

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

DENMARK

7. Nov. 2003

I. Key Contacts

Head of Forestry in Denmark:

Name: Hans Henrik Christensen
Title: Director General

Contact information:

Address: Danish Forest and Nature Agency
Phone: (+45) 39 47 20 00
Fax: (+45) 39 47 98 99
E-mail: sns@sns.dk

UNFF national focal point for Denmark

Name: Lars Toksvig
Title: Chief Forest Officer

Contact information:

Address: Frederiksborg State Forest District, Ostrupgård, Gillelejevej 2B, 3230 Græsted
Phone: (+45) 48 46 56 00
Fax: (+45) 48 46 56 01
E-mail: lto@sns.dk

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

Name: Frans Richard Bach
Title: Consultant

Contact information:

Address: Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Forest Policy Division
Phone: (+45) 39 47 26 24
Fax: (+45) 39 27 98 99
E-mail: frb@sns.dk

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

GENERAL

Additional or new information on initiatives taken or lessons learned since 1997:

Table I. Statistics:

Danish forest area	486.000 hectares, 11 % of the total area
Forest area pr. capita	0,1 hectare/cap.
Volume	45 million m ³ conifer, 28 million m ³ deciduous
Average annual increment (forecast 2000- 2009)	3,8 million m ³ conifer, 1,3 million m ³ deciduous
Annual felling (1999)	1,1 million m ³ conifer, 0,6 million m ³ deciduous
Annual wood consumption	Approximately 8 million m ³
Tree species	63,2 % conifer, 36,8 % deciduous
Ownership	72 % private and, 28 % public
Recreation	More than 75 million annual visits in the forest

Previous policies:

A revised Forest Act entered into force on January 1. 1997. In principle this act was an extension of the forest policy of the previous years, which aimed at increasing and protecting the forest area, protecting forest nature and biodiversity, and promoting outdoor recreation in the forests. Also other objectives were included such as facilitating development of forest products, provision of advisory services for the forest sector etc.

The act took into account recent government adjustments in the Danish forest administration. In 1994 the entire responsibility for forest policy development had been concentrated in the Ministry of the Environment, and now administration of all forest incentive schemes were streamlined and transferred to this ministry, notably the Danish Forest and Nature Agency being the agency of the ministry responsible for forest issues.

The revision of the Forest Act followed and implemented a forest strategy from 1994 and a strategy for natural forests and other biologically valuable forest areas from 1992.

The overall objective was introduction of good and multiple-use forest management. Some more specific objectives were among others to,

- double the national forest area within one tree generation (100 years),
- increase the area with indigenous deciduous tree species,

- assign 5000 ha for unmanaged forest and 4.000 ha for traditional management regimes by year 2000, aiming at a total of these categories of 40.000 ha in 2040.

These policies are supported by subsidies, including EU funding, information and advice, research, and implementation on state forest areas.

TABLE II: Public funding available for financing sustainable forest management, 1994-2003

SUBSIDY SCHEME	YR	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03
MILL. DKK											
Forest consultants		9,3	9,6	9,2	9,8	9,3	7,5	7,5	8,6	5,5	6,5
Product development		0,3	15,3	21,9	12,8	15,7	13,6	10,9	6,6	5,3	5,3
Development, Christmas trees/ greenery production					2,9	3,2	3,0	3,2	4,1	4,0	4,0
Private afforestation		3,0	4,2	3,7	55,0	37,5	220,7	128,9	112,9	113,4	89,0
Deciduous forest		21,1	20,7	17,8	20,3						
Forest improvement		14,6	9,0	9,0	16,5						
Good and multiple use forest management (incl. deciduous forest)						24,5	24,6	13,6	11,2	5,5	6,5
Untouched forest, special management regimes		2,3	8,9	10,6	2,2	8,2	5,8	2,5	6,6	3,0	3,0
Afforestation of State Land		57	44	56	49	49	18	18	35	18	38

Figures for 2003 are forecasts, but included in the national budget.

A new national forest inventory with status 2000 was published in 2002. This provides an opportunity for assessing the impact of the forest policy during the previous years.

The below Figure I and II indicate the impact of the policies on afforestation and deciduous forest, while Table III provides a status for implementation of the 1992 strategy for natural forests and other biologically valuable forest areas.

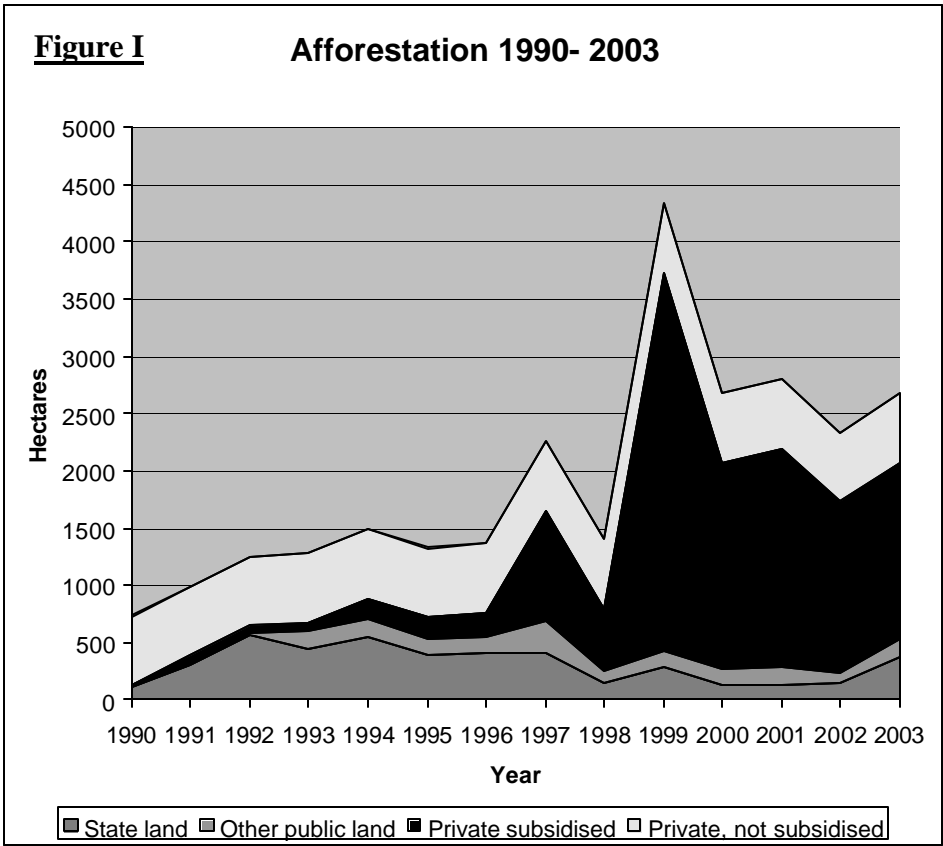


Figure II: Forest area and species distribution 1881- 2000

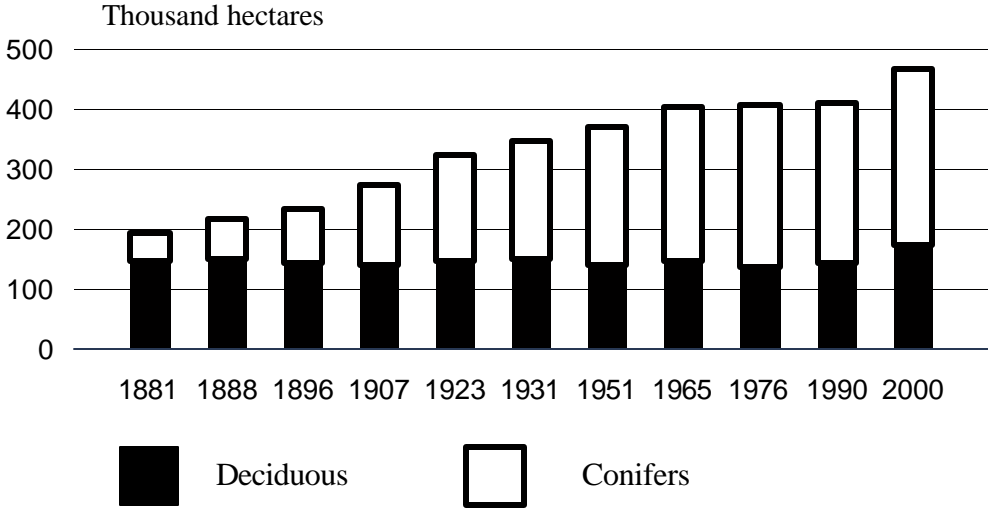


Table III: Forest areas subject to protections and special management regimes (2000).

Management category	Private forest		State forest	TOTAL
	Voluntary agreements	Protection through legal declaration		
Un-managed forest	1.500 ha	530 ha	4.470 ha	6.500 ha
Special thinning regimes	1.650 ha	1.400 ha	4.600 ha	7.650 ha
Grazing	870 ha	200 ha	1.800 ha	2.870 ha
Pruning	50 ha	120 ha	180 ha	350 ha
Other measures		70 ha		70 ha

These figures lead to the following conclusions:

- The afforestation programme made progress, but was lacking behind schedule. Doubling the forest area within 100 years will require annual average afforestation of around 4.500- 5.000 ha, and as can be seen from Figure I, this did not happen. There may be several factors to assess in this context such as lack of awareness, land competition, insufficient funding, costly silvicultural practices, declining forest economy etc.
- The measures to increase the deciduous forest area proved rather successful. As can be seen from Figure II the increase in the Danish forest area during the last more than 100 years (and even before) has almost exclusively been based on conifers. This, however, changed from 1990 to 2000, where there was a significant increase in forest area primarily based on deciduous tree species. More detailed statistics indicate that oak is important in this context. This achievement has been triggered by subsidised species conversion in existing forest, and preference for deciduous species when prioritising subsidies for afforestation activities. However, decreasing softwood prices in the region and a general trend for many private forest owners to prefer amenity and personal recreation before forest production may be other factors.
- Table III shows that the year 2000 target of the 1992-strategy for natural forests and other biologically valuable forest areas was successfully met. It also shows that this result was mainly achieved through activities in the state forests. The process will continue and new measures are to be identified.

Several additional objectives and measures have not been discussed in details above. The use of pesticides in the forests have been significantly reduced. The state forests have almost ceased to use pesticides. Furthermore, several major programmes have been launched to raise public awareness on forest and forest nature, activities targeting school children, increased public access to forest areas etc.

A seed production programme of forest tree species and bushes is supported by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency. The programme ensures that the genetic resources including genetically improved material is made available for the planters.

Development and implementation of a national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests.

Current forest policies:

A number of factors, including the general development in the society and policies towards increased public participation in policy processes, triggered a need for revising the Danish forest policy. This was further emphasised by the recommendations of international forest policy processes to develop national forest programmes, and the general change in Danish policies following a change in Government in 2001.

The Danish National Forest Programme was approved by the Government in June 2002 and replaced the Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management from 1994.

The national forest programme was developed taking into consideration 1) involvement of stakeholders; and 2) development and inclusion of a set of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

The national forest programme- process was initiated in 2000 by a broad public debate (including Internet debate) on how to develop the forests, and how to use them. Thematic meetings, a conference, excursions and discussions were arranged with participation of a wide range of stakeholders, and the programme was widely circulated for comments in a public hearing process. Results from recent research projects were also included in the programme development.

The debate indicated the presence of considerable public awareness on recreational aspects and somewhat less on the production-related aspects of forest management. Forests with a varied structure, a rich fauna and calmness seem to be the preferred type. The more professional part of the debate revolved around protection of natural forests, designation of untouched forest areas and forest grazing.

The experiences from this exercise show that efficient methods for public participation in the forest sector have to be developed, and this should be taken into consideration in the implementation of the programme.

As an integral part of the forest programme-process a working group with broad representation from all stakeholders was convened to develop operational guidelines for sustainable forest management at management unit level based on the Pan-European criteria and indicators. In 2001 the working group agreed on 13 such guidelines based on near-to-nature principles for forest management. These include

- Selection of species well adapted to the local conditions, especially native species;
- Single tree management among the larger trees;
- Maintenance of the productivity, stability and regeneration potential of the forest by avoiding interventions which damage the climate, soil conditions and biodiversity of the forest – for instance clear-cutting and the use of pesticides;
- Utilisation of natural regeneration and natural differentiation in the forest management;
- Development towards forests with a mixture of different tree species in different age groups.

Though the guidelines are strictly voluntary, they are expected to provide the basis for future Danish forest management. This is seen to contribute both to improving forest economy as well as forest nature and biodiversity (The guidelines are available in English on <http://www.sns.dk/internet/dnf-eng.pdf>).

The National Forest Programme has the following objectives:

<p>Environmental objectives: Promote efforts for the protection of biological diversity and secure the physical environment and the basis for forest management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and promote a conversion to near-to-nature forest management • Conserve natural forest and nature in the forest, including wetlands and key biotopes • Before 2040, 10% of the total forest area has biodiversity conservation as the primary management objective • Develop the potential of the forest sector to contribute to a number of environmental objectives, including policy objectives in climate and energy, e.g. limitation of the greenhouse effect (as per the Kyoto Protocol), provision of renewable energy, ensuring clean groundwater, etc.
<p>Economic objectives: Development towards increasingly economically sustainable framework conditions for the forest sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop forest and wood products, markets and the industrial and trade sectors • Increase the use of forest and wood products and improve the pricing and secondary values of these, among others through niche-productions and increased visibility of the environmental qualities of the forest production • Increase the awareness and knowledge about the economic possibilities in near-to-nature forest management – including clarification on issues relating to the conversion phase
<p>Social objectives: Development of the role of the forests as a national welfare benefit through the opportunities for the population for using the forests to develop health and awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the opportunities for experiencing nature in the forests • Conserve the cultural values in the forests • Develop dialogue, knowledge and awareness about the functions and importance of the forests • Promotion of physical and mental wellbeing through the interaction between forests and citizens, including the opportunities for outdoor recreation and the use of forest products
<p>Afforestation: The objectives for afforestation are maintained and developed with a view towards strengthening of the nature concern in afforestation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the forest area so forest landscapes cover 20-25 % of Denmark after one tree-generation (80-100 years) • The concept of multiple use forest management will be further integrated into the afforestation with due consideration to production, biodiversity, outdoor recreation, cultural heritage, landscape and environmental protection • Increased co-operation with local actors, including citizens, organisations and authorities in the afforestation efforts
<p>Knowledge: Efficient capacity building and information sharing in the forest sector. Access to updated and relevant knowledge and experience as a basis for the forest policy through research, education, dissemination and information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and apply knowledge-building and knowledge dissemination on biological diversity, economy and social aspects of the forest, hereunder needs and priorities of users and consumers • Use the state forests to test and further develop management methods and operational principles, which can perform multiple tasks within a number of areas, with a concerted and coherent strategy for operations, cultivation, biological diversity, outdoor recreation, cultural heritage etc. • In a longer perspective, the objectives will be strengthened by developing the forestry education curricula and adapting to the needs of the sector as well as new trends in society • Strengthening of a coherent monitoring of the forests
<p>International objectives: At global as well as regional scale to promote the development towards sustainable forest management, where protection of forest biological diversity and environment is integrated into the contribution of the forests to social and economic development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coherent efforts of a still more binding character in international negotiation fora supported by bilateral, regional and multilateral co-operation, trade, research, information and public information nationally as well as internationally • Coherence between national and international efforts, thus underlining positions on international forest relations with national actions

The national forest programme now enters its phase of implementation. One important initiative is a new forest act, which is expected to enter into force in 2004. The new act will allow forest owners and managers more flexibility in forest management, which will facilitate a long-term conversion to near-to-nature forest management practices.

Furthermore the new act will contain provisions for the full implementation of the EU NATURA2000 network, which will be a significant contribution to protecting forest biodiversity. The new act will also contain provisions for protection of biologically valuable forest areas outside the NATURA2000 areas.

Mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

Danish forest legislation holds provisions for establishment of a forest advisory council. Such a council is established and it is advising the minister of the environment on forest policy issues including forest legislation, national forest programming etc. Forest industry, green organisations, user organisations, and government and research institutions are represented in the council.

Ad hoc groups can be established for specific processes. This was the case for the national guidelines for sustainable forest management and the guidelines for public procurement of tropical timber, where a wide range of stakeholders including industry as well as green organisations were convened in working groups to follow the processes.

Working groups are also established relating to research, information etc.

The national forest programme process included a public debate phase with a wide range of activities.

Advisory groups of forest users have been established at each state forest district, where they participate in and contribute to forest management planning.

Assessment (including of the relevance, priority, status of implementation, planned actions) of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the national context

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF FORESTS

- Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources: Please refer to the Danish voluntary Report on Implementation of the Expanded CBD- Programme of Work on Forests available on <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/dk/dk-nr-vfe-en.doc>.
- Enhanced role of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management: Advisory groups of forest users have been established for each state forest district. These contribute to forest management planning.

Programmes are in place to raise awareness on forest issues among local people, in particular young people and school children.
- Monitoring, assessment and reporting on social data: Recreational use of the forests is being monitored. Employment, income, ownership etc. are also subject to regular statistics.
- Promoting public participation: Ref. above on “Enhanced role of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management”.
- Social aspects addressed in national forest programmes: Ref. above on national forest programmes.

SCIENTIFIC FOREST RELATED KNOWLEDGE

- The Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute has established an extension service, where users may purchase access through subscription to 2-3 technical reports and ca. 40 information sheets annually. This service is combined with free extension via internet and telephone. The subscription also provides access to discounts at various conferences and other arrangements related to forest owners and Christmas tree growers. For the moment the subscription for *Forestry and Christmas trees and greenery* holds 250 owners/growers each.

MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING, AND CONCEPTS, TERMINOLOGY AND DEFINITIONS

- Collection and dissemination of national information on forests: So far national forest inventories have been elaborated every tenth year. A new concept will now be implemented, where the national forest inventory is to be based on field survey through a grid of sampling plots. This inventory will not only record volume, species, age and other data related to forest production. It will also address such issues as biological diversity, carbon sequestration etc.

Sampling of data for this new National Forest Inventory (NFI) started in 2002, and results from the field survey are expected to be published in 2007 and made accessible on a user inter-active Internet site.

The Danish NFI is being integrated with the Danish Forest Health survey (ICP-forest and EU Forest Focus programme). All relevant information from the national surveys regarding forest resources and health will be accessible and searchable from a common Internet page.

The Danish experience regarding organising, building and integrating a NFI could assist other countries in their related efforts.

Forest recreation is assessed with regular intervals.

Private forest owners' organisations, forest research institutes and the Danish Forest and Nature Agency co-operate on drafting and disseminating easily accessible guides and booklets on forest management issues for forest practitioners.

- Improved and streamlined international reporting and information systems on forests:
Being an EU member state Denmark is participating in development and implementation of EU forest monitoring schemes, such as the Forest Focus and EFIC's schemes, which are currently being developed to address forest health, forest fire, carbon sequestration, biological diversity etc.

Denmark also provides data to the FAO global and regional forest inventory programmes.

- Concepts, terminology and definitions:
Denmark actively participates in international processes within the framework of FAO, UNFCCC etc. discussing forest terminology.

Denmark is also part in the Pan-European forest policy process, and national criteria for sustainable forest management have been developed based on the Pan-European criteria. Indicators corresponding to these criteria will be developed.

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

- Develop, test and implement criteria and indicators at national, subnational and operational levels:
National criteria for sustainable forest management at management unit level have been developed based on the Pan-European criteria. Corresponding indicators will be developed.

The national criteria will be implemented in the state forests, and legislation is being adapted in order to facilitate implementation in the private forests as well.

Information and training activities will be implemented in support of the criteria.

The certification schemes FSC and PEFC are both in operation in Denmark, and practical experience with timber certification is being developed.

- Promote the use of criteria and indicators at regional and global levels:
Denmark has actively participated in the development and improvement of the Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, as latest adopted at the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, April 2003.

In addition to this and in the context of the Nordic co-operation, Denmark is engaged in the development of Nordic criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

Recent Danish guidelines on public procurement of tropical timber recommend the use of internationally agreed criteria for sustainable forest management as the basis for assessing compliance with any requirements of "sustainably produced tropical timber". In this context special reference is made to the Statement on Forest Principles of UNCED, Rio 1992, and to the further criteria and guidelines for the sustainable management of tropical forest as developed in various regional forestry forums under the UN, by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as well as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR).

- Further develop biodiversity indicators:
Please refer to the Danish voluntary Report on Implementation of the Expanded CBD- Programme of Work on Forests available on <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/dk/dk-nr-vfe-en.doc>.

USEFUL LINKS

The Danish national forest programme in an international perspective:
<http://www.sns.dk/internat/dnf-eng.pdf>

The Danish voluntary Report on Implementation of the Expanded CBD- Programme of Work:
<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/dk/dk-nr-vfe-en.doc>

Purchasing Tropical Timber – Environmental Guidelines:
http://www.sns.dk/udgivelser/2003/tropical/tropical_timber_22102003_UK_D.pdf

The Danish Forest and Nature Agency:
www.sns.dk

The Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute:
www.fsl.dk

The Danish Forest Association:
<http://www.skovforeningen.dk>

This report was prepared by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency with further information provided by the Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute.