

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

Denmark

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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 since 1997 further to the information on forests included in your national reports¹ to UNFF 2, UNFF 3 and UNFF 4, 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,
- international cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships,
- mechanisms or initiatives to facilitate stakeholder participation, including indigenous and local communities, in forest sector planning, decision-making and/or forest management.

National Forest Programme:

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

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/internat/dnf-eng.pdf>).

New Forest Act:

A new Forest Act has been approved by the Parliament and have entered into force October 1st 2004. The main objective of the new act is to ensure sustainable forest management, promote a more diverse forest in Denmark, improve the conditions for biological diversity, provide for better opportunities to establish cabins for scouts and children in forest and thereby improve the access to recreation in forests, and possibilities to establish subsidies that are specifically targeted to promote sustainable forest management.

Another change in the new Forest Act is that it allows owners and managers more flexibility in forest management, which will facilitate a conversion to near-to-nature forest management practices. This is expected to result in more diverse forest and at the same time give better possibilities for the forest owners to reduce management costs.

Implementation of the Natura 2000 Network:

Enforcement of the new Forest Act will lead to implementation of the EU Habitat and Protection of Birds Directives. Denmark holds 254 sites of Community Importance according to the Habitat Directive and 112 Special Protected Areas according to the Birds Directive. This includes 3 591 km² terrestrial areas equal to 8,4% of the surface area of Denmark. This area includes 50 000 – 70 000 ha of forest. It is estimated that

¹ National reports related to forests may be easily accessed on the CPF website at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/foris/webview/cpf/index.jsp?siteId=2461&siteTreeId=6947&langId=1&geoId=0>, however UNFF4 reports are available only at <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff4.html> at the time of writing.

some 14 000 ha of natural habitats are to be protected in these areas, in addition some habitats for species etc. will need protection. Management plans for special management regimes for these areas will be developed in order to maintain or improve their natural value in accordance with the Habitat and Protection of Birds Directives. These management plans will provide clear guidance for the forest management. The Forest Act provides for financial compensation of forest owners in case the management plans for the designated areas incur an economic loss on the owners. Similar provisions are made in a new Nature Protection Act also to enable the implementation of the Nature 2000 Network.

Forest Biological Diversity:

Denmark has reported on the implementation of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity, including a list of key DK priority actions in this context. A number of the elements included in this report are considered relevant to the implementation of the IPF and IFF proposal for actions. The Danish report can be found at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/dk/dk-nr-vfe-en.doc>.

Action plan for biological diversity and nature protection in Denmark for the period 2004-2010:

An action plan for biological diversity and nature protection in Denmark for the period 2004-2010 has been finalised in 2004. The action plan describes major initiatives and priorities for the use and conservation of biological diversity and nature protection and has been developed in a process involving a number of ministries as well as a hearing process for major groups.

The plan follows a national strategy for sustainable development "Common Future – development in balance" from 2002, presented at the UN summit in Johannesburg in August 2002. This strategy was developed in parallel and in full coherence with the National Forest Programme.

Pilot project for the development of national parks:

Seven areas of significant conservation value have been designated as possible areas for future national parks. Some of these seven areas include significant areas of forest.

Local user committees representing users, land owners, environmental NGOs, local authorities and the Ministry of the Environment has been established for all seven areas and work towards defining the content, future use etc. of each national park has commenced. It is a process highly influenced by active local participation.

Public procurement of timber:

In 2003 Denmark launched voluntary guidelines for public procurement of tropical timber, with the scope to help public institutions in ensuring that the tropical timber they buy is legally and sustainably produced. Awareness raising on the guidelines was carried out in DK in 2004. A workshop for EU member states and the European Commission focussing on exchange of experience and lessons learnt on public procurement of legally and sustainably produced timber was hosted by Denmark in September 2004. It was jointly organised together with the Netherlands EU Presidency.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2

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) related to the following elements:

Combating deforestation and forest degradation

2. *preparing diagnostic studies to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including processes outside the forest sector*
3. *formulating and implementing national policies and strategies, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation*
4. *raising awareness of the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation and the multiple values of forests*

3. Through Danish development assistance to among others Tanzania in the areas of agro forestry and natural resources management support has been given since 1990 to the development of sustainable strategies for the forestry sector based on open and participatory dialogue.

4. In all Danish supported environmental programmes and environmental sector support programmes emphasis has been put on development of environmental awareness and advocacy; the support has in many cases been channelled through NGOs or community based organisations, or through schools.

Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems

5. *creating or expanding protected areas to safeguard forest and related ecosystems and their full range of values and, developing and applying criteria and methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in protected forest areas*
6. *developing and implementing partnership mechanisms to engage forest owners, private sector, indigenous people and local communities in the planning and management of forest conservation areas and developing and implementing a range of innovative mechanisms for financing and encouraging forest conservation*
7. *giving high priority in national forest programs to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of forests and trees in environmentally critical areas, recognising the linkage between forest protection and sustainable development and improving the coordination among such policies and programmes*

5 and 6. Denmark is in the process of implementing the EU Natura 2000 Network, which will safeguard forest ecosystems designated according to the Habitat and Protection of Birds Directives. It is expected that 14 000 ha of natural habitats are to be protected in these areas. In addition some habitats for species etc. will need protection. Management plans for special management regimes will be developed in order to maintain or improve the natural value of these areas. Provisions are now available with the adoption of the new Forest Act for developing specific management plans for these areas.

Management plans will be developed in co-operation with forest owners and financial compensation will be provided in case the owner will incur a financial loss.

The pilot projects for development of national parks and subsidies targeted at securing conservation of areas with high conservation value will furthermore lead to better forest conservation and protection of unique types of forests and fragile ecosystems.

7. 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.

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/internat/dnf-eng.pdf>).

Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover

8. *expanding forested area, establishing and managing plantations to enhance production of forest goods and services, while avoiding the replacement of natural ecosystems, and recognizing the role of imports in satisfying the needs for forest products and services*
9. *promoting the regeneration and restoration of degraded forest areas including through partnerships and building capacities to promote effective participation in decision making, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies*
10. *improving the efficiency of international cooperation to support the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and building capacity to monitor forest resources*

8. Not applicable, see 11 on promotion of natural and planted forests.

9. Not applicable.

10. Denmark gives high priority to international co-operation on how to improve the efficiency of the international forest dialogue. Forests are cross-cutting e.g. timber and NWFP production, clean water, biodiversity, climate, recreation, conservation of soil etc. and forest issues are therefore discussed in many fora. Denmark participates in a number of international fora in which forest either is a key issue in itself or is taken into due consideration as an integral part of other sector strategies and action plans etc. These include in particular the MCPFE-process (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. Denmark is also participating in discussions in the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and in various programmes within the context of for instance the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) which among other things includes research institutions dealing with forestry, agroforestry and plant genetic resources, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which finances projects related to conservation of forest. As a member state of the European Union, Denmark is co-ordinating with the other EU member states in international negotiations on forest, and Denmark is actively participating in forest policy activities within the context of the EU. Furthermore, Denmark actively participates in the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Baltic 21 Forest Sector as well their jointly established Consultation Committee for Agriculture and Forestry.

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests

11. *promoting the creation of new forest resources through plantations and recognizing their role in rehabilitation of degraded lands and forests in environmentally critical areas*
12. *promoting policies to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services, through sustainable forest management.*

11 and 12. Since the early 1990's Denmark has actively pursued to increase the forest cover in DK significantly, aiming at reaching a total cover of forest landscapes of 20 to 25 percent before year 2100. The present cover is 11½ percent. The policy also aims to increase the area with indigenous tree species. These policies are supported by subsidy schemes, including EU funding, information and advice, research and implementation on state forest areas. Some of the results can be seen below in figure 1 and 2. Further information on subsidies can be found under point 15.

Figure 1. Afforestation in Denmark between 1990 and 2003

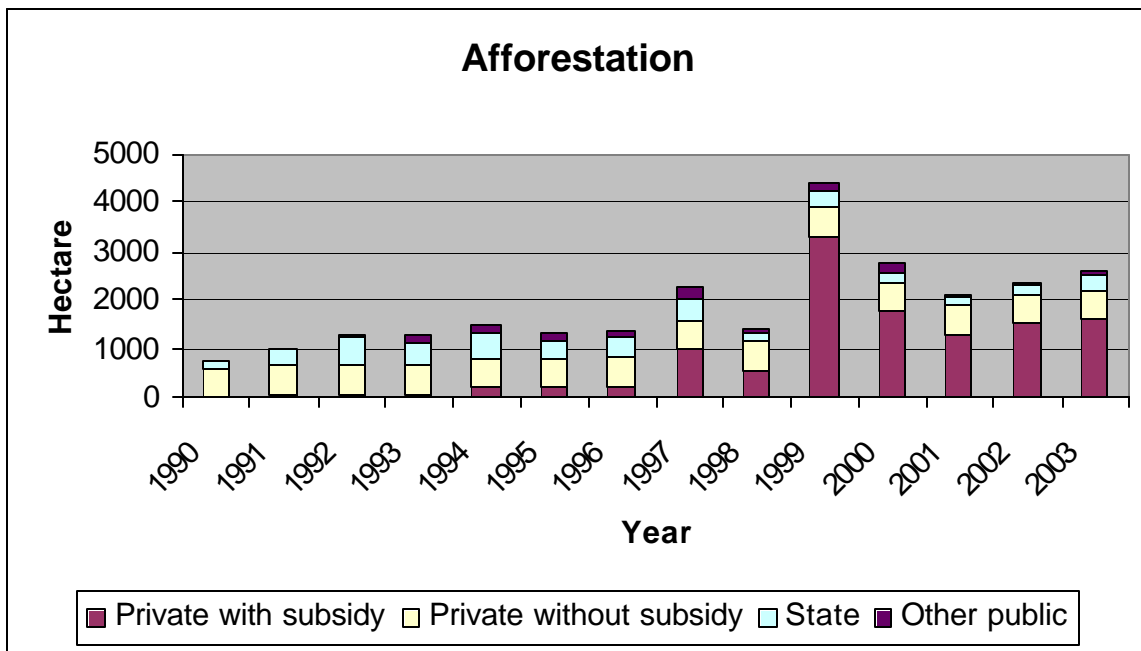
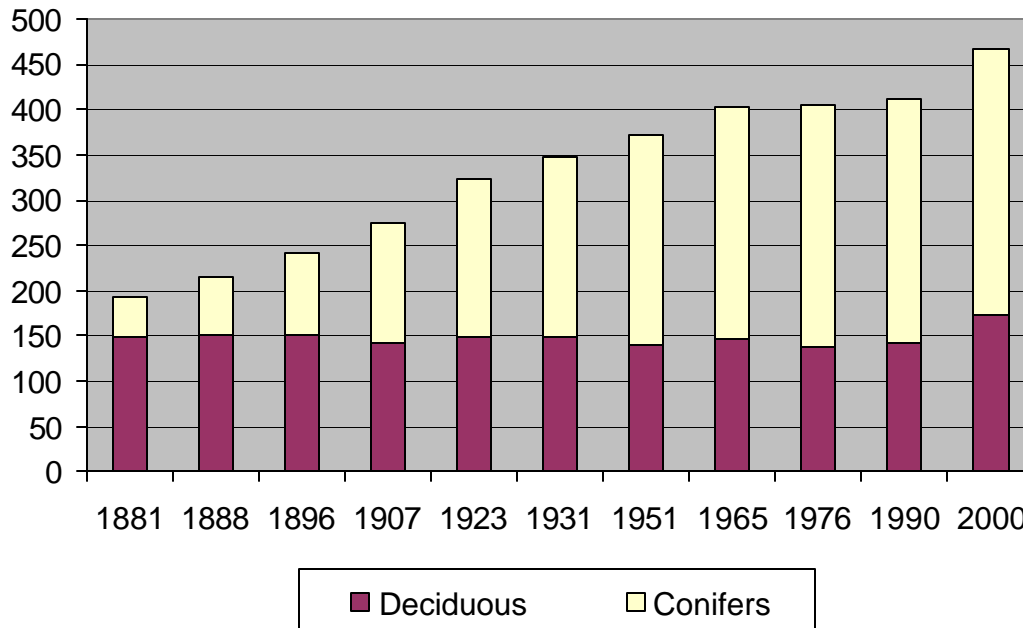


Figure 2. Forest area and distribution of deciduous and conifers 1881-2000

Thousand hectares



These figures lead to the following conclusions:

- The afforestation programme make progress, but is 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 2 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.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3

Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated 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:

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

13. *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)*
14. *the amount, scope, or quality of market data and information for wood and non-wood forest products and their substitutes*
15. *use of economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management (these may include improved tax policies and forest revenue collection systems)*
16. *efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,*
17. *participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and*
18. *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.*

13. The Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute now merged with the Danish Forestry College, parts of the department of Economics and Natural Resources and Danida Forest Seed Centre into the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has produced a number of publications on valuation of forest goods and services. Examples are: Valuation of animal life in forests and landscape, valuation of moors, which are also found in many forests, in terms of biodiversity and recreation, valuation of afforestation in terms of changing house prices in the surrounding area, valuation of afforestation in terms of CO2 storing capacity. Other Danish research institutes have carried out surveys to determine the willingness to pay for access to forests and the value of pure ground water has also been investigated which have relevance for forests.

14. Market information on wood products are reported by private and public forest managers to the Danish Forest Association who disseminate the information to members of the association for various categories of timber. The providers of information are maintained anonymous.

Also the Forest Growers Association with 9 regional branches provide market information and guidance to members of the association.

The Danish Christmas Tree Growers Association collects and provides market information for Christmas trees and greenery to members of the association.

15. A range of subsidies has been used in order to promote sustainable forest management. These include subsidies for: 1) forest consultants, 2) product development, 3) development of the Christmas tree and greenery production sector, 4) for private afforestation, 5) for establishment of deciduous trees in existing conifer forests, 6) for forest improvement, 7) for good and multiple use forest management, for untouched forests and special management regimes and 8) for afforestation of state land. See table 1, below.

Furthermore an insurance scheme has been developed to provide financial support to replant forest areas after major wind throw for forest owners that participate in the scheme. The scheme is supported by the EU rural development policy for up to 50% of the costs depending on activity. The insurance scheme encourages the use of indigenous deciduous species.

Table 1. Public funding available for financing sustainable forest management, 1994-2004

Subsidy scheme	Year	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04
Mill. DDK												
Forest consultants		9,3	9,6	9,2	9,8	9,3	7,5	7,5	8,6	5,5	6,5	6,5
Product development		0,3	15,3	21,9	12,8	15,7	13,6	10,9	6,6	5,3	5,3	5,3
Development, Christmas trees and greenery production					2,9	3,2	3,0	3,2	4,1	4,0	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	76,2
Deciduous Forests		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 forests)						24,5	24,6	13,6	11,2	5,5	6,5	5,5
Untouched forests, special management regimes		2,3	8,9	10,6	2,2	8,2	5,8	2,5	6,6	3,0	3,0	3,0
Afforestation of State land							18	18	35	18	38	20
In total		50,5	67,7	72,2	119,5	98,4	293,2	184,6	185	154,7	152,3	120,5
Total in mill. Euro		6,8	9,1	9,7	16,1	13,2	39,4	24,8	24,9	20,8	20,5	16,2

Figures for 2004 are forecasts, but included in the national budget.

16. Not applicable, see 18 for initiatives to curb trade in illegal timber

17. Denmark has assisted in the development of forest certification schemes, both domestically and abroad through Danish ODA. The Danish government welcomes the idea of mutual collaboration and if possible ultimate mutual recognition between forest certification and chain of custody certification schemes for wood products. Denmark has a so far unutilised option given in the Danish Forest Act for setting rules for the labelling of forest products. Denmark has in 2003 launched guidelines from the Government on public purchase of tropical timber. In these the FSC label was assessed as giving a credible guarantee for legally and sustainably produced tropical timber, whilst the MTCC was considered as giving a credible guarantee for legal forest management on its way to becoming sustainable. The PEFC was not operational in the tropics at the time the guidelines was launched and therefore not included in the assessment. At present 9 962 ha Danish forest is certified through the PEFC forest certification and 386 ha through the FSC, all on private forest land and covering in total approximately 3 % of total private forest land in Denmark, or 2 % of total Danish forest cover.

Danida has in Western Africa together with other donors supported a regional programme to the development of Sustainable Forest Management. It includes establishment of a regional Forest Stewardship Council office to improve better market access for tropical timber from the region.

18. It is the Danish policy to actively pursue the elimination of illegal logging and the trade of illegal timber and due to the global and complex scale of this issue this policy is best implemented through common action by the EU.

Denmark is a net timber importing country and Danish companies are also trading in countries where illegal logging is reported to take place. There are no official overviews of which measures Danish companies are taking when operating on these markets but some are involved in what is called good suppliers projects which is programmes intended to secure that traded wood are both legally and sustainably produced.

There are no official statistics indicating the scale of the import of illegal wood to Denmark, however a WWF report from 2003, "The Russian-Danish trade in wood products and illegal logging in Russia" suggest that there is a risk that on average about 20% of the Russian wood products exported to Denmark are illegally harvested. This figure is based on WWF's own investigations and can not be confirmed by the timber trading companies or official statistics.

Denmark has contacted a number of our biggest supplier countries of timber products at ministerial level in order to establish collaboration in how to curb the problem with illegal logging. This has led to a closer collaboration with the Federal Republic of Russia on a Russian-Danish project on how to improve the ability to verify the legal origin of timber. An important idea behind this joint project is the active involvement of authorities, business and NGOs in collaboration. Denmark is furthermore participating actively in the development and implementation of the EU FLEGT action plan. To that end Denmark participated in the EU Commission missions to Malaysia and Indonesia and participated in the scoping meeting in Moscow this year on a Northern Eurasian FLEG process.

Denmark also participated in the Joint UNECE/FAO Workshop on Illegal Logging and Trade of Illegally-derived Forest Products in the UNECE Region held in Geneva, 16-17 September 2004. Information on this workshop can be found at: <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/sem/2004-1/sem-2004-1.htm> including the Danish national report: http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/docs/sem/2004-1/full_reports/Denmark.pdf

This policy is also pursued through the hosting of an EU workshop on public procurement of timber with the focus on exchange of experience relating to the development and implementation of public procurement policies. The workshop explored informally options for collaboration and mutual support, including through the use of harmonised definitions on legally and sustainably produced timber as well as harmonised requirements regarding means of verification. Programme and further information on the workshop may be found at www.sns.dk. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Netherlands EU Presidency and was held in Copenhagen, September 27, 2004.

The Danish minister for Environment has furthermore in 2003 developed guidelines for public procurement of tropical timber in collaboration with the industry and environmental NGOs, which can be found in English at: http://www.skovognatur.dk/udgivelser/2003/tropical/16022004_UK.pdf .

Forest health and productivity

19. *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.*

19. Both research and monitoring activities are taking place in Denmark to increase the understanding of and quantify the impact of environmental factors on forest health (climate change, air pollution). As a reaction to widespread damage observed on main tree species, forest condition monitoring was started in Denmark already in the mid-1980. Denmark has participated in the previous European forest health monitoring system and is participating in the EU ForestFocus monitoring of forests and environmental interactions. The forest health monitoring in Denmark is currently based on 52 Level I and 8 Level II plots (see more on ForestFocus at: <http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l28125.htm>). Denmark is also contributing to the International Cooperative Programme on Forests under the UN ECE Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution. The two programmes have co-ordinated efforts within air pollution effect monitoring. In Denmark, a close co-operation has been established to the National Forest Inventory (NFI), which also includes forest health monitoring with systematic surveillance in a 2 km x 2 km net covering the country. Both systems address forest health questions related to pollution as well as climate change. The NFI is furthermore in accordance with the Pan-European criteria for sustainable forest management and is working together with other European NFIs towards a harmonised reporting to international forest organisations (ENFIN, COST E43 (<http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e43/>)). Conversion to sustainable forest management based on near-to-nature principles is expected to provide for more stable forests, less sensitive to various stress factors, including climate change.

Sulphur deposition has been reduced as in other western European regions by 89% since 1980. Trees have been shown to react to this with reduced sulphur contents in needles and leaves. However, total nitrogen deposition, although reduced for ammonium, is still too high. Mean nitrogen inputs of more than 20 kg nitrogen per year and hectare result in increased tree growth and in a shift of ground vegetation composition. Nowadays, more nitrophilic plants can be found on many plots and nitrate is leached in significant quantities from several of the intensive monitoring plot. Soils are acidified at most of the plots and thus also indicate changes in the ecosystems. Additional threats include weather extremes such as long lasting droughts and storm events. Crown condition has been proven to be a valuable indicator to reflect environmental stress factors during the last 20 years. The forest condition in the Danish forests has during the last years shown general satisfying condition for all tree species.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

20. *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.*
21. *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*

20. The Ministry of the Environment handles both forest and nature policy. This institutional arrangement facilitates coherent planning for strategies and action plans that address among other issues forestry, biodiversity and landscape considerations.

The latest policy initiatives has been the new Forest Act, which entered into force October 1st 2004, the Danish National Forest Programme approved by the government in June 2002, which replaced the Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management from 1994. As mentioned under question 1, the new Forest

Act will lead to implementation of the Nature 2000 Network in forests while a new Nature Protection Act will do the same for non-forested areas. Both laws are developed by the Ministry of the Environment. Also from 2004 is the Action plan for biodiversity and nature protection in Denmark 2004-2010, which iterate the policy intentions of the Danish National Forest Programme from 2002.

21. Danish forestry and consumers of forest products are part of an open market and products are traded at world market prices. Denmark imports approximately 75% of the timber consumed and the wood-industry is not very much dependent on the Danish national production. This is also true for a number of non-wood forest products available at the international market. In the case of Christmas trees and greenery Denmark has a significant export and forecasts of production and consumption in a number of European countries are undertaken by the Danish Christmas Tree Growers Association financed by the Christmas Tree and Greenery Production Fund.

The long-term trends in supply are based on the forest resource assessment conducted every ten years, which also provide data for the FAO global Forest Resource Assessment. Changes in these forecasts are only done in situation where major wind throws are considered to affect the forecast significant.

Forecasts for the production of wood chips has been undertaken in connection with considerations concerning the construction of new heat and energy plants based on wood chips.

Denmark is also regularly providing data for the UNECE Timber Committee.

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

Please refer to your national report if appropriate, or provide new or updated 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) related to the following elements:

Social and cultural aspects of forests

22. *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*
23. *strengthening the role of women in sustainable forest management, including through capacity building and greater participation in community-based forest management*
24. *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*

22. Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest genetic resources: Denmark has no policies and programmes dealing specifically with forest genetic resources.

In 2000, the following provision was inserted in a statutory order under the Danish Patent Act:

"If an invention concerns or makes use of biological material of vegetable or animal origin, the patent application shall include information on the geographical origin of the material, if known. If the applicant does not know the geographical origin of the material, this shall be indicated in the application. Lack of

information on the geographical origin of the material or on the ignorance hereon does not affect the assessment of the patent application or the validity of the rights resulting from the granted patent".

Breach of this provision could imply a violation of the obligation in the Danish Penal Code (para 163) to provide correct information to a public authority.

The aim of the provision is to trace compliance with the prior informed consent given by the country of origin of the genetic resources and the mutually agreed terms.

Denmark is in the process of preparing its policy with regard to *'the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization'*.

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>.

23. Gender equality is an important crosscutting aspect of Danish development assistance. In the support to Nepal's community forestry programme, for instance, the Danish support has strengthened the participation of women in the forestry management committees; this support is combined with training in literacy and in numeracy, in order to enhance women's capacity in decision-making processes. Several forest user groups are set up exclusively for and with women. In the programmes in Tanzania and Bhutan similar efforts have led to an increase of women's participation in community based forestry management.

24. Enhanced role of indigenous and local communities in sustainable forest management:

Danish forest legislation holds provisions for establishment of a National Forest Council. Such an advisory 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.

Programmes are in place to raise awareness on forest issues among local people, in particular young people and school children. Some of these are:

The nature guides. More than 260 nature guides are organised in a network, where all activities are co-ordinated, education of nature guides are organised and developing of new methods takes place.

"Skoven i Skolen" (Forest in School) is a project to motivate and help teachers and pupils in primary and secondary school to integrate the forest in the teaching. "Skoven i Skolen" is a part of the European network "Learning about Forests".

naturnet.dk is a website to give inspiration nature activities, including trips to nature forests.

Skovens Dag (Forest Day). An "open day" with activities and information about forest and forestry, is arranged every year in May in both private and public forests.

Outdoor facilities: Facilities to support the understanding of the value of forest biodiversity are still being established in the state forest districts and in many private forest districts. Examples are simple campsites

information boards, visitor centres and bird watching towers. There will be special focus on facilities for disabled persons.

In the National Forest Programme Social Objectives are defined and one of these is to "strengthen the opportunities for experiencing nature in the forests".

Traditional forest-related knowledge

25. *inventorying, cataloguing, and applying traditional forest related knowledge for sustainable forest management and promoting research on TFRK with the involvement of the knowledge holders*
26. *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*

25. and 26. Not applicable

Scientific forest-related knowledge

27. *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*
28. *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*

27. The Danish Ministry of the Environment together with research institutes, forest owners organisations and major forest consultants collaborate on a series of publications, "skov- info" which provides easy accessible information on sustainable forest management.

The Ministry provides furthermore financial support to consultants from accredited consulting organisations to disseminate information on sustainable forest management to forest owners (See table 1). The Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute now the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation has established an extension service, where users may purchase access through subscription to 23 technical reports and approximately 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.

28. Research projects in forestry issues in Denmark is generally driven by demand and research institutes generally always need external funding in order to undertake new research activities. Examples are The Christmas tree and Greenery Production Fund, which finance specific research projects or the Ministry of the Environment which finances specific research project to improve the knowledge of issues, which needs to be addressed politically.

monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

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

29. National forest inventories have been elaborated every tenth year. A new concept will 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.

criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management

30. *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*

30. National criteria for sustainable forest management at management unit level have been developed based on the Pan-European criteria. (see annex 1 of the national Forest Programme : <http://www.sns.dk/internat/dnf-eng.pdf>) 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.

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.

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).

III. Preparation of the Report

31. *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.*

31. The first draft of this national report has been made by the Danish Forest and Nature Agency in collaboration with the Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning.

A hearing process involving other ministries and a broad range of NGOs involved in forestry issues has taken place and input from this hearing has been taken into account in this report.

One NGO mentioned that while they were content with this present Danish voluntary national report in the present framework, they held the general view that the value of such reports will improve if they were made by independent consultants and if the general build up of such reports was not only focused on what is taking place but also on what needs to take place to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action.