

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

**Romania**

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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**

- *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.*

Forest cover in Romania is 6.38 million ha, representing 26.7 % of the National territory. Forest distribution is not uniform geographically. Forests cover only 7% in the plain, 28% is located in the hilly areas and 65 % in the mountain region.

Broadleaved are dominant in Romanian forests 69.3 % and the rest are coniferous. In comparison with the total forest cover, beech (31 %) and oaks (18 %) are prevailing among broadleaves. Spruce (23 %) and white fir (5 %) are dominant among resinous.

The standing volume of growing stock is 1,341 million m<sup>3</sup>, the average standing volume is 218 m<sup>3</sup>/ha, annual average increment is 5.6 m<sup>3</sup>/ha and annual allowable cut is 17 million m<sup>3</sup>. 66.3 % of the forests are state owned, managed by the National Administration of Forests-Romsilva, 12.6 % are owned by local councils and 21.1 % are private forests (associations, churches, individuals).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development is the public central authority responsible for forests, with 9 subordinated Forestry Regime and Hunting Territorial Inspectorates .

The National Administration of Forests-Romsilva is functioning under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, carrying out public and commercial services with forestry specific. It has 40 forest directorates and about 380 forest districts in the field.

The Forest Research and Management Planning Institute is functioning under the National Forest Administration and has branches for research, planning, forest districts and experimental units in the field.

The Strategy of Forestry Development (2001-2010) has been prepared in 2000, in a participatory process, joining academic, education and research institutions and non governmental organizations. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development contracted the preparation of the National Forest Programme by the end of 2005, which will be further debated.

Romania has developed international cooperation on the forestry sector. The country signed the resolutions of the European Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forest in Europe, developed projects with financial or technical assistance under PHARE, World Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), USAID, United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), FAO and GEF Programmes or bilateral cooperation with various countries in Europe.

Legislation has been developed in order to ensure appropriate sustainable forest management through specialized management structures or to encourage the association of private forest owners (as the restituted forest area was initially 1 ha) in order to provide better sustainable management.

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

### *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*

Underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation have been identified. The forest area has been reduced in the last one and a half century with great regional variation, from 55-60 % coverage of the national territory to 26.7 % in the present, with significant impact in the plains, where the climate turns arid, excessively droughty periods become frequent and long and where the adverse effects caused by the global climatic changes are dramatically felt. These reductions occurred especially as result of the agrarian reform in 1864 and Law on grasslands in 1920. Further to the latter, more than one million ha forests have been taken out from the forest fund, most of them being cleared in order to be turned to pastures. After political changes in early 90's, the country has been undergoing a process of returning agricultural and forest lands to former owners. Given the poor economic condition of newly established owners, around 15,000 ha have undergone rapid cutting. This was an effect of the first phase of the forest restitution process that occurred in 1991 when about 358,000 ha were returned to smallholders of one hectare or smaller. As the actual political orientation aims to reconstitute the forest land to former owners without size area restrictions, at initial size before nationalization, diminished pressure on private forests is expected as the owner become confident in his property right and his economical condition will be getting better over time.

3. *formulating and implementing national policies and strategies, through an open and participatory process, for addressing the underlying causes of deforestation*

Appropriate legislation and institutional reform have been developed in order to provide better management of private forests and ensure observance of forestry regulations and prevent deforestation.

4. *raising awareness of the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation and the multiple values of forests*

Raising awareness of the importance of issues related to deforestation and forest degradation and the multiple values of forests is carried out through education, media or activities of professional organizations and other nongovernmental organizations.

### *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*

Romania owns very important forest biodiversity resources related to forest areas. The legislative framework for biodiversity conservation has been consequently developed.

The following global biodiversity-related Conventions have been ratified:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) by Law 58/ 1994;
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) by Law 69/1994;
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn) by Law 13/1998;
- The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) by Law 5/1991;
- The World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention by Decree 187/1990
- The Convention for the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (Bern) by Law 13/1993

Also the *acquis communautaire* in the field has been harmonized. With GEF support and World Bank assistance, Romania prepared the National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and the Action Plan (BCSAP). In order to address the priorities identified in the BCSAP, with the assistance of the World Bank and GEF, the Government of Romania developed the Biodiversity Conservation Management Project (BCMP), which is in its final stage. The BCMP established effective and sustainable conservation management in three largely forested areas of the Carpathian Mountains and the mechanisms of replication of this best practice were successfully used by NAF-Romsilva in other priority conservation sites throughout Romania.

The Ministry of Environment and Water Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural development, National Administration of forests and its Forest Research and Management Institute, various NGO's and the Romanian Academy are jointly involved, together with other organizations dealing with biodiversity conservation, in developing various projects in connection with the Action Plan for BCM. Some examples are Life-Nature / WWF Large Carnivores, LIFE Project "Black Pine Forests from Banat", LIFE-Nature Project "Restoration of *Pinus cembra* habitats in Rodnei Mountains", LIFE-Nature Project "Nature 2000 Sites in Piatra Craiului National Park", GEF-PNUD project "The Initiative of Biodiversity Preservation in Maramures", GEF-PNUD project "Preservation of biodiversity in Macin Mountains", PINMATRA/2001/ KNNV- (Royal Dutch Society for Nature Conservation) in cooperation with IUCN "Inventory and strategy for sustainable management and protection of Virgin Forests in Romania", PHARE CBC-transboundary projects - "Natural Park - Mures River Meadow", "Natural Park Apuseni Mountains" and "Promotion of Sustainable Development and Conservation of Biodiversity in Bulgarian-Romanian Cross Border Region", "Preservation Passage of the Romanian-Hungarian Biodiversity". All these projects will lead to a national network of Forest Protected areas (the inclusion of all representative types of forest ecosystems in the national system of protected areas) which could contribute to the sound use of forest resources and to poverty alleviation in the local communities, all these efforts are made in order to provide standardization of the protected areas in accordance to international arrangements in the field.

Conserving and enhancing forest biological diversity is achieved carrying out the following activities:

- identifying forest ecosystems and habitat types valuable from biodiversity point of view;
- including all significant forest ecosystem types in the national system of protected areas;
- identifying and delineating the ecological corridors to prevent habitat fragmentation and emphasizing them in the forest management plans;
- conservation of pristine forest;
- inventorying and protecting rare, endemic and endangered species;
- development and implementation of integrated forest management plans for the large protected areas;
- strengthen the National Forest Administration capacity to manage protected areas in the forest lands;
- repopulating the forest ecosystems with extinct species from their natural range, like European bison in the North-East or beaver in the Olt basin and in the Danube area.

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*

Forest conservation is one of the high priorities in the forestry legislation and the whole system of forest management planning in Romania. The tool used by foresters in order to promote the forest conservation and sustainability is the "functional zoning" system of the forests. According to ecological, economical and social functions to be accomplished by forests, here are two major "functional groups":

-group I (around 5% of the total forest area): forests with special protection function: water, soil, climate and industrial damaging factors, recreation, preservation of flora and flora and biodiversity conservation, improvement of environmental conditions etc. There are two situations in this group:

when any intervention is forbidden or when cuttings are allowed if protection functions remain undisturbed.

-group II (around 47 % of total forest area): forests for biomass production and environmental protection.

According to legal provisions, the administration structure of the National and Natural Parks includes the Consultative Administration Council, organized besides the Administration of respective protected area and made up by representatives of institutions, local administration and communities owning area in respective protected area and of companies.

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*

One of the four principal policy statements of the Romanian Strategy for Silviculture encompassing the sustainable development of the forestry in Romania is to ensure the forest management according to the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, taking into account the diversification of forest land ownership. There are some consistent actions for forestry sustainable management including forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems in Romania in the new ownership context, determined by the restitution of the forests to the ex-owners: natural persons and legal persons (the inclusion of aspects relating to biodiversity and the management of protected areas in the forest management plans, the development of management structures for protected areas in the forest land, the identification and delineation of connection corridors to prevent the fragmentation of habitats and their inclusion in the forest management plans).

The Ordinance on “Forestry regime regulation and management of the national forest fund” provides regulations on the forestry regime and management of the national forest resources. This Law promotes a unitary management system, enforcing a legal framework for the sustainable forest management in both state owned and private forests. This unitary management system includes constraints for forest owners and managers who do not observe the Law as well as some incentive measures for sustainable forest management. The private owners are obliged to exercise their ownership rights “in the limits and conditions of the law” in order to promote a sustainable forest management and conservation.

Further to recent institutional developments and according to the Romanian forestry approach, additional attention has been paid to the management of private forests. The above Ordinance, with further modifications and completions, provides, starting with the first article, that “Forests, by their ecological functions, of protection and socio-economic they fulfill, constitute, disregarding the ownership, an asset of national interest of which the entire society benefits”.

To support the private forest owners in order to ensure the integrity of the forests and their sustainable management, the law provides that the state will annually allocate necessary funds to:

- reconstruct the forests affected by natural calamities or forest fires with unknown causes;
- reconstruct the forest roads destroyed by natural calamities;
- control forest pests in the private forests;
- elaborate forest management plans for individual forest owners;
- grant compensations for the private forests with special protection functions owners for the counter-value of the goods they don't harvest because of the forest management plan provisions;
- finance, if necessary, the expenditures with forest regeneration which are over the regeneration fund, which they are obliged to set up in this respect;
- support the establishment and development of the forest owners associations.

The forest roads located in private forests become public roads under the public local administration.

Private forest owners have several obligations :

- to elaborate summary management plans for private forests under 30 ha (with State budget financial support for individuals);
- to guard the private forests through administrative structures (private structures or by contracting with NAF-Romsilva);
- to carry out the forest protection measures (established by the State Authority bodies);
- to carry out all forest operations in accordance with management plans;
- to assure fire prevention;
- to rehabilitate their forest roads; when the NAF-Romsilva administrates the private forest on contractual basis, to include all the above mentioned obligations in the administration contract. The forest owners also have the obligation to establish a fund for forest conservation and regeneration, which will be available in the account of the administrative structure in charge with the forest management as shown above.

Romania started to implement the Forest Development Programme (FDP) financed by Romanian Governmental funds and a loan from the World Bank. FDP has been designed to address the major current concerns of the forestry sector in Romania, which are related to the extension of the private forest sector and the creation of adapted institutional structures, instruments and procedures. The implementation of this project is considered remarkably important for the Romanian forest administration, aiming at the sustainable development of the existing forest resources. FDP will strengthen the capacity of the forest administration and enable it to properly assist the private forest owners in participating in and benefiting from the forest measures under the EU rural development support scheme (EU SAPARD programme, ongoing measure 3.4-diversification and recently approved measure 3.5-forestry), including mechanisms to engage forest owners, private sector and local communities in the planning and management of forest conservation areas.

*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*

One of the goals of the the National Strategy of Forestry Development is to expand the forest vegetation area. The main ways to reach this goal is through the afforestation of degraded land improper for agricultural use, establishing forest belts and windbreaks and buying land by the state through the National Administration of Forests, which is responsible with state owned forests management.

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*

The forests are managed according to forest management plans, developed based on forestry standards promoting as much as possible natural regeneration.

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*

Further to international cooperation as result of the Pan European Process – Ministerial Conferences on Forest Protection in Europe, Romania developed national criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management.

*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*

A strategic approach of the Romanian forestry policy is to promote the creation of new forest resources through plantations on degraded agricultural land. Legal framework (Land law no.18/1991, Governmental Ordinance no. 81/1998 on the Measures for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Land Through Aforestation and Law no 289/2002 on Forest Shelter Belts and subsequent Governmental decisions) has been established in order to create capacity and financial support for the creation of forest vegetation plantations on degraded land. In this respect, an area of 18,000 ha public and private degraded agricultural land has been taken over in the last 3 years by the National Administration of Forests in order to be rehabilitated through aforestation.

12. *promoting policies to meet increasing demand for wood and non-wood forest products and services, through sustainable forest management.*

Wood and non-wood forest products and services demand is met through sustainable forest management, by implementing forest management plans.

One component of the above mentioned Forestry Development Programme (FDP) is the establishment of a Forest Sector Business Information Centre which would be non profit making and self funding in the future. This would address the information needs for wood and non wood forest products concerning markets, promotion opportunities, production and packaging processes, technology and technology providers, raw materials, clean production/environmentally sustainable technology and general product information etc.

### **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)*

The amounts of the annual wood harvest in the last period are similar to other European countries with important mountain forest areas. The current method used to determine the allowable cut is based on a traditional sustained yield approach: takes into account rotation length, average species composition, forest structure according the site indices and the existing distribution of age classes. Rotation length is calculated according to the maximum rent principle and has been set according to the average increment of the target dimensional class, reflecting a conservative policy with an environmental dimension. Valuation of forest goods and services is a future goal of the strategy for the forestry sector. In the context of new challenges for the forestry sector nowadays, non-wood forest products related activities could be an important source of revenue for the sector. Besides traditional non-wood forest products, new products related to recreation, multi-functional role of forests, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration or bioenergy from wood gained importance recently.

"Traditional non-wood forest products" is an important production activity of National Administration of Forests Romsilva (NAF-Romsilva) which controls the main part of this activity in Romania: willow for wicker products, forest fruits (bilberry, raspberry, strawberry, wild rose and blackberry), mushrooms, medicinal plants, game meat, game animals, hunting, living game, fishing and trout

farms, Christmas trees and foliage, forest seeds and ornamental products). 90% of the production is exported and the rest is for the domestic market. The production is regulated under the Forest Code - 1996, which states that non-wood products from the “forest fund” must be harvested under technical conditions specified by the Central Authority for Forests, including game and fish from mountain waters which must be harvested only on the basis of authorizations issued according to harvesting plan and the laws in force. Unfortunately, the private sector of traditional non-wood forest products has grown only slightly in recent years, except the mushroom harvesting. Forest management units prepare an annual production plan based on local historical data and prospective trends of market demand. The production of the traditional non-wood products recovered after a decline in 2000, with a better management of the resource nowadays.

According to the Governmental Ordinance no. 81/1998 on the Measures for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Land through Aforestation, one of the sources to be used for the afforestation of degraded land is external financial support. The large area suitable and available for afforestation in Romania, could provide opportunities for cofinancing the establishment and carrying out the tending operations in forest plantations by carbon trading in the context of the Articles 6 and 12 of the Kyoto Protocol and Joint Implementation projects mechanisms.

In this respect, the “Afforestation of Degraded Agricultural Lands in Romania” project (2002-2017) has been developed on 6496 ha with two partners - NAF-Romsilva and the Prototype Carbon Fund, administered by the World Bank, and two beneficiaries - NAF-Romsilva and local communities. The project will be monitored at every 5 years.

The NAF – Romsilva was reorganised in 2003 as responsible for the silvotourism activities in the Romanian state forests. At that moment, NAF-Romsilva’s local Directorates had a network of approx. 100 high standard chalets placed in the forest and the infrastructure of silvotourism is continuously improving. This new activity is focused on: visiting forest protected areas; observing, taking pictures and filming the wildlife; fishing activities; organising meals and parties in a specific, rustic way; visiting other touristic objectives (cultural, religious, historical sites) placed in the forest, etc. The NAF – Romsilva also offers specific services such as: accomodation in forest chalets (1-3 stars comfort), at competitive prices; Romanian traditional meals; transportation; eco-guiding, tourist guiding; advertising materials of the touristic sites, like videos, leaflets, touristic map; etc. The silvotourism extension is envisaged using existing network of chalets and as well as the financial facilities of SAPARD programme (ongoing measures 3.4 -“Development and diversification of economic activities for generating multiple activities and alternative incomes”, where there will be implemented the projects of diversification based on forestry, and 3.5 - „Forestry”).

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

Data on timber markets, including information on volumes, prices etc, are collected and published by the State Authority.

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)*

The sustainable forest management in Romania has a long tradition, the entire national forest area being managed in terms of the silvicultural regime (system of technical, economic and legal norms/regulations on management planning, guarding, pest control, exploitation and regeneration of forests, issued by the Central Public Authority for Forestry) for many decades. The main characteristics of Romanian forest management are: forest repartition by functional zones, maintaining the natural composition of forests; utilization of natural regeneration, maintaining a high-level rotation age for native forest species, utilization of adequate forest cuttings to maintain the ecological balance, evolution towards multi-use forests.

16. *efforts to reduce negative impacts of trade,*

Please see 17 and 18.

17. *participation in forest certification and labelling schemes and work toward mutual recognition and comparability of such schemes, and*

Certification of the state owned forests in Romania started in FSC Scheme but PEFC Scheme is also taken into account as future action especially in the private forest areas.

The forest certification process started in a pilot state owned forest with an area of 31,000 ha in 2002 and is continuing with 1,000,000 ha. NAF-Romsilva estimates that the total state owned forest area will be certified in short time. NAF Romsilva acts in accordance with the national Strategy for Forestry and has forestry extension attributes in order to develop the state part of the national forest area. It also provides forestry extension services on contractual basis for private owners or communities.

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.*

There is specific legislation in place – Regulation on transportation of the wood materials and the control of the transportation of the wood materials, stipulating rules and necessary documents for wood transportation and its source. Actions and efforts to reduce illegal trade in wood and non-wood products are performed also by other specialized State Authorities. For instance, the Environment Authority implements specific regulations on harvesting and trading of biological resources – flora and fauna. The civil society - NGO's are not playing a significant role in this moment, but there are opportunities to increase their importance in this respect.

*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.

Some “hot spots” concerning air pollution influenced forest condition in the neighbouring area. Romania has officially adhered to the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests (ICP-Forests) since 1990, but the entire forest health monitoring system was elaborated before. Thus, over 1983–1985, the National Council for Environment Protection suggested that the Forest Research and Management Institute should elaborate a monitoring system of environmental factors quality within the forest land. The Institute started by defining a technical-organizing concept in order to make the monitoring system functional. The possibility for that system to be integrated in the already functioning monitoring systems in Romania and to be applied, as an experiment at the regional level, has been explored. Afterwards, during 1988–1990, the system was implemented on pilot areas in the forests managed by the Forest Research and Management Institute and then, at national level.

After the Ministerial Conference in Strasbourg (1990), a monitoring system of the factors affecting the forest ecosystems, including the atmospheric pollution was initiated.

Similar to all ICP – Forests and EU Scheme states members, forest health monitoring is organized on two levels in Romania: Level 1, represented by a trans-national network (16x16km) and by a national network (4x4km) of permanent plots; and Level 2, represented by an intensive national network for

the main representative forest ecosystems. There is also organized a national network of permanent surfaces for forest health monitoring.

The Romanian legislative framework regulating the forest health monitoring activity, which completes the European provisions in this sector, was developed during 2002 – 2003. It consists in:

- Romanian Government Emergency Ordinance no.38/21.03.2002 concerning the establishment and financing of the national system for soil-land monitoring in agriculture, as well as soil-forest vegetation in forestry (published in the Official Journal no.223/3.04/2002), approved by Regulation no.444/8.07.2002 (published in the Official Journal no.531/22.07/2002).
- Ministerial Order no.244/12.06/2002 of the Minister of agriculture, food and forests for the approval of the Methodology for the soil-forest vegetation monitoring in forestry (published in the Official Journal no.831/19.11.2002).
- Government Decision no. 1003/22.08/2003 for the approval of the National program for soil-forest vegetation monitoring in forestry (published in the Official Journal no.631/3.09.2003)

It is also considered the Regulation (EC) no. 2152/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17.11.2003 concerning the monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (Forest Focus), OJ L 324 /11.12.2003.

The central public authority for forestry, on the basis of the previously mentioned legislative documents and regulations, implemented a multi-annual program of research – development activities in the field of soil and forest vegetation monitoring in forestry. The Forest Management and Research Institute is running this activity.

The information on trees health inside the intensive monitoring network (Level II) lead to establishing models for the analysis of forest health dynamics. Thus, by comparison of the defoliation per-cent values, in the beginning and at the ending of the period, we obtain information about the intensity and direction of changes in trees health and about trees protection in different categories of defoliation, the respective trees health having suffered changes in its improvement or regressions.

Losses in percentage were established during the growing period, in basic surface and volume, for the damaged trees in comparison with the healthy ones. The percentage values of loss in the radial growth, in the basic surface and volume vary between 6-31%, 15-42% and respectively 15-44%. These values differ according to the species, to laboratory conditions and trees damage degree.

These results are very important in the determination of the impact of the main damaging factors on forest at national level and in the setting up of action programs against them, which could be controlled by human activity.

Besides the ICP-Forests programs and the EU Scheme on forest health monitoring, the Romanian institutions are involved in other programs and projects related to air pollution monitoring and trans-boundary pollution effects. A very good example in this respect would be the project “Long term effects of air pollution within the Carpathians Mountains forest ecosystems (Retezat National Park)” which was carried out in cooperation with USDA Forest and the countries in the Carpathian region.

#### *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.

The National strategy on forestry includes harmonised objectives to biodiversity strategies and action plans, national action plan to combat desertification and in reverse order.

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

The Forest Code (Law no. 26/1996 – chapter III) stipulates to preserve the integrity and to develop the forest fund. In the article 50 of the Forest Code it is specified that “protection, preservation of integrity and development of national forest fund represent a fundamental, national concern of the public central authority which is responsible for forestry” while the article 54 specifies that “it is forbidden to reduce the surface of the public forest fund”, except for special cases, stipulated by law. In such cases, lands can be removed from the forest fund, but it is compulsory to replace them with other lands that can be afforested, equal in surface and reliability.

Romania ratified the United Nations Conventions; the Framework Convention on Climate Change (Law no. 24/1994), Convention on Biologic Diversity (Law no. 58/1994), Convention to Combat Desertification (Law no. 111/1998). The national strategies related to these conventions contain clear stipulations regarding the preservation of the integrity of the forest fund, as well as regarding the extension of forest surface and other forest vegetation types, according to the complex management plans of the territory.

The development strategy of forestry in Romania for the period 2000 – 2010 has among its objectives:

- maintaining the integrity of the national forest fund;
- biodiversity conservation and assuring the stability, health and multi-functionality of forests;
- extension of the forest surface.

Based on the Strategy of Forestry, on the Strategy and National Action Plan for Preventing Draught, Land Degradation and Desertification, a program was initiated in order to extend the national forest fund, which stipulates the annual afforestation of 3000 ha lands that cannot be used for agricultural purposes, as well as a program for establishing protection forest shelterbelts. Law no. 289/2002 regarding forest shelterbelts regulates this action. Setting up the national system of forest shelterbelts has positive results not only for Romania;

There are also several actions that aim at the sustainable management of forest ecosystems, under the circumstances of global climate change, including public awareness actions regarding the role and importance of the forests in this context.

There are few studies about the demand and offer of wood and other forest products and services, and they were made within some national and/or international projects, which approached socio-economic aspects related to the forests.

Regarding the wood volume that can be annually harvested, it is approved by Government Decision, based on the annual allowable cut established through the management plans, for each type of product. The wood volume harvested as a result of the actions of damaging factors for the forest ecosystems (storm and snow damages, windfalls, pests invasion etc.) is deducted from the approved annual harvesting rate. The forest administrators supported by the public local authorities provide protection measures against illegal wood cuttings, forest destruction and degradation (caused by natural and anthropic factors), poaching, illegal harvesting of other forest products, as well as measures for fire preventing and extinguishing.

As for non-wood products, they are collected according to the harvesting plans approved by the central public authority for environment, based on studies in order to assess the impact of these activities on the environment and to prevent depletion of natural resources.

The evaluation and quantification of the forest services, related to the recreational, landscape, biodiversity conservation, carbon stockin g, antierosion, hydrological, antipollution functions, are at early stage and represent the subject of several on-going studies and researches.

#### **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

No information available

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

No information available

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

Sustainable forest management is considered in the area where wood is traditionally used by local communities for living support. Traditional rights and privileges of local communities living in a specific area in Romania (Apuseni Mountains) have been promoted through the Law no 33/1996 with further modifications, which provides the possibility for the people to apply for certain wood amount from state owned forests for processing purposes, their house construction and maintenance of farm annexes, with 50% from the price of the wood they buy, granted from the state budget.

##### *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

In our country, forest management is based, right from its beginnings – during the 17 – 18 centuries - on a mainly natural concept. According to this concept, the natural frame of the forest vegetation development was emphasized and the promoting of new forest management technologies which would not increase the difference between the cultivated forest and the natural forest, from the structural and functional points of view. All these traditions and concepts about the forest and its management have been included into the forestry sciences (silvotechnics, forest regeneration, forest management planning, protection of forests, etc.) ever since the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, along with the first professional foresters and with the foundation and improvement of the forest administration.

After the forests nationalization, in the year 1948, a period of unitary forest management followed, on the basis of sustainability and multi-functionality of forests. At that point, the national forest fund management plan started its development, on unitary basis, activity finalized in the year 1956.

Traditional forest – related knowledge for sustainable forest management has been included within the sustainable forest management prescriptions and instructions that all forest owners must comply with. The elaboration of these forest management prescriptions and instructions is a participative process in which all the forest stakeholders are consulted, under the coordination of the public central authority for forestry.

#### *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

Forestry research and development represent a distinct chapter of the Romanian strategy for the forestry development, having an important role in the achievement of short, medium and long term objectives for the sustainable forestry development. At the same time, forestry research and development are greatly contributing to the society globalization and urbanization process; to sustainable rural development, to the development “The Informational Knowledge Society”, to substantiate the environmental aspects in establishing economical policies, in developing energetic alternatives, mostly based on renewable energy sources.

The fundamental strategic objective of the forestry research and development is represented by the sustainable forest management substantiation which is based on the knowledge of the structure and functioning laws related to forest ecosystems and on the evaluation of global changes affecting the natural, social and economical environment that are, furthermore, influencing the forests. The fundamental objective is to preserve and to improve the biodiversity and forests productive and protective potential.

A series of aspects that are considered to have great impact on future policies in this sector, and, consequently, on the research needs in silviculture and its connected sectors are taken into account when establishing the fundamental strategic and specific forestry research-development and innovation objectives:

#### **A. National processes concerning the forestry sector:**

- a) The National Plan for Romanian Accession to the European Union;
- b) The Agreement of Association to the European Union ratified by the Law no.20/1993;
- c) Romania position Document regarding the negotiation of the following European policy chapters: Agriculture, Environment Protection, Research – science, Education, Professional preparing and Youth (Romanian Government, 2001);
- d) The National Strategy for Romanian Accession to the European Union (Romanian Government, 1999);
- e) The National Strategy for a Sustainable Development (Romanian Government, 1997);
- f) The National Strategy on the field of Research – Development and Innovation (Ministry for Education and Research, 2002);
- g) The policy and the strategy for the forestry development in Romania (2001 – 2010) (Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection, 2000);
- h) The strategy for research and technical development in agriculture, silviculture and food industry, on the perspective of European integration (the Science Academy for Agricultural and Silviculture, 2003);

- i) The diversity of the national forest fund on the basis of the type of property;
- j) The harmonization of the Romanian silvicultural, hunting and environment protection legislation with the European laws;
- k) The harmonization of the research – development legislation with the European laws in this sector;

**B. International processes concerning the forestry sector:**

- a) The Ministerial Conferences on Forest Protection in Europe (Strasbourg, 1990; Helsinki, 1993; Lisbon, 1998; Vienna, 2003);
- b) The European Union Forestry Strategy;
- c) The European Union Inter-governmental Forum on Forests;
- d) The United Nations Conventions on the Environment and Development (Convention on Biodiversity, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification);
- e) The European Commission Papers on the establishment of the European Research Area (ERA) (EC Provisions / 6 / 2000, EC / 612 / 2000);
- f) The Resolutions of the conferences on Agriculture, Silviculture and Food Industry Research in the European area (Versailles, 2000; Athens, 2003).

**C. Major evolution tendencies and directions in the connected sectors:**

- a) Climatic changes and their influence on the biologic and socio-economic fields;
- b) Society globalization and urbanization;
- c) Sustainable development of the rural sector;
- d) Development of the “Informational Society”;
- e) Greater importance of the environmental aspects in establishing economic and social policies;
- f) Development of energetic alternatives mostly based on renewable energy sources.

The research and development in the field of silviculture are approaching major forestry objectives that are included in international, national and sectorial programs, related to the fields of: forest ecology, forest mensuration, forest auxology, forest economy, forest protection, silvotechnics, forest management planning, watershed management planning, restoration of degraded lands and shelterbelts, forest roads, hunting and salmonides breeding, etc.

The main funding actors and beneficiaries of the research - development results in silviculture are: the central public authority for forestry, the National Forest Administration – Romsilva, the central public authority for research – development and innovation, economic units which carry out activities with great impact on the forest fund, as well as many international institutions and organizations coordinating research – development projects and programs with objectives which are also priorities of the Romanian forestry sector.

The technological development activity assures, every year, the forest management plans (on approximately 10% of the area managed by NAF – Romsilva) and GIS management plans, as well as projects for ecological reconstruction of degraded lands, forest roads, watershed management plans, etc.

No matter the economic difficulties Romania, in general, and Romanian forestry, in particular, are facing with, the forestry research and development are considered to be national priorities, basic components of “ The National Strategy in the field of research – development and innovation”, as well as of “The Policy and development strategy of silviculture in Romania”.

Romania is promoting the technical and scientific cooperation within international and regional organizations (FAO, UNEP, IUCN, EFI, IUFRO etc.). In this respect, complex interdisciplinary researches are carried out regarding biodiversity and the laws of structuring and functioning of forests, in order to develop a scientific basis for biodiversity conservation and improvement, for stability and multi-functionality of forests, respectively for sustainable forest management. But, within the process

of the silviculture globalization, one should avoid to affect and minimize the identity of the national silviculture.

It is necessary to develop the researches in the field of forest economy, forest regeneration, tending and regeneration of stands. It is also necessary to reanalyze the sectors of forest transportation, management of torrent control, amelioration of degraded lands and establishing forest shelterbelts.

Within the field of forest management, in order to prevent potential calamities, special attention will be paid to some researches about the establishment of forest management bases, the establishing of forest compositions resistant to pollution, drought, storm and snow damages, windfalls, the correlation of technical exploitation to the efficient mast period of stands, establishing corresponding structures of stands and forests, in order to provide /guarantee the biodiversity and stability. At the same time, it is necessary to generalize the utilization of modern remote sensing techniques and GIS for elaborating the forest management plans and for planning different works specific to the activities of the NAF – Romsilva. New researches, correlated with present results, will be promoted in order to optimize the processes of regeneration, development and self-adjustment of forest phytocoenoses, as well as of economic processes of planning interest. Simultaneously, researches about evaluating the protection functions of forests and setting up a general system of administrating the forests and forest lands will be developed.

The research and development in the forest sector take place, mostly, within the Forest Management and Researches Institute and forestry faculties. The Forest Management and Research Institute is the main administrator of the scientific and technical information in the field of silviculture.

*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

Within the above mentioned Forest Development Programme (FDP) the information system of forests will be improved and developed

*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

Romania is a signatory state of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) ever since this was founded in 1990. In this position, Romania participated to all the 4 ministerial conferences (Strasbourg, 1990; Helsinki, 1993; Lisbon, 1998; Vienna, 2003) as well as to the experts' meetings, workshops, seminars and is committed to respect their provisions. Thus, in 1999, the Forest Management and Research Institute, coordinated by the public forest authority, established/determined "the Quantitative and qualitative criteria and indicators for sustainable management of Romanian forests", based on L2 Resolution - Pan-European criteria, indicators and directions at operational level for sustainable forest management, annex 1 – Pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

In 2004, the quantitative and qualitative indicators for sustainable management of Romanian forests were updated on the basis of the improved pan-European indicators, adopted by the Vienna Declaration of the 4<sup>th</sup> MCPFE. 126 quantitative indicators (32 for criterion 1, 12 for criterion 2, 14 for criterion 3, 33 for criterion 4, 5 for criterion 5, 30 for criterion 6) and 17 qualitative indicators were defined. The system of reporting for the 126 indicators regarding sustainable management of Romanian forests was also elaborated for each of them, specifying the source of information, the measure units, the regular period of providing the dates, as well as other complementary information.

Now it is planned to move forward to a new determination of the criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management, based on the updated information regarding the Romanian forests.

We should also mention that the Romanian forests are managed on the basis of the management plans. Such plans are drawn up for all the national forests, no matter the ownership type. The forest code (Law no. 26/1996) regulates the necessity of elaborating and periodically updating (usually every ten years) these plans. The basic principles for elaborating the management are the forest sustainability and multi functionality, in full concordance with the pan-European criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management.

In addition, member States may wish to refer to the resolutions and decision of UNFF relevant to the above elements, i.e. resolutions 2/2 E paras. 1.-4., 4/1 paras. 1.-16., 4/2 paras. 1.-8., 4/3 paras. 1.-18, respectively, and provide information on the implementation of these resolutions or their contribution to facilitating the implementation of IPF/IFF Proposals for Action.

### **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.

The report was prepared in collaboration by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development, the National Administration of Forests - Romsilva and the Forest Research and Management Institute according to the topics of the report and related information available.