

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

**Slovak Republic**

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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 reports<sup>1</sup> 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**

In preparation of the recent documents of forestry policy “Concept of Forestry Policy of the SR by the Year to 2005” and “Mid-term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006” their elaborators took into account outcomes of assessment the IPF/IFF proposals for action.

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

In 2003 the latest forestry policy document based on government programme “Mid-term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006” was elaborated by Forest Research Institute in Zvolen. There are three main priorities subdivided into several aims which will have direct impact on NFP development.

- Priority area 1: ***Settlement of forest ownership and forest usage***
  - more than 300 000 hectares of forestland have not been settled in the process of privatisation so far; most of remaining applicants are either forest owners of small areas not having all necessary documents verifying their ownership or their portions of forest land are not identified outdoors,
  - another important task to deal with is compensations of increased costs to owners due to measures provided according to public interest,
  - special attention requires a support to establishing forest owners associations; large amounts of small portions of land cause problems with their management; consequently, system of measures resulting into joining these sites must be introduced.
- Priority area 2: ***Securing the forest management according to sustainability principles.*** Main aims under this priority area are as follows:
  - evaluation of forest ecosystems condition and their protection against injurious agents,
  - development of functions of forests (production and non-production, environment protection),
  - strengthening biodiversity of forests,
  - optimal forest management in protected areas,
  - forest technology innovation according to environmentally-friendly criteria.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

- Priority area 3: ***Increasing the effectiveness in forestry***. In this case aims are
  - increasing intensity of timber production and utilization,
  - transformation of state forest enterprise to joint stock company (with 100 % share of government),
  - securing transparency at domestic and foreign timber market,
  - strengthening technological links between forestry and wood-processing,
  - forestry information system development and application of economic accounts for forestry.

National Forest Programme (NFP) is considered as across-sectoral document, where in addition to agroforestry sector also other sectors are expected to co-operate and international experience is expected to be utilized. Preparatory phase started in 2004 and it should be based on the following steps:

***I. Preparation of NFP skeleton based on analysis of domestic and foreign experience, processing of time schedule, expected budget, proposal for national and international expert groups.***

***II. Identification of objectives, priorities and main actors based on cross-sectoral approach***

- analysis of NFP-related strategic documents from different sectors
- formulation of NFP goals and strategic priorities according to analysis of documents, knowledge and experience of countries
- preparation of the document „Study of public discussion about NFP targets“ containing NFP skeleton, objectives, priorities, interest groups, tools and procedures of public discussion and their utilization in the process of processing of final NFP
- cross-sectoral seminar based on obtained results and aimed at preparation of the document „National Forest Programme - objectives and priorities“ targeted for public discussion

***III. Public discussion about NFP objectives and priorities***

- preparation and publication of the material „National Forest Programme - objectives and priorities“ targeted for public discussion
- public campaign about NFP
- opening seminar with wide participation of all involved and interested
- regional discussions of the document „National Forest Programme - objectives and priorities“
- Internet discussion about NFP objectives and priorities
- Analysis of suggestions obtained during public discussion about NFP objectives and priorities and their compilation into a draft material for preparation of national Forest Programme

***IV. Main Constraints to the NFP***

Several bottlenecks can occur which could slow down NFP implementation, especially in relation to institutional and administrative framework. The main constraints are joined with clarification of position of forestry in agriculture and environment sectors influencing consequently legislation process, forestry international cooperation, utilization of international funds, position of forestry research.

- **international cooperation, including development and implementation of partnerships ,**

The SR actively participates in the activity of the:

- Economic Commission for Europe of the United Nations (Timber Committee) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (European Forestry Commission). A representative of the SR is a deputy chairman of the European Forestry Commission of FAO. The representatives of the SR in various positions in teams of specialists or as a national focal points develop activities in several work areas concerning Markets and Statistics; Forest Resources Assessment; Forest Sector Outlook Studies; Technology, Management and Training; Policy and Cross-Sectoral Issues. Within the framework of co-operation with UN and FAO the SR organized several workshops and seminars.
- Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE); on expert level the SR participate in preparation of different priming documents for purposes of elaborating the MCPFE resolutions, declarations, guidelines etc.
- European Forest Institute (EFI) – the SR develop activities aimed at accession to EFI as an international organization with the objective to strengthen the position of Slovak forestry research in the international context. The SR submitted request for establishment of Regional Project Centre of the EFI focused on impacts of global climate change on forest ecosystems.

One of the most important areas of bilateral co-operation is realization of preparatory phase of Green China Project. The objective of project is assistance of the SR in regeneration of forestry potential in China. A co-operation with the Czech Republic, Austria, Poland and Hungary has been intensively continuing. It was mainly an exchange of experiences on supportive system of forestry development from the funds of European Union, preparation of the transformation project of Forests of the Slovak republic, state enterprise to the joint stock company etc.

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

In the scope of the NFP process the network of stakeholders, interest groups and institutions was established. There is expected the network should be henceforth maintained and developed for the needs of realization and updating the NFP and other needs where the principles of participation should be applied.

### **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**

Forestry policy and legislation in Slovakia do not traditionally and in long term enable to arise the problems related to deforestation and forest degeneration. The basic principles of forestry policy are conservation, improvement and protection of forests. These principles are applied in forestry legislation for example through these provisions:

- forest land users are obliged to protect and use rationally forest land and forest stands for fulfilment of forest functions and manage forest stands according to forest management plans approved by state forest administration so that there would be improved both fertility of forest land and timber production while securing other forest functions,
- exemption of forest lands from fulfillment of forest functions can be realized only on the basis of the decision of state forest administration,
- person who damaged forest land or forest stand is obliged to bring the damaged places into the original condition or compensate the damage according to the provisions on compensation for damage,
- forest land users are obliged to carry out tending of forest stands consistently to improve their species composition, quality, eventually to increase their increments, resistance against the harmful effects and to improve the functions of forests,
- clearings on forest land must be reforested within 2 years from their formation and forest stands must be secured on them within the following 5 years,
- stocking of forest stand should not be lowered below 7/10 of the full stocking if an opening up of forest stand is not carried out in favour of consecutive young forest stand which originated in forest regeneration,
- users of the forests are obliged to carry out the regeneration of the forest stands and the afforestation by species and genetically adequate seeds and plants,
- they are obliged to implement forest-technical reclamation on forest land with the objective to prevent soil erosion and waterlogging, increasing of the production and other forest functions,
- in case of extraordinary circumstances and unpredictable damage (wind or snow calamities, pest outbreak, danger of forest fires, etc.) the forest users are obliged to take measures to prevent them and to remove the consequences of the damage.

### **2. preparing diagnostic studies to analyse historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, including processes outside the forest sector**

From above mentioned reasons these tasks have not the highest priority in the conditions of Slovakia.

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

It is secured in the scope of the NFP process (1).

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

See above.

## **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**

In 2002 the Act No 543/2002 on Protection of Nature and Landscape came into force. In this act there are fully accepted provisions of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. According to the cited act the system of complex conservation of nature and landscape is implemented in the following categories:

- protected landscape area (PLA) – there were declared 14 PLA with area of forest land 368 thousand ha without area of protection zone,
- national park (NP) – 9 NP; 426 thousand ha of forest land including area of protection zone,
- protected range (PR) – 5,8 thousand ha of forest land,
- (national) nature preserve (NNP) – 89,9 thousand ha of forest land,
- (national) nature monument (NNM) – 1,2 thousand ha of forest land.

In national list of proposed sites of Community importance, approved by government of the SR, there are approximately 380 territories with area of forest land 575 thousand ha. Proposed territories overlap with present system of protected territories (mentioned above) to 86%.

Total area of specially protected forests including protection zone area is 1 128 thousand ha what represents 23% of the territory of Slovakia and more than 40% of the area of forest land. Any of developed countries from the economics and nature protection point of view do not have such percent of protected forests. Annual detriment due to restriction of ordinary (current) management in forest land represents 920 million Sk, it is about 22 million EUR.

Professional forestry institutions (Forest Research Institute, Forest Management Planning Institute – Lesoprojekt Zvolen) in collaboration with the organs and organizations of nature conservation, non-governmental organizations and foreign partners solve issues related to identification and localization of biotope types, elaboration of the programmes on the care about protected territories, monitoring of their state etc. There are carried out the activities aimed at elaboration both monitoring and management guidelines. As an example we can mention these currently being solved projects:

- Natura 2000 in Slovakia – Bridging the Implementation Process,
- Natura 2000 in Slovakia – Conservation of Habitat Directive Annex 1 Forest Habitat Types, where in addition to Slovak professional organizations and organs of state administration also foreign partners take part, mainly International Agricultural Centre (IAC) (Netherland) and Bio/consult Ltd. (Denmark).

### **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**

In the planning and management of forest conservation areas in favour of public-beneficial interests there frequently occurs restriction on ordinary management and subsequently property

loss for forest owners. The highest proportion in restrictions of forest ownership's rights has the act on nature and landscape conservation. Value of property loss due to applying this act is approximately 920 million Sk, it is about 22 million EUR. This value will still increase after starting application of protection of bird territories, biotopes of free growing plant and animals in accordance with respective directive of EEC.

For these reasons there were elaborated methods of calculation of compensation for restriction of ordinary management due to bans and other restriction provisions of the above mentioned act. The manner of calculation of the compensation of property loss was enacted by Government regulation in 2003. Because of lack of financial means the Ministry of Environment as a responsible body has not paid nearly any compensation so far. In October 2003 there was enacted Payment Agency in Land Management for providing financial means for enterprising activities and development programmes in agriculture and forestry in the scope of both national supporting and general budget of European Union after integration of the SR into the EU.

- 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**

This is secured in the scope of NFP process

### **Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover**

Slovakia with percentage of forests 41% belong among most forested European countries. The area of forest land has been growing in a long term. Since 1970 it has increased by 4,5% (from 1 918,5 thousand ha to 2 004,2 thousand ha in 2003) mainly due to afforestation of unsuitable agricultural lands and transfer of agricultural lands covered by forest tree species to forest land. From the mentioned reasons the measures (8, 9, and 10) proposed for countries with low forest cover have not priority in Slovakia.

- 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**

## **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**

Plantations establishment is one of the measures of the Mid-term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006 imposed with the target to achieve more intensive utilisation of timber production, mainly from the reason of expected enhancement of timber consumption. In the natural conditions of Slovakia we assume establishment of intensive stands of spruce, Douglas fir, poplars, willows and tree species with ornamental timber texture on unsuitable agricultural lands and on the lands with occurrence of low productive forest stands in the scope of their conversion. Reforest or plantations establishment comprising the introduced tree species is forbidden in protected territories

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

This is secured in following forest policy documents: Programme “Wood – the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Raw Material”, “Concept of the Forestry Policy of the SR by 2005” and above mentioned “Mid-term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006”. For details see point 21.

## **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)**

Greater attention should be paid to valuation of forest goods and services, mainly public-beneficial non-marketed services. Chosen information on economic valuation of forest goods and services are annually presented in some statistical publications and in Report on Forestry in the SR (Green Report) submitted to government and parliament.

Forest Research Institute Zvolen has already worked out the second generation of method for valuation of forest natural resources which is applied by respective legal norm. Appointed judges and expert's institutes secure the forest valuation. Valuation method comprises

procedures on determination of general value of forest soils, forest stands (standing volumes), public-beneficial forest functions and their derivatives.

As a progress made we can consider the amendment of legal norm on general value of forest asset (estate) and also publishing some research and scientific works on valuation of forest resources, goods and services. Values of forest resources and public-beneficial forest functions of both state and non-state sector are determined annually. Education on valuation of natural forest resources and other asset is a part of academic educational and preparation of judges.

For purposes of leasing of forest asset there are used simulated market prices. Valuation of forest resources is used also for purposes of determination the restitution compensations to forest owners and compensations due to legislative restrictions in forest management, for example nature conservation.

Well-accepted micro-economical methods for valuating infrastructural forest functions (Travel cost method, Contingent valuation method, Hedonic price method) have been experimentally verified in Slovakia but they have not been used so far. Regarding little developed market with forest soil, forest stands and other parts of forest asset their market value is simulated on the basis of method of general asset value. Because of the high level of uncertainty in valuating infrastructural functions and environmental values and investments the accuracy of the valuation can not be defined.

Among planned initiatives we include mainly:

- to force research of the valuation of forest natural resources, public-beneficial forest functions and forestry services to public. During the last 10 years the attention was paid mainly to practical aspects of the valuation.
- into currently prepared new forest act to include the method on calculation of compensation due to loss of public-beneficial forest functions in change of forest land to other kind of making use, calculation of loss in damaging the forest asset, restriction of forest land usage due to application of specific management regime for purposes of nature conservation.

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

Data and information on forest products are processed by forestry administration. Due to transformation of usage and ownership rights there have not occurred any principal changes in information flows. More complicated situation is in data obtaining from timber operators in wood-processing industry. There are lacking data on market with non-wood products and services. Information on hunting management is sufficiently accurate.

Information related to forest resources, felling, timber assortment production, primary products of wood-processing industry, foreign trade and prices are realised through the state statistical reporting. In the scope of sector statistical reporting there is found more detailed information on listed data.

There was built up three-level information system for forestry and market information system. In these systems there are used standardised methods for obtaining relevant information. There are realized classes for persons providing information. Problem area seems to be motivation of subjects with small area of forests and production, and reliability by them provided information. Also there is necessary to work out a system for obtaining and processing data and method for valuation of non-wood products and services.

In the scope of planned initiatives there will be realized Project on establishment of test enterprises network in forestry of the SR and Project on market information system in forestry of the SR (it will be monitor market with timber and other forest products). Co-operation between state and sector information systems is secured.

**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)**

Principle of sustainable forest management is the basic one of state forestry policy in Slovakia. This principle has backup in legal, economic and political tools. It is secured mainly thorough the legal norms and forest management plans. In the area of economic tools there is used support system from public financial sources and from national and EU support as well. Protective forests, special purpose forests and other forests before executing the first thinning are exempted from estate tax. Support is aimed mainly at:

- Investment to improvement and rationalization of silviculture, protection of forests, timber felling, primary processing and market of timber raw material and other forest production.
- Public-beneficial investments (to support sustainable forest management, to preserve and improve ecological stability of forests).
- Afforestation of agriculture land.

There was also prepared decree of the Ministry of Agriculture aimed at national support which is mainly focused on:

- Measures aimed at protection of forest stands against biotic injurious agents, establishment and management of gene resources and measures in the scope of erosian, flood and avalanche control forest functions.
- Elaborating forest management plans for forest owners.
- Chemical and biological soil amelioration, soil preparation before afforestation and reforestation after incidental fellings and preventive measures from fires.
- Associating forest owners with area of forest land to 50 ha to associations with legal subjectivity.
- Elaborating fire-fighting documentation, projects, appraisals and expertises on public-beneficial activities for forest owners.

At present it is necessary to secure mainly preparation of experts for creation and valuation of forestry projects, improvement of informing forest owners on possibilities of obtaining support, harmonization tools of forestry policy with securing sufficient public financial means, improvement making use of wood- and non-wood products and services at domestic markets.

A significant constraint encountered refers to fact that volume of public financial means needed for sustainable forest management has been decreasing and it does not secure realization of all political principles of forestry. There are also some inconsistencies between forestry and environmental legislations concerning forest management in protected areas and control of biotic and abiotic injurious agents.

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

Trade has its traditionally functioning tools which can influence the forest only indirectly. There occurred only minimum troublesome impacts related to trade with forest products in

transformation period. Market is now sufficiently and adequately regulated by market tools. At present timber export is approximately 15% of its domestic production. Wood-processing industry exports those products which are not demanded in domestic market and imports products for improvement the structure of domestic market.

Made progress resides mainly in gradual reduction of wood export, increase of production, final manufactures and semi-finished goods as well as increase of processing unavailable assortments and timbered refuse in new products and for energetic purposes.

Among encountered constraints belong mainly: obscure concept and economic policy in wood-processing industry in transformation area, out of date technologies in wood-processing industry, introduction of quotas in wood export, lack of equity capital, insufficient marketing research.

In the scope of planned initiatives there is needed to secure increasing the volume of foreign capital in wood-processing industry and forestry, innovation of technologies of timber production and processing, increase of marketing effectiveness and solving these issues in the framework of the national forestry programme. In the scope of co-operation there are prepared some projects referring to rural and regions development on the basis of forestry and wood-processing industry.

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

The Ministry of Agriculture of SR has decided to support a formation of national certification system by the scheme of PEFC (Pan-European Forest Certification). This system takes into consideration, to the highest extent, more than 200-year long tradition and level of management of forests in Slovakia. In June 2002, the Forestry Section of the Ministry of Agriculture of SR appointed the preparatory working group co-ordinated by Lesoprojekt Zvolen with the task to build the national system of forests certification. A bearer of the system will be the Association of Certification of Forests in Slovakia originated in connection with it. It comprises the involved entities representing forest users, wood processors and other interested groups. In November 2002, the Plenary Assembly of the Council of Pan European Forest Certification (PEFC) in Luxembourg accepted the Association of Certification of Forests in Slovakia as a regular member. At the same time technical documents of the national certification system according to PEFC were prepared. In 2003, the documents will be submitted for adoption to the Council of Pan European Forest Certification in Luxembourg after approving by the Association of Certification of Forests in Slovakia and implementing of the pilot project. The pilot project of regional forest certification was launched in 2003 on the area of forest land more than 70 ths. ha and it is referring to 29 individual forest users. It is assumed that routine operation of the forest certification should start since autumn 2004.

Representatives of certification system of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) have also pursued the activities within the certification of forests in Slovakia. They have performed certification of approximately 50 ths. ha of forests (Forests of SR – Branch Enterprise Prešov). Further project in the framework of FSC certification system started in 2003. It was first project of group FSC certification on the area of forest land approximately 27 ths. ha.

At present the biggest problem is non-participation of representatives of the Association of Wood Industry in the Association of Forests Certification in Slovakia and also not reimbursement of financial contribution to its activities. In the opinion of the representatives of

Association of Wood Industry the certification of timber raw material and products of it should be divided. They do not want forestry to share the certification of timber products.

**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.**

Preventing and reduction of illegal logging in Slovakia are most influenced by application of these legal provisions and measures:

- Planned logging can be executed only to the extent according to valid forest management plan after its marking and on the basis of written consent issued by professional forest manager.
- Incidental logging has to be marked and notified to respective organ of state forest administration in advance.
- Pursuant to law professional forest manager is responsible for correctness of marking and executing timber logging.
- Timber logged and produced assortments are marked by hallmark that must contain following data:
  - Key number of forest user, timber buyer or of professional forest manager being assigned by the organ of state forest administration,
  - Organizational unit of forest user,
  - Kind of forest use (state, private, community, municipal, of churches),
  - The seat of the organ of state forest administration the hallmark was registered.
- Obligation of timber carrier or timber buyer is to dispose the certificate on timber origin in timber transportation and processing. They are obliged on request of the members of Police Corps, organs of state forest administration or forest guard attest by this certificate.
- Obligation of forest user is to ensure proper performance of protection service in forests via forest guard appointed by the organ of state forest administration.
- Obligation of state forest administration is to carry out permanent supervision over observance of the provisions of generally binding legal norms on forestry. In case of offences or administration delinquencies these organs are entitled to impose fines.
- Obligation of forest user is to keep records on volume of stolen timber and thorough the total annual results to submit these data to Forestry Information Centre for processing and archiving.

The effectiveness of listed system in considerable rate depends on human factor – responsibility of professional forest manager, forest guard, employees of state forest administration; legal knowledge of population but mainly on its living standard.

Illegal timber logging by private forest owners occurred mainly in the beginning of restitution process – giving back ownership's and usage rights to their original owners in the first half of the 90s of past century. To reduction of illegal logging at that time came mainly due to legislative amendment of the Act on forest management and state forest administration in 1995 when obligatory marking of logged timber was adopted. However the situation has changed and from the beginning of restitution were positively settled applications to the 87% of required area. In total we can observe favourable tendency of timber theft reduction from more than 8,5 thousand m<sup>3</sup> in 2000 down to about 4,2 thousand m<sup>3</sup> in 2002. In annually felling of 6,5 mil. m<sup>3</sup> it is approximately about 0,1% of totally felled timber.

Among the reasons of illegal cutting at present belong mainly complicated economic situation of some groups of population (Romany but also not Romany). There is high unemployment rate which in some mountain regions of northern and eastern Slovakia reaches more than 30%. Timber thefts in mountain regions result also from price increase on other energies.

Mainly more frequent police checkups, strengthening forest guard, cooperation of forest owners and administrators with police and legislative amendments contribute to reduce timber thefts. It is obvious that much more effective way of preventing timber thefts in the country and mountain regions with high unemployment are not repressive actions but first of all realisation of measures referring to rural development with consecutive increase of standard of population living in rural and mountain regions.

Export of illegally cut timber from Slovakia is impossible in practice. In export timber customs declaration must include timber origin; timber has to be marked by producer hallmark or hallmark of wood processing company. Origin of timber and locality where it was logged must be also given in the sanitary certificate. However we have not any mechanism for finding out an import of illegally logged wood or wood products.

In 2003 inspection of raw timber export from Slovakia was carried out. The Ministry of Agriculture of SR together with the Police Corps of SR was the organizer. Forest Research Institute Zvolen guaranteed professional quality of the inspection. During this inspection 41 wagons were checked up which transported altogether 1 665 m<sup>3</sup> of raw timber logs of all commercially important tree species and all main assortments intended for the production of decorative and glued veneer, sawmill processing and pulpwood assortments.

In the declaration of species (tree species, assortment) and the volume of delivered timber there were not found any more important differences between declared and actual values. Regarding timber origin there were found only some shortcomings related to differences between declared and used hallmark. Only in one wagon logs were not marked by hallmark. It follows from the results of this large inspection there were not found any serious facts, which would indicate export of illegally logged timber or timber assortments from the territory of SR.

### **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.**

One of the programme goals of the “Concept of Forestry Policy of the SR by 2005” is Mitigation and removal of the consequences of significant anthropogenic injurious agents, mainly air pollution of domestic and foreign origin. This goal is to be secured as follows:

Monitoring of health conditions will continue, mainly in forests under influence of air pollution. The results will be used for preparation of projects of preventive and remediation measures and their realization. Forest protection will be oriented mainly to preventive measures

(protective, silvicultural and forest management). Integrated methods and procedures of tree species and forest stands protection from synergetic effects of injurious agents will be applied mainly by biological insect control and weed control methods.

Restoration of forests damaged by air pollution is a task of primary importance, necessarily requiring active participation of the state and funding from the state budget. The total area of damaged forests exceeds 700 ths. ha, although the extent of damage varies. Government of the SR approved in 1996 updated implementation programme on removal damages caused by anthropogenic activities. Between 1995 and 1998 both preventive and remediation recovery measures were realized only to the extent of 2% of the planned costs. It seems that no sufficient funds for realization of the planned measures will be available until the target year 2005. Nevertheless, there is a danger of disintegration of strongly damaged forests, mainly those at upper limit of tree species vegetation where they fulfil important ecological and social functions. Therefore it is necessary to identify the most acute cases and realize respective measures.

In currently prepared “Mid-term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006” in the priority “Securing of forest management on the principles of sustainability” there is a partial task “Assessment of the state of forests ecosystems and their protection from injurious agents”. To stop unfavourable development in forest management caused by air pollution there are adopted these measures:

- To assess extent and effectiveness of silvicultural and protective measures carried out up to now.
- To strengthen the research and survey in forest protection, execution of Forestry Protection Service as well as monitoring of health condition of forests.
- To secure necessary financial means for realization of recovery measures in forests affected by air pollution.

Review on occurrence of injurious agents in Slovakia is elaborated on the basis of statistical statements, results of monitoring of health conditions and direct check activities of inspectors and specialists of Forestry Protection Service. This service elaborates annually summary report on occurrence and prognosis of injurious agents. Elaborator submits report to ministry and its result publishes in journals. For improvement of information access the Forestry Protection Service prepares special publications on injurious agents in Slovakian forests and methods of their control and regulations.

Slovak Republic thorough the Forest Research Institute has been involved in the international research projects focusing on monitoring of the health condition in West Carpathian region. The project aim was to evaluate air pollution impact on stomatal quality for fir, spruce and beech. It was supported by the USDA. Cooperation between Slovakia, Ukraine, Czech Republic and Romania brings many valuable results. There is also cooperation in the area of atmospheric deposition studied by Moss bio-monitoring and leaf analyses. The project REGATA “Atmospheric deposition of Heavy Metals in Slovakia studied by Moss monitoring Technique Employing Nuclear and related analytical techniques and GIS Technology” connected several specialists from Slovakia and Russia to study the impact of 40 different elements on forest trees. Generally there are quite rich experiences in area of moss as bio-indicators. Several international projects were carried out in the past as well.

Further we have several regional projects, which are focused on the monitoring of the forest condition in area being close to the big air pollution producers (Aluminum producing company, power stations etc.). The results showed, that these producers have made a big

improvement in the quality of the technologies during the last years and the impact of the heavy metals and other emissions on the forest close to the facilities are getting lower.

Regional and international cooperation is highly appreciated in this topic and brings very useful results. Restoration of forests damaged by air pollution is a complicated process. To be successful in this process there are needed suitable administrative conditions, well working regional and state funding system and scientific knowledge. International scientific cooperation can bring many advantages.

### **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.**

All these issues will be dealt with in the process of elaborating the national forest programme which started in 2004.

- 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 assessment of long-term trends in national supply and demand for wood was performed in the programme "Wood – the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Raw Material" that was approved by government of the SR in 1999. Its aim is to achieve more efficient utilisation of full wood potential in conditions of the SR. On the basis of wood potential analysis it is proposed to adapt structure of wood industry with respect to assumed growing logging possibilities and tendency in development of assortment structure of felled timber. Wood industry should

- increase final processing and utilising of wood by at least 1 million cubic meters by 2005,
- construct a new pulp plant with capacity of about 400 thousands tonnes of pulp annually,
- build up capacities for processing veneer logs and for producing large-area wood-based materials, using advanced technologies,
- stimulate long-term and effective utilisation of so called timber of lower quality.

Besides the programme of science, research and development in production, processing and utilising of wood should be supported.

The future supply and demand is regularly analysed within the framework of the outlook studies of the UNECE, most recently European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EFSOS).

In "Concept of the Forestry Policy of the Slovak Republic by 2005" there are in this context two program goals of forestry within this context:

- Optimal utilization of the forest production potential, particularly cutting possibilities in order to generate financial resources sufficiently covering the cost of silvicultural activities, of the renewal and maintenance of fixed assets and the improvement of material and social conditions of forestry workers.
- Generation of the sources of additional revenue by supplementary forest management activities and by levying charges on public beneficial services.

In currently prepared “Mid-term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006” in the priority “Increasing the effectiveness in forestry” there is a partial task “Increasing intensity of timber production and utilization”. This task is to be secured mainly through these measures:

- Afforestation of land unsuitable for agricultural use.
- Performing reasonable reconstruction and conversions in low-productive forests.
- Formation of intensive stands of spruce, Douglas-fir, poplars, willows and tree species with decorative texture of timber.
- Applying differentiated silvicultural systems, reproduction methods, rotations, regeneration periods, tending methods, tree species compositions respecting changed ecological and economic conditions of forest management with aim of increment increase.
- Complex utilization of timber biomass.

#### **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**

Legislation: In 2004, the national parliament approved the Act. No. 217/2004 on Forest Reproductive Material and Change of Some Acts, that transposes the EU’s Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproduction material. This act addresses the most relevant issues concerning the use and sharing the benefits related to the genetic resources of forest tree species: selection the approved basic materials and their national register, collection and certifying propagation material, production of planting stock, related records of origin, control, inspection, rules for the marketing and use. It also provides a legal basis for the establishment of gene reserve forests. Related practical aspects are governed by the Regulation of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 64/2001 on Forest Reproduction Material, its Production and Records.

Before, the control and inspection of forest reproduction material were appointed in the Act No. 100/1977 on the Management of Forests and State Forest Administration (Article 9 Forest Reproductive Material), Act No. 291/1996 on Varieties and Seeds (Part IV Special Provisions for Forest Tree Species). There is a long-term legal continuity in the legal regulation concerning the forest genetic resources and forest reproduction material in Slovakia. The first legally binding regulation was the Decree of the Ministry of Economies IX-54/7-1939 on Selection of Forest Stands for Collection of Seed and on the Planting Stock, issued in Slovakia 75 years ago.

Specific issues concerning the intellectual property rights to the forest genetic resources are governed by the Act no. 132/1989 on the protection of rights to the new plant varieties and animal breeds, as amended by later legal regulations.

Conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, non-wood plants and wildlife genetic resource, are legally covered by the Act no. 543/2003 on the nature and landscape conservation and the Act no. 21/1962 on hunting, as amended by the later legal regulations.

*Coordination, Control, Inspection:* Pursuant to the Act 217/2004 on Forest Reproduction Material, the Forest Research Institute became an official national authority implementing the Directive 1999/105/EC and related regulations. Its Unit for the Control of Forest Reproduction Material was established in 1983. By that time, we could show a general compliance with the OECD Scheme for Forest Reproduction Material in the state forests. The OECD Scheme for Forest Reproduction Material has been implemented in full in Slovakia from January 2003.

The Unit for the Control of Forest Reproduction Material includes 4 regional inspectors, 3 specialists in the selection and management of approved basic materials, keeping the national register, and testing of the seed quality in and internationally accredited lab, and 3 technicians. Detailed information about our control system, including related legal documents, national list of basic materials and maps of provenance regions, is available on the web site of the Forest Research Institute [www.fris.sk](http://www.fris.sk). It is also available in the OECD document AGR/CA/F(2004)6 “Slovak Republic: Implementation of the OECD Scheme for the Control of Forest Reproduction Material”.

*Practical Measures:* The Act on Forest Reproduction Material and implementing its Regulation, have undertaken traditional, relatively strict rules for the horizontal and altitudinal transfer as related to the origin of planting stock used for reforestation. The forest owners and tenants are also obliged to keep the records of origin of the reproduction material used in their forests.

Contrary to the genetic resources for agriculture and food production, the conservation of forest genetic resources has not been addressed directly in the existing legislation. Also the direct support and compensation for implemented measures have been still reduced more. Nevertheless, there is a countrywide network of approved basic materials for the collection of reproduction material. All the gene reserve forests, providing particularly for the conservation of forest genetic resources in the broadest sense, have been established after 1997.

The measures in support of “in situ” conservation of forest genetic resources include the Gene Reserve Forests (37 units, 15 025 ha), and Approved Seed Collection Stands of A (“elite”) Category with a 10-year voluntary protection by their owners (approx. 2 500 units, 10 ths. ha). The strict nature reserves and nature reserves occupy 88 354 ha or 4,4% of the total forest area. The “ex situ” measures include 91 untested Seed Orchards of 15 forest tree species, Plus Trees of 21 species (1 215 genotypes are in archives), Forest Seed Bank (253 seed lots, 5 species), and Generative Reproductive Plantations (757 ha, 6 species).

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

Currently valid documents of forestry policy “Concept of forestry policy by the year 2005” and “Mid-term concept of agrarian policy for the years 2004-2006 – Forestry” do not specify any particular measures to promote role of women in sustainable forest management. This is the aim of voluntary organization of women foresters “Association of Women Foresters” that has started its activity as a civil association in 2000. It followed up with previous activities of women forestry engineers – members of Forestry Chamber. Activities of this association are aimed mainly at securing women equality at labour market, increasing qualification skills of rural women and creating preconditions for harmonization of their professional and family life. Regarding the aims of the association in rural policy the members of the association are not only women foresters but also women with similar profession in rural areas working in agriculture, ecology, nature protection, economics and other fields. The tasks of the association are mainly following:

- Organize actions to obtain information and exchange of experience in the field of support to women self-implementation in rural areas in enterprising,
- Organize educational and training programmes aimed at improvement of knowledge and skills of the members of the association and collaborating volunteers, including actions to increase knowledge level during maternal leave and unemployment period,
- Provide advisory services for enhancing enterprising in agrarian sector and environment,
- Public relations aimed at increasing the level of knowledge and the number of volunteers for the environment and particularly for the education of children and youth in voluntary clubs of interest

At present the association orientate its activities towards two basic programmes “Women for kids” and Women for women”. In the framework of the programme “Women for women” the association has been cooperating with the “Association of business women” in organizing education programmes for unemployed rural women. They are aimed at increasing knowledge level of women, their skills for the works connected with diversification of rural activities, for example in tourism, handicrafts, traditional rural jobs. Possibilities of combined income of women from different jobs have been developing.

In the framework of the programme “Women for kids” the association organizes different interest clubs of “young foresters” within free time activities of kids and cooperates with the clubs of “young naturalist or hunters”. Kids can test their knowledge and skills at National forestry competitions held every year. In 2004 they were held already for the fourth time. Since 2003 the association cooperates in the competition “Kids to nature” where the most successful kids from the competitions of young foresters, hunters or naturalist meet. In 2004 there was held already the third competition “Green objective lens” in collaboration with Forestry and Wood Technology Museum in Zvolen. The association has published leaflets “Public relations in forestry” and “Manual for young forester” as a part of professional assistance for volunteers for the work in the environment conservation.

The mentioned activities are partially funded by the Ministry of Agriculture of SR as well as the Ministry of Environment of SR.

- 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**

Not applicable concerning structure of the society. Indigenous or forest-dwelling communities can not be found in Slovakia.

#### **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**

This is not relevant in Slovakia. The knowledge on forests on the territory of today's Slovakia started to be accumulated since early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Traditional forest related knowledge was gradually incorporated into the knowledge-base and mixed with more modern scientific results. In management of forests we use this complex knowledge-base thorough the management models elaborated and regularly updated for concrete natural and stand preconditions expressed by operational set as a basic unit of forest management typification. Management models include *management targets* mainly: target tree species composition, target stand structure, target stocking, target production; *basic decisions* mainly: forest category, management system, rotation period, regeneration period and *management principles* mainly principles of silviculture, tending, regeneration, stand formation etc. These basic management models elaborated for mentioned natural and stand preconditions can be further modified in dependence on required social function of forest, class of ecological stability of the territory, interests of nature and landscape conservation, health conditions and so on.

- 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**

Generally in Slovakia intellectual rights are protected by following legal norms: Author's Act No. 618/2003, Act No. 527/1990 on inventions, industrial designs and improvement suggestions, Act No. 435/2001 on patents and additional protective certifications and Act No. 478/1992 on utility designs.

## 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**

Primarily handing over the results of research to an order party in accordance with economic contracts ensures disseminating scientific knowledge among interested groups. Researchers working on task solution contribute directly or through consultation to the implementation of the research results. A big part of new knowledge is being disseminated via services of science and research for state administration and non-state subjects in forestry (e.g. forestry protection service, forestry seed management service). There are organized conferences, symposia, workshops and other (e.g. in 2003 there were organized conferences on New trends in forest and landscape conservation; Forest ecology – current state and perspectives; symposia: Ecological consequences of disasters in forest stands and their elimination; workshops: Actual problems in forest protection, Actual problems of forest seed management and nursery, Beech – the most important commercial tree species of Košice forests, Spruce forests dieback – reasons, consequences, solutions and others. Many scientific-researchers work also as lecturers at universities as well as at various trainings and courses (e.g. for forest managers).

Publishing activity represents an important contribution to disseminating scientific knowledge. For example Forest Research Institute Zvolen publishes periodicals and non-periodicals as *Lesnicke studie*, *Polovnicke studie*, *Lesnicke informacie*), reviewed scientific journals and publications (*Forestry Journal*, *Vedecke prace of FRI Zvolen*, *Acta Instituti Forestalis Zvolen*, *Folia Venatoria*), scientific and technical works from various events (proceedings), professional forestry news, results of research and their implementation in forest practice as well as advertising brochures. Researchers publish their papers in scientific and technical national and foreign journals. Results of research are presented also on the web site of Forest Research Institute, on CDs and other.

Strengthening the capacity of disseminating scientific knowledge is ensured mainly by systematic evaluation of researchers. Decisive criteria for granting scientific titles or classifying into higher qualification degrees is the number and importance of published works abroad and home as well (first of all in *Current Contents*). Organizations to be able to bid for state order must pass a periodic assessment, which puts the greatest attention on the publication activity of researchers and particularly on the works cited in *Current Contents*. A problem is that forest science and research in the Slovak Republic and Czech Republic has not any journal like *Current Contents* what means that it is possible to publish a paper only abroad or in scientific current journal of related branch.

It is very difficult and complicated to mobilize funding in national and regional institutes and in networks disseminating scientific knowledge. Funding the science and research in SR is very low and expenses have been decreasing since 2000 (in 2003 they formed 0,36% of GDP). Similar situation is in whole forest sector. State support being provided for agrarian sector goes into agriculture and forestry is being put wayside.

**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**

Forest science and research (especially Forest Research Institute) participate actively in formulating basic strategies and concepts of forestry of SR. Recently Mid-Term Concept of Forest Sector of SR for the years 2004-2006 was elaborated (approved by the government of SR in 2003). Proposals of the tools of state forestry policy, mainly in legislation and economics have been worked out as well (e.g. forest act, development programmes and support of their implementation). They are based on development and current state of forestry as well as the conclusions of world and European meetings (Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, ministerial conferences on forest protection in Europe and others) as well as EU documents.

Special attention is paid to determining the priorities of forest science and research for future. "Proposals of scientific-research basis of agrarian science and research in Slovakia" were incorporated into the document "Main directions and priorities of agrarian science and research in Slovakia" that was adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture of SR in 2001. Main directions are as follows:

- Sustainable forest management, preservation of forests biodiversity, their multifunctional character
- Promoting ecological aspect of forestry activities with the utilization of biotechnologies
- Complex incorporation of forest sector into macro- and micro-economic structures.

There were determined seven interrelated areas as priorities of forest science and research.

- Effect of global changes of the atmosphere and anthropogenic activities on forest ecosystems.
- Preservation and reproduction of the gene pool of forests, their species and ecosystem variety.
- Identification of forests endangerment by a complex of injurious agents and their integrated protection.
- Methods and procedures of sustainable forest management.
- Research on the effect of machinery on forest ecosystems, modelling environmentally suitable technologies and optimisation of the use of forest resources.
- Research on methods and modelling economic evaluation of functions and services being provided by forests, principles of forestry policy and tools for securing of their fulfilment.
- Research on improvement of game environment and game management.

In following years (2002-2003) these directions and priorities were worked out in detail (there was analysed the level of knowledge at home and abroad, long-term intentions were specified as well as the tasks for the closest future). Special attention was paid to harmonization of this document with the EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

Lack of funds influences negatively promoting interrelations of scientific research and political processes and solving the tasks specified in the priorities. Due to these reasons development programmes elaborated by scientists and researchers and approved by the government of SR are being implemented only partially. Only a small part of them is being solved within state orders, it means with the support of state.

Due to the mentioned reasons there are being formed gaps in the knowledge and utilization of scientific knowledge for decision-making support. Insufficient is especially explaining the effect of climatic change on forest ecosystems and proposals for the implementation of

adaptation and mitigation measures, specifying decisive injurious agents and elaboration of system measures of integrated forest protection against a complex of injurious agents which should be differentiated according to the degree of endangerment with a special regard to ecologically friendly methods, applying environmentally suitable technique and technologies in the management of forests. It is necessary to work out a system of measures aimed at increasing economic effectiveness of forest management with respecting multifunctional role of forests. A complete set of measures to improve the environment of game is lacking. It should be differentiated according to carrying capacity of hunting grounds and negative effects on game.

### **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**

Collection, processing, archiving and providing information on forest resources is one of the tasks of Information System of Forest Management (ISFM) that is built on the basis of “Conception of Information System in the Sector of Agriculture” and “Project of Informatisation in Forestry of the SR”. The ISFM provides complex information on forests in Slovakia and on management in them including connected social-economic data in the state and non-state sector. The IFSM is secured by Forest Information Center of Lesoprojekt Zvolen. In January 2001 the leading of the Ministry of Agriculture of SR adopted respective measures for securing application of the EFICS in the conditions of ISFM of SR. In January 2004 it approved the Application of conclusions and recommendations of Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forestry Economics and Statistics and Working Group of EUROSTAT for forestry statistics in forest management of SR.

Information on forest resources in SR is obtained in the scope of complex and detailed finding out state of forests in elaboration of forest management plans. Summary information on state of forest resources for larger territorial units obtain by summarisation of data found out in stand description in the scope of detailed finding out state of forests. This method of national inventory, which is traditional in some Central and Eastern European countries, is not compatible with the most of original member states of the European Union, where it is performed by sampling inventories with mathematical and statistical methods. In the interest of harmonisation of listed procedures there was started project of the “Large scale Forest Inventory in SR”. With this project the SR has been connected also to international science and technical cooperation in the scope of COST E43 project “Harmonisation of National Inventories in Europe”. SR by its participation in this action fulfils its commitment resulting from Vienna Resolutions 4 and 5 where there is a strong reference to improve and harmonise existing forest assessment and monitoring system.

The basic outputs of the ISFM referring to forest resources are Permanent Inventory of Forests of the SR and Summary Information on Forest State of the SR. These outputs together with the ones of the ISFM are used in creation of strategic information mainly for the annual elaboration of the Report on Forestry in the SR (Green Report) and further documents for need of the highest level of management. The Forest Information Centre secures distribution of the Permanent Inventory of Forests to broad spectrum of forestry organizations and subjects of non-state forest sector. Forest Research Institute Zvolen in cooperation with the Forest Information

Centre secure preparation and providing information for the needs of international organisations (national reports for purposes of TBFRA, UNECE/FAO/ITTO/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire)

### **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**

Concept of sustainable forest management has become the basic strategic line in forestry of the SR. For finding out, evaluating and comparing the level in securing this concept the SR adopted Pan-European criteria and indicators approved by MCPFE in Lisbon in 1998 and Improved Pan-European Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Vienna (2003). On the basis of listed commitments there were elaborated National Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Management in Forests of the SR. They were approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of SR.

National indicators were elaborated so that they, in keeping with the main Pan-European intentions, satisfy the national specifics, enable periodical evaluation of reached progress, elaboration of international reports on forest status and international comparability. During elaboration of national indicators there were identified those indicators which state we are not able to find out or express in accord with internationally adopted definitions by means of the procedures currently applied in Slovakia. Therefore it will be needed henceforward to improve the national indicators following new scientific outcomes and introducing new procedures of monitoring the state and development of forests. Along this line it will be a continuous process. Substantial part of inconsistencies will be removed by introducing the method of large-scale forest inventory (details in chapter 9). The present state of sustainable forest management in Slovakia was evaluated in the publication “Ministerial Conference on Forest Protection in Europe” published in 2003.

The SR is actively connected in Pan-European process of criteria and indicators. On expert level SR participated in elaborating improved indicators adopted in Vienna in October 2002. At present preparatory work for elaboration of national report “Assessment of Forest Resources” in the scope of FAO “Global Forest Resources Assessment Update 2005” is being secured.

### **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.**

This report was prepared by specialists of Forest Research Institute Zvolen. As a primary sources of information were used: the recent documents of forestry policy “Concept of Forestry Policy of the SR by 2005” and “Mid-Term Concept of Forestry for the Period 2004-2006”;

Report on Forestry in the Slovak Republic; programme “Wood – the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Raw Material”, document of Forestry Department of the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Science “Main directions and priorities of forestry science and research in Slovakia” and other strategic and development documents elaborated for the needs of the central body of state forestry administration (Forestry Section of the Ministry of Agriculture of the SR).