlook Studies (EFSOS) and provides regular report on the market and production of Timber products in Switzerland.

### **Market data on non-wood forest products**

Beside the study commissioned in 1996 by the Swiss Forest Agency on the quantity and value of non-wood products utilized in Switzerland (see above), no new data has been collected so far on the subject.

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

### **Assistance to forestry activities**

In Switzerland, the policy of assisting forestry activities provides two types of assistance, both intended as incentives.

- *Indemnities* are paid for the performance of tasks required by law (e.g. measures for protection against natural hazards, minimum tending in forests with a protective function). Up to 70% of the costs incurred by such measures are paid by the Confederation.
- *Financial assistance* is provided if the forest owner chooses to carry out certain tasks that are made particularly onerous by restrictions linked to nature protection. In this context, up to 50% of the costs incurred is covered by the Confederation. Financial aid is also offered for the improvement of management condition (e.g. building of forest roads and other structural improvement).

As a response to the decreasing incomes of forest enterprise in the mid 1980's, federal funding increased in the early 1990's to nearly CHF 200-250 Mio (130-160 €). Since then the assistance has stabilized at around CHF 180 (120 €). The combined payments extended by the cantonal and communal authorities are approximately on a par with the federal assistance. Primarily due to the measures necessitated by hurricane Lothar, a total of around CHF 260 million (170 €) was awarded in grants for forestry measures in the year 2000. This represents an increase of 58% in comparison to the previous year's figure. In the area of natural hazards, spending increased by CHF 8.6 million, while spending on structural improvements was reduced (- CHF 6.7 million).

Since the policy of assistance developed as part of the Federal Law on Forests (1992) has shown various shortcomings, the Confederation is now in the process of developing a new system for the allocation of assistance, whereby performance standards are elaborated with the forest owner in the form of contracts (*programme contract*). The new principles and instruments of this impact-oriented assistance policy were tested on the basis of five specific pilot programmes between 1997-2001. Results of this pilot programmes are currently under evaluation.

### **Promotion programmes**

Besides the assistance policy, the Swiss government has launched several important programmes to promote the sustainable use of renewable energy (the "Energy 2000" programme launched in the 1990s and its successor the "Swiss Energy" programme launched in 2000) and to promote the use of wood and wood products in Switzerland (programme "Wood 21").

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 cooperation and policy and programme coordination 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,*

The efforts to reduce negative impacts of forest products trade have focused on ensuring market transparency through voluntary labelling and voluntary declaration of origin. Because the negative impacts of trade can best be addressed through internationally coordinated and harmonized approaches, Switzerland actively supports international policies and strategies in that field such as promoting international labelling schemes, initiatives to improve forest law enforcement and eliminate illegal trade and ensuring that the trade regime and the environment regime are mutually supportive. Moreover, Switzerland promotes initiatives in the International Tropical Timber Council that give specific considerations to possible negative trade impacts.

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

Only around one third of Switzerland's furniture is home-produced. Increasingly, the imports come from far-away countries, where the conditions under which the timber is harvested often remain unclear. In this context, two certification systems are known in Switzerland – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Q-Label Scheme. Both schemes certify that the timber in question has been produced in an environmentally appropriate manner. The benchmark is provided by the "National Standards for the Certification of Forestry in Switzerland". These standards define what forest management requirements should be stipulated when forestry certificates are issued.

Although both certification schemes are approximately equivalent, they do not necessarily say the same thing.

- The FSC label communicates the facts that the timber was produced in an environmental and socially acceptable manner, taking account the international protection of forests.
- The Q-Label – which was developed by the Swiss forestry and timber industry, documents the environmentally friendly production of the timber and certifies that certain standards have been met during the process. In addition, the timber's Swiss origin is emphasised. The Q-label is based on ISO standards and supplements current forest legislation. It has been incorporated in the Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) scheme.

Today, FSC and Q-Label have both become so well established in Switzerland that they will operate in tandem in future. As per April 2003 a total of 250'000 hectares are certified, which corresponds to around 20% of the total Swiss forest area. Of the total certified area, 180'000 hectares are certified with both the FSC and Q labels. At least one of the major Swiss wood retailers has committed itself to sell only wood and wood products with FSC label by the year 2005.

- *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.*

One of the most important lessons learned is that illegal trade cannot be addressed effectively at the national level. Purely national measures are often not able to address the issue at its source and they risk to create unnecessary trade barriers. Therefore, international co-ordination is crucial. In this respect, Switzerland supports international initiatives, at global, regional and bilateral level to reduce illegal harvesting of forest products and to combat illegal trade. Different instruments are currently discussed in Switzerland on the consumer-end side, eg. certificate of origin, compulsory declaration of wood and wood products, chain of custody certification.

## **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 cooperation 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 cooperation at the regional and international levels to facilitate such work.*

### **Condition and potential threats of Swiss Forest:**

#### *State of the forests*

The condition of trees in Swiss forests is assessed in a representative way by the Sanasilva inventory. Between 1985 and 1997, the proportion of trees assessed as having crowns with more than 25% defoliation due to unknown causes rose from 8 to 17%. The annual mortality rate has remained at about 0.4%, which is not considered to be exceptional. In 2000, defoliation was measured again in a 16 km x 16 km grid. The proportion of trees with more than 25% of unexplained defoliation increased to 29.4% from the 19% recorded last year. This is the highest value hitherto observed. Over the same period, the average rate of defoliation increased from 21.4 to 26.0%. No change was observed in the tree mortality rate which remained at 0.4%. The main threat continues to originate from changes to the soil caused by inputs of nitrogen and acidifying substances from the air.

#### *Causes for the increase in crown defoliation*

There are many potential natural and anthropogenic causes for the increase in crown defoliation. As these all act simultaneously on the forest, it is not possible to identify single factors as being responsible. Possibilities include the gradual ageing of the Swiss tree population, droughts, the Vivian storm (1990) and the Lothar Storm (1999) and air pollutants. The investigations that have been done so far have given very little indication of the extent of the relationship between air pollution and crown defoliation.

Air pollution, in the form of acidic deposition and nitrogen deposition, represents a long-term risk as it can result in soil acidification, nutrient leaching and nutrient imbalances. These changes could cause adverse effects for acidic soils within a few decades. Critical loads for acids and nitrogen and critical levels for ozone, as determined by international agreement, are exceeded for many Swiss forests.

#### *Bark beetle*

In 2000, a very warm spring and the extensive breeding material supplied by Lothar provided excellent conditions for the proliferation of the typographical bark beetle (*Ips typographus*). Various species of silver fir bark beetle (*Pityokteines spec.*) also benefited from these conditions in individual regions. Around 75,000 m<sup>3</sup> of spruce had to be felled in the year 2000.

### **Recent national strategies or programmes to minimize damaging air pollution**

Airborne immissions (e.g. sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, suspended particulates, carbon monoxide) and the associated deposit of pollutants have an important impact by weakening and destabilizing forest ecosystems. Between 1986 and 1990, the level of acid deposition in Switzerland exceeded the critical load on 63% of forest soils. Between 1993 and 1995 the critical load for nitrogen was exceeded on roughly 10% of sites in nitrogen-sensitive, near-to-nature ecosystems, such as bogs and meadows, and in about 90% of forest ecosystems.

The Swiss environmental protection Law (7 October 1983, revised in 1999), the Ordinance on air pollution control (16 December 1985) and the subsequent Air Pollution Control Strategy are central elements of the Swiss air pollution control policy to protect human health and environment. To date, the main air pollution control measures adopted in Switzerland are:

- limitation of emission for around 150 different pollutants and over 40 types of industrial and commercial equipments; regulation on the storage and management of dusty materials
- quality requirements for heating and motor fuels
- introduction of an incentive tax on the sulphur content of extra-light fuel oil
- phased introduction of an incentive tax on volatile organic compounds
- exhaust emission limits for vehicles, delivery trucks, coaches, aircraft and motorboats
- compulsory exhaust emission in sections for road vehicle and diesel engine
- reduction of the general speed limits on motorways and out-of-town roads
- increased fines to aid enforcement of the application of speed limits
- fresh approached to agricultural policy within the new Law on Agriculture
- "Energy 2000" programme and most recently "Swiss Energy" programme
- introduction of an heavy vehicle Fee incorporating emission-based charged
- Guaranteeing the implementation and funding of public transport infrastructure (Rail 2000, NEAT)
- Federal Law on Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> (8 October 1999)

The "Energy 2000" programme (launched in the 1990s) and most recently the "Swiss Energy" programme (launched in 2000) are two important tools to promote the sustainable use of renewable energy in Switzerland, in particular the use of wood energy. Though the former campaign did not produce the expected results in term of reduction of the use of fossil fuel, the energy produced from renewable energy (e.g. wood, biomass, sun, wind, etc.) increased considerably between 1990 and 2000 (about 47% for heat, and 93% for electricity). In this context, wood energy represents the second most important renewable energy in Switzerland after hydropower energy.

### **International cooperation in strengthening related scientific knowledge and information access and in reducing long-range air pollution**

At international level, Switzerland has signed several international agreements and conventions that are designed to reduce air pollutants (Geneva Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and Montreal Protocol on Substance that Deplete the Ozone Layer), to protect the ozone layer (Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and additional Protocols), and to mitigate climate change (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol).

In this context, Switzerland is actively committed in various processes aiming at increasing scientific knowledge and information transfer related to the reduction of the long-range air pollution (e.g. Cost-Actions on air quality and climate change (EU); International research on global change (ex. IPCC, IGBP, IHDP, WCRP)

### **National and regional programmes for monitoring air pollution and provide factual information about transboundary air pollution**

In the 1960s first measurements of air pollution took place in Switzerland. In 1978 the National Air Pollution Monitoring Network (NABEL) was established, which measures the current status of air

pollution throughout Switzerland and investigates trends. The monitoring network of 16 stations is designed to measure the most commonly occurring forms of pollution in Switzerland, the aim being to produce a representative overview of air pollution in the country.

Thorough knowledge and close monitoring are prerequisite for sustainable forest management. Among the various programmes and individual projects that have been established in Switzerland for this purpose are: the National Forest Inventory (NFI) which document the structure of the forest and its evolution; the "Sanasilva" inventory introduced in 1985 to monitor the condition of tree crown transparency; and the Long-term Forest Ecosystem research project (LTFER), which aims at improving the understanding of forest ecosystem processes through intensive multi-disciplinary study.

At international level, Switzerland is involved in several programmes monitoring air pollution and providing factual information about transboundary air pollution (e.g. International Co-operative Programme on Integrated Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects (ICP-IM), International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP-Forests); Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Long-range Transmission of Air Pollution in Europe (EMEP)).

## **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.*

### **Sustainable forest management in Switzerland**

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there has been a growing awareness that beside their economic and protective functions, forests also have a great importance as natural and social environment. The new Federal Law on Forest, which took effect on 1 January 1993, encompasses therefore the multiple use of forest as being: ecological, social, protective and economic. To harmonize policy frameworks that collectively address the full range of forest values, Switzerland has developed the following procedures:

- *National Forest Programme*: as presented above, the Swiss National Forest Programme is a participatory and cross-sectoral process, involving public and private stakeholders of various interests and levels. By means of this process long-term visions, specific objectives for the year 2015, strategies and measures for fulfilling the proposed objectives will be defined (see Chapter I).
- *Coordination of procedures*: in a country like Switzerland with very many regulations and where projects often need several authorizations from different agencies, it is important that all institutions concerned be integrated in the decision making process from the beginning, so that all interests can be balanced and a general agreement found. In this respect, the Environmental Impact assessment (EIA), that is necessary for all larger projects, has proved a very useful tool.
- *Information as a duty*: In Switzerland, the Confederation and the cantons are bound by law to keep the population and the authorities regularly informed on the role and conditions of the forest, as well as on forestry activities.
- *Public participation*: As presented above, all Swiss citizens are entitled to participate in determining the main outlines of forest planning and management. The form of public participation range from general information to direct public involvement, depending on type and size of the projects.

*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 cooperation at the regional and international levels, including through UNFF, could further facilitate implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action*

In the framework of the Swiss National Forest Inventory scenarios on the future production potential and the use of wood are elaborated to give information on trends for the supply side. Trends related to the demand for wood are elaborated in the framework of the European Forest Sector Outlook Studies / European Timber Trends Studies. The latter studies are developed by the UN/ECE and actively supported by Switzerland

## **Other information and emerging issues**

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

The economic aspects of forests, forest health and productivity, maintenance of forest cover are three of the 6 focal areas that the Swiss National Forest Programme deals with in more detail. The final results will be available by the end of 2003.

## **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.*

This report has been prepared by the Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forest and Landscape (SAEFL). The main sources of information for the preparation of this report were both assessment studies commissioned by the Swiss Forest Agency (Pleines&Kazemi 1998 and Kazemi 2002), expert interviews realised within the framework of the National Forest Programme process and intermediate results of the National Forest Programme. The report underwent a final consultation among the federal departments in charge of the global dialogue on forest. In this context, the reporting guidelines and the suggested guideline developed by the UNFF secretariat proved very helpful.