

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

Germany

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I. Key Contacts

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Not applicable.

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 since 1997 further to the information on forests included in your national reports¹ to UNFF 2 and UNFF 3, the Commission on Sustainable Development, and other international instruments and organizations 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
 - development and implementation of your national forest programme or similar national policy framework for forests, and
 - mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

Report:

The second phase of the German „National Forest Program“ has been finished. More than 80 actors representing all forest-relevant stakeholders have recommended 182 proposals for action concerning sustainable forest management in Germany and abroad. The proposals are addressed to one or several stakeholders and administrations. Key forest policy statements on important fields of action were made and will be published to present the importance of forests and forestry for society. They build a cornerstone for Germany’s federal forest policy and shall also be implemented within the German Federal Government’s “National Strategy for Sustainability”. In 2004, actors who participated in the NFP-process will conduct a monitoring process throughout all actors on the implementation of the proposals of action. In the second half of 2004, the monitoring-results will be presented and further steps discussed.

The agreed manual with “basic rules” concerning the organization of the process and the framework for participation and cooperation between the different actors has proofed it’s feasibility to coordinate the multi-stakeholder-dialogue within the NFP-process. Also, a high level of participation and involvement of the actors within the preparation of the Round-Table-Meetings and transparency of the process was reached. Therefore, a high level of acceptance for the results of the NFP-process was induced throughout the actors.

¹ National reports related to forests may be easily accessed on the CPF website at www.fao.org/forestry/cfp-mar

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4

Please provide information on: activities undertaken since 1997, progress made, constraints encountered, lessons learned, and issues that have emerged, as well as relevant information related to means of implementation (financing, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and capacity-building) to support the following actions:

social and cultural aspects of forests

2. promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources, taking into account work undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international agreements

Report:

- Only 30% of the German forests are state owned. Most of the forests are owned and managed by private people and municipalities. In Germany, factual and intellectual property rights are granted by federal law. Therefore, the right to receive the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources and the intellectual property rights are granted for all forest owners.
 - In 2002 the German Federal Act on Forest Reproductive Material was amended, based upon the Council Regulation 1999/105/EG. This law ensures the supply of high quality forest reproductive material by stipulating that the material may only be marketed if it originates from approved stands or trees and if it is certified and labeled. The suppliers of forest reproductive material have to be officially registered and are controlled regularly. The demanders of forest reproductive material benefit by getting full information about the reproductive material which is necessary to choose the suitable material for their specific sites.
3. strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management

Report:

- Since 1999 the concept of “Equal opportunities for men and women” is a main guideline within German administrations. To implement this guideline which is also part of the European Treaties since 1999 the strategy of “Gender mainstream” was introduced by the German Federal Government. This strategy which aims on a systematical observance of differences within the social conditions of men and women in order to gain not only legal but effective equal opportunities. This strategy has to

be regarded within the federal and by some regional administrations and at every Federal legislative act. Thus, it is valid for the forest administration and legislation, too.

- In Germany, women who are employed in a private or public (forest-)enterprise gain different kind of supporting measures from the federal and regional administration like inter alia child allowance and wage continuation during the parental leave.
4. integrating local and indigenous communities in sustainable forest management programmes, particularly as regards (a) recognition and respect of the customary and traditional rights and privileges of indigenous and local communities, (b) participation in decision making regarding the management of forests, (c) the attainment of secure land tenure arrangements, (d) capacity building and technology transfer for sustainable forest management directed at indigenous and local communities

Report:

- In Germany, most of the forests are owned and managed by municipalities or private forest owners individually or within a forest cooperative (see answer to question 2). Besides, private forest owners participate in national and regional forest programmes which follow a multi-stakeholder-approach.
- The German federal and state administrations support measures of capacity building, technology transfer and education for organizations of small-scale private forest owners who manage their forests commonly. The thematic area of indigenous communities is not applicable in Germany.

traditional forest-related knowledge

5. inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders

Report:

- In Germany, sustainable forest management has a long history which is well documented inter alia in libraries of universities and scientific institutes and where it is publicly available. Forest history and TFRK is taught throughout the forest education in forestry schools and forest-related faculties at German universities. German forest management is mainly based on the results of the past 200 years' work in forestry science which complements the TFRK of the private and public forest owners.

- TFRK in Germany is also documented in historical sites, which are catalogued by local offices for conservation of historical monuments. Besides, in Germany numerous projects exist to maintain and develop historical silvicultural techniques, historical forest stand formations and historical forest labor skills. These projects are supported by several donors and administrations and are not registered by a central national agency.
6. supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices

Report:

In Germany, most of the forests are managed by private forest owners (see answer to question 2), and in doing so they apply TRFK as well as modern knowledge (see answer to question 5). Because property rights are granted (see answer to question 3), no additional measures are necessary to support the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices.

scientific forest-related knowledge

7. disseminating scientific knowledge to all interested parties, including through new and innovative ways, and strengthening capacity and mobilizing funding for national and regional research institutions and networks

Report:

- Forest-related research is supported by the federal and state ministries for education and research. Universities with forest faculties and forest schools are mainly state-owned, several of them have an international focus with English lectures and a high proportion of international students and scientists. There are some institutions supporting capacity building and support of education and research in Germany on a regional and international level: the German Research Foundation (DFG) is the central, self-governing research organization that promotes research at universities and other publicly financed research institutions in Germany. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), which is the largest German support organization in the field of international academic co-operation and partly publicly-funded, co-ordinates numerous research and educational programmes for German and

international students and scientists. Besides, privately and industrial-funded research is managed by universities independently.

- Germany supports and participates in regional and international research networks like the European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN), European Forest Institute (EFI) and the IUFRO.
 - Scientific publications are mostly available from different sources in Germany via the Internet. Some central online-platforms (e.g. www.wald-online.de) provide links to most of the German and some international forest scientific institutions.
 - The Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products (BFH) has by order of the federal government the task to make all research results publicly available inter alia via the Internet (www.bfah.de).
 - There are some institutions in Germany that disseminate scientific and practical forest-related knowledge on a broad sense: the German Centre for Documentation and Information in Agriculture (ZADI) is the scientific information institute of the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture. Among its tasks are inter alia information services like the development and maintenance of information portals, scientific information systems and databases, the execution of national co-ordination tasks and related research and development in the field of information sciences. The German Information Service Consumer Protection, Food, Agriculture (AID) is a publicly financed organization that publishes a wide range of informative literature and teaching materials like booklets, transparencies, videos and software.
8. enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making

Report:

At all processes concerning forest policy at national, regional and international level, the German government is counseled by the German Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products (BFH). The BFH also conducts studies and research projects on specific topics of forest policy which are publicly available in the Internet. In Germany, forest-related scientific institutions are invited to participate in the National Forest Programme (see answer to question 1). Nevertheless, it is a permanent task of these institutions to interact with forest-related

associations and national administrative forest policy committees to facilitate the exchange of scientific research and policy processes.

monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

9. improving information on national forest resources, making the information widely available, and assisting other countries in their related efforts

Report:

- Between 2001 and 2002 the fieldwork of the second federal forest inventory was conducted and coordinated by the German Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture. This second national forest inventory reiterates the inventory that was conducted in 1986 - 1989. The results will be published mid 2004 through technical papers, press-releases, governmental statements, various publications and via the Internet. Most of these publications will be translated into the English language. Specific data interpretation is available against payment.
- The German national forest inventory tries to regard international reporting duties in order to avoid the duplication of inventory work. Germany supports and participates in technical bodies of the EU and UN/ECE/FAO that are concerned with monitoring, assessment and reporting on international level (Forest Focus, FRA, TBFRA).

criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

10. developing and using criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (at national level and/or subnational level and for policy, planning, management and/or monitoring purposes), and participating in regional and/or international C&I processes

Report:

On pan-European level, the Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) has developed C&I which can be characterized as an overall concept for sustainable forest management. Germany as well as the other signatory states has adopted these criteria at the third MCPFE in Lisbon in 1998 and has agreed to incorporate them nationally. The German federal government feels committed to this overall concept and regards it throughout its forest policy, the development of national strategies and the enhancements of the national legal framework.

The MCPFE indicators are applied unchanged and influenced the design of the Federal Forest Inventory (see answer to question 9). Some of the recently improved set as adopted in Vienna 2003 are still too ambitious and will be implemented gradually.

III. Preparation of the Report

11. 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 successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.

Report:

This is a report by the German government prepared through interministerial coordination. Non-governmental organizations were not involved.

As mentioned in former German national reports, the orientation along the lines of a focussed questionnaire while avoiding duplication of national reporting elsewhere is regarded as helpful. Time constraints helped to keep the report short.