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| <p><i>NON-LEGALLY BINDING INSTRUMENT ON ALL TYPES OF FORESTS</i></p> <p><i>VOLUNTARY SHARING OF INFORMATION ON PROGRESS</i></p> <p><i>Suggested Format</i></p> | | |
| | Country: Cyprus | Date: 20/10/2008 |
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A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NLBI

1. Raising awareness of sustainable management of forests and the NLBI itself is seen as an important component to facilitate implementation. Please provide information on measures taken aimed at introducing the NLBI to professionals and the general public:

- a) Has the NLBI been introduced/recognized through any legal, policy or strategy document? If so, please provide a brief description.
No, it has not yet been introduced through any legal, policy or strategy document.
- b) Has there been action taken to introduce the NLBI to the general public in the electronic, printed or any other media?
All the professional staff of the Department of Forests has been informed about the NLBI. The relevant document has been circulated to the staff of the Department.
- c) Has the NLBI been translated into the official language(s) of your country? If so we would be grateful for receiving a translated copy.
No, the NLBI has not been translated into Greek.

B. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING GLOBAL OBJECTIVES ON FORESTS

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| <p>Global Objective 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.</p> | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement this objective? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p>Action taken to achieve this objective including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>Actions taken include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevention of land use change of public forests by enforcing the forest legislation, 2. Protection of forests against forests fires and other hazards, 3. Reforestation of burnt areas, 4. Restoration of degraded land in the wider countryside, 5. Increasing the density of vegetative cover and preventing environmental degradation, 6. Extending the forest area by afforestation, particularly on hali and private land (agricultural or non-agricultural land), 7. Development of monitoring mechanisms (Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | <p>Forest Law of 1967 and subsequent amendments, National Forest Programme 2000 – 2009. It is a national instrument for enhancing sustainable forest management. The NFP provides a new strategy for the forest sector development, which is designed to protect and enhance the islands natural environment and natural heritage while promoting recreation and tourism,</p> <p>Forest Policy of 2000. It provides the general conditions, strategic aims and specific objectives towards sustainable forest management,</p> <p>Rural Development Programmes 2004-2006 and 2007-2013. These are economic instruments co-financed by the European Union. Funds from these plans are used for forest expansion, reforestation of burnt areas, protection of forests against fires etc, in order to promote sustainable forest management.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item (<i>general description, provisions relevant to the objective</i>) | <p>The Forest Law prohibits the land use change in the public forests and secures the protection of State forests from unlawful interventions and damaging factors. Nowadays, the forest law is under complete revision. This revision was considered a must for the effective implementation of the NFP and to be consistent with the legal framework and requirements of the EU and international forest dialogue.</p> <p>Private forests, on the other hand, may be transferred at any time to other uses and private treeless areas may be afforested. Private forests destroyed, either by fire or any other factor, are usually reforested even though this is not obligatory. The Rural Development Programme, covering the period 2007 – 2013, includes measures for the reforestation of these areas.</p> <p>The protection of State and private forests against fires and other natural disasters, the reforestation of burnt areas, the expansion of forest by the afforestation of agricultural and non-agricultural</p> |

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| | <p>land, the improvement and tending of existing forests are among the aims of the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013. The previous RDP of 2004-2006 had similar provisions.</p> <p>The maintenance and expansion of the forest land is also the main aim of the National Forest Program. One of the key objectives of this program is the protection of the existing forests but also the expansion of them where and when this is possible. The new country's forest strategy aims to increase woodland cover through afforestation and reforestation with appropriate species in appropriate locations. The woodland is constantly increasing by the afforestation of bare land, waste government land (hali-land) and agricultural land. The NFP is currently in the process of implementation.</p> <p>The Department of Forests developed and adapted a Set of National Criteria and Indicators for SFM (2003), based on the Pan-European ones, to serve as an evaluation tool to measure the forest condition and monitor the Department's progress towards the conservation and sustainable management of Cyprus forests and to evaluate the success of the implementation of the NFP.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | <p>National Forest Programme 2000 – 2009 Forest Policy of 2000. It will be valid until next revision. Rural Development Plans 2004 – 2006, 2007 – 2013.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | <p>The forest area is growing year by year. The effectiveness in protecting forests areas has been increased. Cyprus forests are sustainably managed.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | -- |

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| <p>Global Objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.</p> | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement this objective? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | Yes. |
| <p>Action taken to achieve this objective including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support of various recreation projects such as development of camping and picnic site, nature trails, botanical gardens etc. • Identification of sites of particular importance as regards to forest recreation and develop or support the development of the most suitable recreation activities. • Promotion and regulation of a sustainable recreation and ecotourism so as to provide the maximum benefit for both locals and visitors. • Assessment of the demand and needs for recreation. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/source (is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?) | <p>National Forest Programme, Forest Strategy, Forest Policy, Rural Development Plans 2004 – 2006, 2007 – 2013.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item (general description, provisions relevant to the objective) | <p>The main objective of the Forest Policy is to increase economic and social benefits from the State forests and wider countryside and to encourage the appropriate development, based on ecotourism, within the framework of comprehensive area plans.</p> |

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| | <p>The National Forest Program and the new forest strategy also aim at safeguarding and expanding forest resources in order to provide, on a sustainable basis, multiple benefits (wood and non-wood goods and services) to the society.</p> <p>One of the main objectives of the Rural Development Plan (2007 – 2013) is to upgrade the forests’ social role through the financial support of various recreation projects such as development of camping and picnic site, nature trails, botanical gardens etc.</p> <p>The Forest Recreation development is mainly undertaken by the Department of Forests. The most common measures taken are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The identification of sites of particular importance as regards to forest recreation and develop or support the development of the most suitable recreation activities. • The promotion and regulation of a sustainable recreation and ecotourism so as to provide the maximum benefit for both locals and visitors. • The assessment of the demand and needs for recreation. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | <p>National Forest Programme 2000 – 2009, Forest Strategy, Forest Policy of 2000: long term plan, it will be valid until next revision.</p> <p>Rural Development Plans 2004 – 2006, 2007 – 2013.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | -- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | -- |

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| <p><i>Global Objective: Global Objective 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.</i></p> | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement this objective? If the answer is ‘yes’ please proceed to the next question. If the answer is ‘no’ please provide reasons.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p>Action taken to achieve this objective including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of forest areas as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nature Reserves, b) National Forest Parks, c) Natura 2000 sites. • Preparation of management plans for protected and other forest areas, • Restoration of degraded protected areas, • Preparation of monitoring plans for certain habitats and species. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | <p>Forest Law, National Forest Programme, Nature Protection and Wildlife Law.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item (<i>general description, provisions relevant to the objective</i>) | <p>The protection role of forests in Cyprus is increasingly appreciated and is considered as being of much higher importance than their production role.</p> <p>The new forest policy of Cyprus puts a lot of emphasis on the protection role of forest resources.</p> |

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| | <p>For the effective protection of Cyprus forests, certain forest areas have been declared as:</p> <p>A) Nature Reserves Up to now, seven (7) areas have been declared as Nature Reserves with a total area of about 4,788 ha, which accounts for 2.76% of the State Forest Land. The areas declared as Nature Reserves cover a wide range of vegetation types including the endemic forests of Cyprus cedar (<i>Cedrus brevifolia</i>) and golden oak (<i>Quercus alnifolia</i>). Furthermore they host a large number of endemic and rare species, of both plant and animals.</p> <p>B) National Forest Parks The objectives of National Forest Parks in generally are: a) provision of recreation and amenities, b) biodiversity conservation, c) environmental education, d) scientific research. So far, ten (10) National Forest Parks, all over the island, have been declared with a total area of 15,627 ha, which is 1.69% of the total area of Cyprus and 9.65% of the State Forest Land.</p> <p>C) Natura 2000 network The development of the Natura 2000 network, under the directives 92/43 EEC and 79/409 EEC, is one of the most promising actions for the conservation of biodiversity. Cyprus, as a new member of EU, has proposed 30 SCI and 7 SPA terrestrial sites in the area under control by Cyprus government. The national list of proposed sites includes, among others, large areas of State Forest Land, which account approximately for the 80% of the terrestrial Natura sites.</p> <p>Currently, the Department of Forests is in the process of preparation of management plans for the above protected forest areas, and other forest areas,</p> <p>Monitoring plans have been also prepared for certain habitats and species.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | <p>Forest Law 1967, National Forest Programme 2000 - 2009, Nature Protection and Wildlife Law, 2003</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | <p>---</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | <p>---</p> |

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| <p><i>Global Objective: Global Objective 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.</i></p> | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement this objective? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p>Action taken to achieve this objective including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>Cyprus has evolved from being an aid recipient to an aid donor during the last decades. Its development co-operation policy is only few years old. 2006</p> |

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| | <p>was the first year of direct involvement and, indeed, its development assistance mechanism has not been completely set up.</p> <p>The decision-making mechanism is centralised to a large extent and comprises a Co-ordination Body headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and including the Ministry of Finance and the Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau. The Co-ordination Body defines development co-operation objectives (quantitative, territorial and thematic) on the basis of international obligations and national priorities. There is also a consultative body, headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is comprised of representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Labour and Social Insurance, Education and Culture and the Planning Bureau, as well as representatives of civil society. The Planning Bureau holds the administrative and implementation functions for the decisions of the Co-ordination Body.</p> <p>In 2004, Cyprus allocated €4.2 million to Official Development Assistance (ODA), or 0.04% of its gross national income (GNI). In 2006, this amount has been increased to 0.09% of Cyprus GNI. Over the coming years, Cyprus intends to increase its efforts to fulfill its commitments made together with the other new EU Member States: to increase its ODA to a level of 0.17% of GNI by 2010 and 0.33% in 2015.</p> <p>In November 2005, the Co-ordination Body approved the 'Medium-Term Strategy Paper for Official Development Assistance for 2006-2010'. It defines ODA partner countries as Mali, Lesotho, Yemen, the Palestinian Authorities and Egypt, to which Lebanon has been added recently. For this purpose, €1 million has been spent in each country over the three-year period 2006–2008. In 2006, an amount of approximately €170,000 was earmarked in the government budget for each partner country. In addition, as Cyprus currently does not possess any mechanism for implementing development assistance, the Co-ordination Body has decided to provide assistance in co-operation with international organisations or other EU Member States that possess the necessary implementation mechanisms. The strategy defines the following thematic areas as major priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human capital and the services sector (health, HIV/AIDS, education, and tourism)• Infrastructure (road and dam construction, sewage and irrigation systems, solar energy, health infrastructure)• Agriculture and the environment (agricultural research, forestry, veterinary services, environmental protection, agricultural planning, etc.).• <p>However, it is necessary to bear in mind that Cyprus does not have the capacity to implement projects on its own yet. Therefore, development co-operation activities have to be implemented in co-operation with other countries by silent partnership or delegated implementation. Thus, the final choice</p> |
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| | is affected by what projects Cyprus's partners have in progress or in the pipeline, and whether the nature of the project permits Cypriot involvement. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | Medium-Term Strategy for ODA |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item (<i>general description, provisions relevant to the objective</i>) | See details above. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time frame for implementation | Medium-Term Strategy 2006-2010 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences with implementation (if any) | --- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | --- |

ANNEX 1

Questions related to UNFF 8 agenda item 5.c: Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, including Protected Areas

UNFF focal points are invited to provide updated information related to issues on forest biodiversity, in accordance with the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (NLBI) and the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs), and to suggest elements for the Forum to consider in relation to UNFF 8 agenda item 5.c on “Forests and Biodiversity Conservation, including Protected Areas”. These questions are intended to offer the UNFF Focal Points an opportunity to express their views on relevant emerging policy issues affecting and affected by the forest sector. Please bear in mind past reports on related topics submitted to other intergovernmental bodies and consider, as appropriate, to build from those reports.

- Please describe any advances and/or promising developments which may contribute to implementation of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOF 1 and 3) and national and international provisions of the NLBI (6b, 6k, 6o, 6p,6q, 6v, 7d) related to forest biodiversity and protection forests?
- Based on information compiled in the reporting framework for FRA 2010, and the 3rd and 4th National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity, what are the most significant (including new and emerging) threats to forest biodiversity, and in particular impacting the implementation of Global Objective 1 and 3 in your country?
- In addressing these threats, do the relevant international instruments, in particular the NLBI and the CBD expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity, provide adequate frameworks? If so, please describe how? If not, please explain what is lacking from those frameworks and how can they be improved.
- Which areas of your work require a stronger link to the international level? How and what elements would you view as necessary for enhanced collaboration between the Secretariats of the CBD and UNFF (as called for in decision IX/5 of the CBD at COP-9, 19-30 May 2008), as well as elements for potential joint activities with other CPF members, including targeted support to celebrate the International Year of Forests?

The management of State forests in Cyprus aims at the sustainable use of the forest resources for multiple purposes. Forest protection, afforestation using native species, and conservation of ecosystems and native flora and fauna are indispensable elements of the National Forest Program. Wood is harvested only from the 38.6% of the State forests of the island (41399 ha), aiming at the financial support of local communities. Due to the low productivity, private forestry is not practiced at all. Special measures have been launch through the Rural Development Plans (2004 – 2006, 2007 – 2013) aiming at the financial support of these holdings, which have high socio-ecological value.

So far, 10 National Forest Parks, covering 153 km² or 10% of the State forests and 7 Natural Reserves, covering 48 km² or 3% of State forests have been declared and managed mainly for the protection of forest ecosystems and forest biodiversity. Moreover, about 80% of the Natura 2000 sites constitute State forest land. The Natura 2000 is progressively being incorporated within the National Forest Policy without significant problems since the protection, conservation of nature and forest biodiversity have been the most important pillars of the National Forest Strategy. The preparation of management plans is in process for almost all Natura 2000 sites.

The main threats to forest biodiversity in Cyprus are the invasive plant species (mostly Acacia sp), the overgrazing, the extensive wildfires and the climate change. Within the private owned forests, reclamation and land use change constitute significant additional threats. Many Acacia species have invaded many forest ecosystems of the coastal zone suppressing local vegetation. The Department of Forest, through a Life project, aims at the Acacia removal and the restoration of the local vegetation.

The Red Data Book of the flora of Cyprus, a valuable tool for plant diversity conservation, was compiled in 2007. The book presents the assessment of all the rare indigenous plant of Cyprus according to the IUCN Red List Criteria and Categories and provides important information on their conservation status and biology.

The Action Plan to combat Desertification was recently completed and has been sent to the Council of Ministers for the final approval, whereas the preparation of the Biodiversity National Strategy is being tendered according to the CBD framework. These two binding documents include many actions for the conservation of forest biological diversity.

**THEMATIC CLUSTERS OF POLICIES AND MEASURES CONTAINED
IN THE NLBI**

1. Cross-cutting Thematic Clusters

| A. Strengthening Political Commitment for SFM: | |
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| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | <p>The Department of Forests completed and put in force as from 2000, a National Forest Program (nfp) covering the current decade (2000-2009). The National Forest Program specifies, in general terms, the actions that need to be taken to implement a new strategy for the development of the forest sector and for the improvement of sustainable forest management in Cyprus.</p> <p>The National Forest Program comprises the following three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Betterment Strategy, • The Action Plan and, • The new Forest Policy Statement, which replaces the one issued in 1950 and reconfirmed in 1960. <p>For the development of the nfp, the Department of Forests took into account the international dialogue on forests.</p> <p>The Department of Forests developed in 2003 and adapted a Set of National Criteria and Indicators for SFM. The C & I for the SFM of Cyprus forests are based on the Pan-European ones (MCPFE process). They serve as an evaluation tool to measure the forest condition and monitor the Department's progress towards the conservation and sustainable management of the forests of Cyprus and to evaluate the success of the implementation of the NFP.</p> <p>The existing forest law is nowadays under complete revision. This was considered a must for the effective implementation of the NFP and to be consistent with the legal framework and requirements of the EU and international forest dialogue.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | National Forest Program, Forest Strategy, Forest Policy, Criteria and Indicators for SFM |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item | <p>6(a), 6(d)</p> <p>The NFP, which aims at safeguarding forest resources for the benefit of the whole community while capturing the advantages of development on ecotourism, concentrates on the following courses of action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action to protect and enhance forest cover, water supplies, |

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| | <p>wildlife and the national heritage in State forests,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • afforestation and the restoration of degraded land in the wider countryside, • safeguarding particular places such as national parks, nature reserves etc, which have outstanding scenery, cultural importance, exceptional ecological or scientific interest, • encouraging, guiding and controlling recreation and tourism development, • providing information and publicity about the forests and the flora and fauna they contain. <p>The main objective of the Forest Policy is to increase economic and social benefits from the State forests and wider countryside and to encourage the appropriate development, based on ecotourism, within the framework of comprehensive area plans. The National Forest Program and the new forest strategy also aim at safeguarding and expanding forest resources in order to provide, on a sustainable basis, multiple benefits (wood and non-wood goods and services) to the society.</p> <p>Cyprus forests are subject to pressure coming from many directions. Therefore, for the effective management and conservation of forest resources, the nfp supports activities covering not only the forest areas but also the wider countryside.</p> <p>The Department of Forests is the leading agent responsible for the implementation of the nfp mainly through joint actions with other Ministries, Departments, Government Agencies, private individuals and organizations, NGOs etc.</p> <p>Besides the Department of Forests, some other ministries and agencies that have a wide range of executive responsibilities over various environmental issues and contribute to the sustainable management of the Cyprus forests. The Department of Forests (FD), as the leading agent responsible for the implementation of the nfp, initiates action in state forests and extends its operations, usually by agreements with others, to other rural areas. The FD generates momentum, provides continuity, coordination and accountability. It also offers assistance to others where there are shared interests and is engaged into a dialogue to resolve differences. Consultations, conflict resolution and organizational changes are tools to achieve progress. The nfp maintains continuity by linking existing multiple use policy for forests to other related policies and new requirements.</p> <p>6(b) The C & I for SFM cover the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management. The Criteria is a monitoring tool that can assess the success of nfp implementation by comparing achievements with the specific objectives.</p> <p>6(k) There is not any specific diagnostic study that analyses historical and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, so far. However, from historical sources and data, Cyprus was</p> |
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| | <p>described as a heavily forested island and the minerals and timber were its two main export goods. The forests of Cyprus were exploited not as a renewable resource but rather as a mine. Large quantities of wood were used for pyrotechnology during the Bronze and Iron Ages, until the Middle Ages. During the Turkish rule (1571 – 1878) the forests were heavily degraded because of misuse and the lack of measures for their protection.</p> <p>The systematic management of forests started after 1878. The British rule established the Department of Forests and started the scientific management of forests based on the principle of sustainability. The main measures taken for the protection of forests were the demarcation of the state owned forests and the institution of forest legislation.</p> <p>Today the main factors causing deforestation or forest degradation are drought and successive forest fires. When these factors are followed by grazing, they have tremendous consequences on the ecosystem. In private forest areas adjacent to inhabited areas or areas under urban development, the pressure for change in the land use is very high, especially for development of facilities for public use i.e. churches, sporting centers, restaurants, etc.</p> <p>During the formulation of NFP and the Rural Development Plan, as well as the ongoing process for revision of the Forest Legislation, the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation have been addressed and all relevant stakeholders involved are well aware of the current threats for forests.</p> <p>Education and training of people are crucial for the protection of forests against the main degrading factors. Responding to this need, the Department of Forests organizes lectures in schools, the army and other organized groups about the benefits of the forests, the forest enemies, which can lead to deforestation and forest degradation and measures, which should be taken for the protection of woodlands. Many articles are written by foresters in newspapers and magazines every year about matters related to forests. Also a number of radio and television interviews are given through the various TV and radio networks in the country. However, there is much work to be done in the field of raising awareness among farmers and shepherds mainly, to control grazing especially in recently burnt areas.</p> <p>7</p> <p>Cyprus participates in a range of international and regional activities, initiatives and processes through which there has been significant support in the improvement of forest management, conservation and sustainable development of forests and the capacity to better monitor forest resources. Such international cooperation activities are the FAO Global Forest Resources Programme, the Natura 2000 Network, the Proposals for Actions of IPF/IFF and the UNFF resolutions and decisions, the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forest in Europe activities, etc.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | <p>nfp 2000 – 2009 C and I for SFM current decade</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences with implementation (if any) | <p>The nfp is currently under the implementation phase. The Criteria and Indicators prove that Cyprus Forests are sustainably managed.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | <p>-----</p> |

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| <p>B. Financing SFM</p> | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p>Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>The level of investment in Cyprus Forestry is considered to be very low in relation to the investments in other sectors and branches of the productive activities in Cyprus. The annual Gross Fixed Capital Formation related to forestry is very low.</p> <p>Private forestry is characterized by what is known as passive ownership and there is almost no management and therefore, the level of investment is even lower. Some forestry funding is coming from national and community sources.</p> <p>The state forests of Cyprus are managed for multiple purposes. The main management objective is not the production of timber, but is the provision of social and environmental benefits to the society. Many of these environmental and social outputs do not have a place in market and therefore, the Department of Forests does not have any direct economic benefit for providing them. The revenue from the sales of timber is very low since our forests are not productive because of unfavorable climatic and other factors.</p> <p>Forestry funding are credits coming from the ordinary budget, the investment budget, the EU and the Rural Development Plans (2004-2006, 2007-2013).</p> |
| <p>Type/source (is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?)</p> | <p>National Forest Programme, Forest Policy (policy instrument), Rural Development Plans (economic instrument).</p> |
| <p>Short description of each item</p> | <p>6(h), 6(i)</p> <p>The Council of Ministers approved the National Forest Programme (2000 – 2009) which designates the new forest policy, which is based on the multiple use of forests on the basis of sustainable management adopted. The nfp finances actions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions to protect and enhance forest cover, water supplies, wildlife and national heritage in State forests, • Afforestation and restoration of degraded land, • Safeguarding and developing particular places with outstanding scenery, cultural importance and exceptional ecological or scientific interest, • Encouraging, guiding and controlling recreation and tourism development, • Providing information and publicity about the forest and the |

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| | <p>flora and fauna they contain, directed particularly at schools, colleges, tourists and the general public.</p> <p>The cost for the implementation of the National Forest Program and its activities is estimated to be around 17.4 million euro per year.</p> <p>As from 2004, the State and private forestry get allocations through “Rural Development Plans” (2004 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013). These plans are co-financed by the Cyprus Government and the European Union and include the following forestry measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afforestation and silviculture, • Protection of forests against fires and other natural disasters and the reforestation of burned areas, • Afforestation of non agricultural land and investments for the conservation and improvement of the economical, ecological and social functions of forests, • Investment to improve the harvesting processing and marketing of forestry products. |
| Time frame for implementation | National Forest Programme 2000 – 2009 Forest Policy – long term plan Rural Development Plans (2004 – 2006, 2007 - 2013) |
| Experiences with implementation (if any) | -- |
| Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | -- |

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| C. Capacity Building and Technology Transfer | |
| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is ‘yes’ please proceed to the next question. If the answer is ‘no’ please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | Please see details below. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | National Forest Programme |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item | <p>The successful implementation of the forest strategy depends on overcoming various institutional limitations on forest sector development. This sub-programmes of the nfp aim at removing these constraints and includes the following specific objectives:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • harmonization of laws, regulations and procedures to correspond with European Union requirements, • harmonization of the forest legislation and regulations with other legislation in Cyprus, particularly where it relates to environmental, conservation and resource issues, • training and retraining of forest staff, • reorganization and capacity building in the Forestry |

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| | <p>Department,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • taking advantage of advances in communications and information technology, • reform of training provided at the Forestry College, • support and incentives for private forestry. <p>The Department of Forests, understanding the vital role of local communities for sustainable forest management, gives lectures, offers advice and vocational training to these communities in order to let them become aware and trained on the different forestry subjects. All these activities are further strengthened with the Rural Development Plans covering the periods 2004-2006 and 2007 – 2013.</p> |
| • Time frame for implementation | nfp 2000 - 2009 |
| • Experiences with implementation (if any) | --- |
| • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | |

| D. Stakeholder Participation | |
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| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | <p>The Forest Policy gives the opportunity to all interested parties (inhabitants of communities, forest owners and environmental NGO's) to express their opinion and make comments on forests management planning. Their comments and opinions are taken into consideration in the planning and later on in decision-making.</p> <p>The multi-stakeholder participation in the procedure of National Forest Programme formulation has been proven of vital importance and it can be considered as an excellent example of broad social dialogue for matters relevant to the forest sector. Lately, a broad public consultation and a wide stakeholder participation took place for the revision of Forest Legislation.</p> |
| • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | Forest Policy (policy instrument) |
| • Short description of each item | See details above. |
| • Time frame for implementation | Forest Policy (long term plan) |
| • Experiences with implementation (if any) | --- |
| • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | --- |

| E. Enhanced International Cooperation | |
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| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | <p>Cyprus is a member of the following FAO bodies:</p> <p>FAO – Regional Statutory Bodies: a) Near East Forestry Commission and b) European Forestry Commission. Cyprus is traditionally a constant participant to the regional Commission for Near East where its role is considered to be very active. Furthermore, there has always been a close attendance of the activities of European Forestry Commission. After the accession of Cyprus to European Union, the participation to the European Forestry Commission has gained a deeper interest.</p> <p>FAO- Technical Statutory Bodies: Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions (Silva Mediterranea): Cyprus participates in all meetings of Silva Mediterranea.</p> <p>Economic Commission for Europe – Timber Committee: There is a close cooperation with the Timber Committee regarding the exchange of forest statistics and other information.</p> <p>MCPFE: Cyprus participates both to the expert level meetings and the Ministerial Conferences.</p> <p>Forestry issues within European Union: As a full member of EU, Cyprus participates to the meetings of the Council Working Party on Forestry, to the meetings of the Standing Forestry Committee and other technical meeting of EU.</p> <p>Cyprus-Greece co-operation programme in the field of rural sector: It is a cooperation programme in the field of which several forestry measures are included, particularly the exchange of technical and scientific knowledge and expertise. The programme is renewed on a biennial basis, according to emerging issues.</p> <p>There are also several other intergovernmental agreements or cooperation programmes in which occasionally, there are forestry-related provisions.</p> <p>Under the Bilateral Agreement between Cyprus and Greece in the Agricultural Sector, the two countries exchanged a number of visits on various forest matters.</p> <p>In addition, the Cyprus Department of Forests helped in fighting the catastrophic fires occurred in Greece during the summers of 2007 and 2008.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | --- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item | See details above |

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| • Time frame for implementation | --- |
| • Experiences with implementation (if any) | --- |
| • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | --- |

2. Topical Thematic Clusters

| A. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance | |
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| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |
| <p>Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>Cyprus is a net wood importing country. The local annual timber yield, which is around 8000 m³ can only satisfy a small portion of the local demand for wood. Thus, national timber needs are satisfied by timber imports which account for the 97,8% of these needs.</p> <p>Thus, Cyprus might import illegally harvested wood either in the form of sawn-wood and wood-based panels or in the form of finished wood products since some of the imports come from high risk countries of Africa, Russia and South-East Asia. The majority of the imports however, are coming from places like European Union and North America.</p> <p>The majority of the timber ending up in Cyprus is in the form of finished products. Therefore, it is very difficult to prove their connection to illegal felling unless a wood traceability system is put in place.</p> <p>Illegal logging is not a problem in Cyprus. This is mainly because of the existing forest legislation, the procedure followed during the marking, harvesting and transportation of forest trees, the frequent document and paper checks carried out by the Department of Forests to timber transportation operations, wood felling companies and sawmills, the improved standards of living, the increased public awareness etc.</p> <p>Cyprus has been involved in FLEGT since 2003. In an effort to resolve the problem of illegal felling, Cyprus strongly supports the introduction and adoption of an international legislation aiming at halting the imports and trade of illegally sourced timber and, the introduction of appropriate certification and licensing for the exportation and shipping of wood and wood products.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | <p>Forest Law 1967, Council Regulation 2173/2005 and implementing regulation.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item | <p>6(n)</p> <p>Illegal logging in Cyprus is not a problem because of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the forest legislation provides strict and effective measures of control against illegal felling. The forest law and regulations control and regulate, by the issue of licenses, the felling, uprooting, cutting down, conversion to timber and the transportation and conveyance of the most valuable forest species like pines, cypresses, cedars, planes, oaks, poplars, eucalypts, etc. The law also ensures that all wood ending up in the market is logged in conformity with the |

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| | <p>forest law,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the procedures followed during the marking, harvesting and transportation of forest trees ensures that trees for felling are always marked, serially numbered, measured and sealed by forest officials. The procedure of timber harvesting, forwarding and loading is always supervised by the Department of Forests,• frequent document and paper checks are carried out by the Department of Forests to timber transportation operations, wood felling companies and sawmills etc. <p>The new Forest Legislation that will replace the existing legislation contains similar provisions for the regulations of felling in state and private forests.</p> <p>7(h,i,j)</p> <p>The Government of Cyprus has been involved in the preparation of EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT Action Plan 2003). Though the ultimate goal of the Action Plan is to encourage sustainable management of forests, ensuring legality of forest operations, this is considered a vital first step. The Plan focuses on governance reforms and capacity building, to ensure that timber exported to the EU comes only from legal sources. It includes ideas for action in areas such as public procurement and the private sector.</p> <p>A key element of the Action Plan is a voluntary scheme to ensure that only legally harvested timber is imported into the EU from countries agreeing to take part in this scheme. The Council adopted a Regulation in December 2005, allowing for the control of the entry of timber to the EU from countries entering into bilateral FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with the EU.</p> <p>The VPAs include commitments and action from both parties to halt trade in illegal timber, notably with a license scheme to verify the legality of timber. The agreements will also promote better enforcement of forest law and promote an inclusive approach involving civil society and the private sector.</p> <p>The Department of Forests was actively participating to the FLEGT Committee, which was established in accordance with the FLEGT Regulation. The committee was assisting the Commission in the implementation of the FLEGT Regulation. Detailed rules for the implementation of the FLEGT Regulation are expected to be approved by the beginning of October 2008.</p> <p>In addition, Cyprus Government is in the final stage of the process to ratify the International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006, which refers to the international cooperation for management and trade of timber sourced from tropical forests. The internal ratification process has been concluded by the approval of the Ratifying Law by the House of Representatives in June 2008. The deposition of instrument of ratification to UN is expected to be done soon.</p> |
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| • Time frame for implementation | ---- |
| • Experiences with implementation (if any) | ---- |
| • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | ---- |

| B. International Trade in Forest Products | |
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| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | <p>After the execution and the analysis of the results of the last (2002) CFI and in order to be in line with the objectives of the nfp, the Department of Forests decided to reduce substantially the volume of timber to be harvested during the decade 2002 - 2011 to around 8000 m³ annually. This decision helps in maintaining the value of forests as a source of timber and other forest products and drops the harvesting to increment-ratio to 0,2.</p> <p>Today, there is a better appreciation of the importance of Cyprus forests for purposes other than timber production like production of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) and provision of non-wood forest services. The role of NWFPs has become important during the last decades and it is expected to play an increasing role in future forest use.</p> <p>Forest certification has not been yet introduced and adopted in Cyprus.</p> |
| • Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | National Forest Programme, Harvesting Plans – SFM tool. |
| • Short description of each item | <p>6(j)</p> <p>During 2007, a volume of 7058 m³ R.O.B. of timber was extracted from state forests and sold to private individuals for the production of constructional timber, box-shooks, etc. From the above volume, 4516 m³ R.O.B. were extracted from burnt areas. In addition, a volume of 7513 m³ R.O.B. of timber was extracted from private forests.</p> <p>In addition to the above, 6368 m³ R.O.B., were extracted from State forests and sold to private individuals as firewood. From the above volume, 3353 m³ R.O.B. were extracted from burnt areas. In addition, a volume of 3084 m³ R.O.B. of firewood was extracted from private forests.</p> <p>The local needs are satisfied by importing timber from abroad. The most important products imported are sawn-wood and wood based panels. For year 2007, the imports of these products have been significantly increased over these of 2006 by 30.9% for</p> |

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| | <p>sawn-wood and by 10,8% for wood based panels. On the other hand, the imports of paper and paperboard have been decreased in relation to the quantities of 2006 by almost 32%.</p> <p>There are not any significant exports of any wood based products from Cyprus, except from recovered paper for recycling purposes.</p> <p>The forests of Cyprus are an important national resource, which provides not only timber but also NWFPs. The contribution of NWFPs to the national product in monetary terms is difficult to be estimated because their marketed informally.</p> <p>Non-wood forest products are many times available either free of charge or for a fee that does not reflect the costs of production or the costs of providing them.</p> <p>The only attempt to evaluate forest goods and services was made in 1999, during the preparation of the National Forest Programme, and it was restricted in the benefits derived from recreation and tourism, water production from boreholes and improvements in agricultural yields due to soil conservation. The valuation of these non-market services was carried out using the Cost Benefit Approach.</p> <p>The social benefits of forests attributable to recreation, tourism, water production from boreholes/springs and improvements in agricultural yields due to soil conservation, were shown to be approximately US\$ 667 per ha/year. Obviously they far outweigh the revenue from timber sales, which is only about US\$ 9 per ha/year.</p> <p>6(x) Forest certification has not been yet introduced and adopted in Cyprus due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A small quantity of round wood is harvested. The annual fellings for the period 2002-2011 range between 6000-8000m³. - Private forests are not managed intensively and are not used for the production of timber. <p>The participation of Cyprus in a forest certification scheme is a subject under study.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | National Forest Programme 2000 – 2009 Harvesting Plans 2001-2010 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | -- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | -- |

| C. Protection of Forests | |
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| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | <p>The protection role of forests in Cyprus is increasingly appreciated and is considered as being of much higher importance than their production role.</p> <p>The new forest policy of Cyprus puts a lot of emphasis on the protection role of forest resources.</p> <p>For the effective protection of Cyprus forests, certain forest areas have been declared as:</p> <p>A) Nature Reserves Up to now, seven (7) areas have been declared as Nature Reserves with a total area of about 4,788 ha, which accounts for 2.76% of the State Forest Land. The areas declared as Nature Reserves cover a wide range of vegetation types including the endemic forests of Cyprus cedar (<i>Cedrus brevifolia</i>) and golden oak (<i>Quercus alnifolia</i>). Furthermore, they host a large number of endemic and rare species, of both plant and animals.</p> <p>B) National Forest Parks The objectives of National Forest Parks in generally are: a) provision of recreation and amenities, b) biodiversity conservation, c) environmental education, d) scientific research. So far, ten (10) National Forest Parks, all over the island, have been declared with a total area of 15,627 ha, which is 1.69% of the total area of Cyprus and 9.65% of the State Forest Land.</p> <p>C) Natura 2000 network The development of the Natura 2000 network, under the directives 92/43 EEC and 79/409 EEC, is one of the most promising actions for the conservation of biodiversity. Cyprus, as a new member of EU, has proposed 35 terrestrial sites in the area under control by Cyprus government covering the 12,3% of the total area of Cyprus. The national list of proposed sites includes, among others, large areas of State Forest Land, which account for the 52,34% of the terrestrial Natura sites. The protection of ecosystems and their functions is supported by the National legislation.</p> <p>The network of protected forest areas is continuously increasing. Two new forest areas are proposed to be declared in the coming years as Nature Reserves.</p> <p>The condition and management effectiveness in protected forest areas as well as the entire forest area of the island can be assessed using evaluation tools like the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | Forest Law, National Forest Programme, Nature Protection and Wildlife Law, Directives 92/43 EEC and 79/409 EEC |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short description of each item | <p>6(p) For the effective protection of Cyprus forests, certain forest areas have been declared as:</p> <p>D) Nature Reserves Up to now, seven (7) areas have been declared as Nature Reserves with a total area of about 4,788 ha, which accounts for 2.76% of the State Forest Land. The areas declared as Nature Reserves cover a wide range of vegetation types including the endemic forests of Cyprus cedar (<i>Cedrus brevifolia</i>) and golden oak (<i>Quercus alnifolia</i>). Furthermore they host a large number of endemic and rare species, of both plant and animals.</p> <p>E) National Forest Parks The objectives of National Forest Parks in generally are: a) provision of recreation and amenities, b) biodiversity conservation, c) environmental education, d) scientific research. So far, ten (10) National Forest Parks, all over the island, have been declared with a total area of 15,627 ha, which is 1.69% of the total area of Cyprus and 9.65% of the State Forest Land.</p> <p>F) Natura 2000 network The development of the Natura 2000 network, under the directives 92/43 EEC and 79/409 EEC, is one of the most promising actions for the conservation of biodiversity. Cyprus, as a new member of EU, has proposed 30 SCI and 7 SPA terrestrial sites in the area under control by Cyprus government. The national list of proposed sites includes, among others, large areas of State Forest Land, which account approximately for the 80% of the terrestrial Natura sites.</p> <p>The network of protected forest areas is continuously increasing. Two new forest areas are proposed to be declared in the coming years as Nature Reserves.</p> <p>6 (q) The condition and management effectiveness in protected forest areas as well as the entire forest area of the island can be assessed using evaluation tools like the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | <p>Forest Law 1967, National Forest Programme 2000 - 2009, Nature Protection and Wildlife Law, 2003</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | <p>---</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | <p>---</p> |

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| <h3>D. Science and Research</h3> | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> |

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| <p>Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>The capacity of national and regional research institutions has been strengthened, especially during the last years, through various projects and co-operations on national and regional level. Funding is ensured either through the national budget or other international sources. The accession to European Union creates a better environment for improved financing of research activities and institutions in Cyprus.</p> <p>Scientific research and knowledge are always involved in policy processes, contributing to the priority setting of research, policy and decision – making. At national level, an improvement has been made towards the linkage between forest science and forest policy processes. Scientific research and knowledge has been the backbone of most policy-related decisions and actions. For instance, the development of the National Forest Programme and the formulation of the new Forest Policy were based on such knowledge. Similarly, the adoption of forestry measures in the Rural Development Plans and the procedure for formulation of the Cyprus Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management have taken into consideration the scientific research and knowledge. Consecutively, this approach contributes significantly to the priority setting of research, policy and decision – making.</p> <p>The research priorities and needs are undertaken according to the regional and national demands. Joint research / monitoring ventures are undertaken involving both the public and private sector.</p> <p>During the last years, there has been a noticeable improvement on the quality, the quantity and the accuracy of information collected by the Department of Forests concerning the state and the development of national forest resources. Collecting mechanisms have been redesigned to comply with modern trends, needs and technologies i.e. GPS, GIS, remote sensing etc. The personnel in charge for the collection of data is continuously trained on the use of instruments and methodologies.</p> <p>The Department makes this information available, on request or through publications, to interested groups. In addition, all this information on forest resources is submitted on a constant basis, to the various international bodies and organizations through various questioners like UNECE, FAO, EUROSTAT, ITTO, TBFRA, MCPFE etc.</p> <p>The scientific knowledge, which is obtained through various research activities, is disseminated to all interesting parties through official publications, seminars, scientific meetings, etc. The Republic of Cyprus has signed (1998) and ratified (2003) the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision – making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) of UNECE and is now a Party to the Convention. Furthermore, it is noted that Cyprus is fully</p> |
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| | <p>harmonized with the relevant EU Aquis (Directives 90/313/EEC and 2003/4/EC).</p> <p>The Department of Forests has many times shared its experiences and other relevant information with other countries through bilateral programs (e.g. between Cyprus and Greece), the participation in regional and international meetings, seminars and workshops, as well as exchanges of experts' visits.</p> <p>The capacity of research institutions in Cyprus has been strengthened, especially during the last years, through various projects and co-operation on national and regional level. Funding is ensured either through the national budget or other international sources. The accession to European Union created a better environment for improving financing of research activities and institutions in Cyprus.</p> <p>Cyprus is currently participating in the Fifth Framework Program (FP5) for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Activities (1998 – 2002), and is a full and active member in the COST cooperation network of the European Union since 1999.</p> <p>The scientific and technological research in Cyprus is promoted by the Research Promotion Foundation (an independent organization governed by a 12-member-board approved by the Council of Ministers) founded in 1996. Some on going programs (research activities) are related to flora and fauna identification, monitoring of water quality, waste treatment, marine life and oceanographic research, mining waste, energy efficiency etc.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | --- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item | See details above. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time frame for implementation | --- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences with implementation (if any) | --- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | --- |

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| E. Public Awareness and Education | |
| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |

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| <p>Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>People in Cyprus are very interested about the protection and sustainable management of natural resources and are many times organized in Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) involved in environmental policy formulation.</p> <p>Awareness raising and information campaigns especially on forest fires and other forestry related issues are continuously conducted by the Department of Forests.</p> <p>Forestry personnel is trained on various forestry issues at the Cyprus Forestry College.</p> <p>Education and training of people are crucial for the protection of forests against the main degrading factors.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | <p>National Forest Programme Forest Policy</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item | <p>6(t)</p> <p>Nowadays, there are more than 30 purely environmental or environmentally conceded NGOs. Under the new law on EIA, the Federation of Environmental and Ecological Organizations participates as a member in the EIA assessment committees. Also a number of NGOs are members of the Council for the environment and the Steering Committee for protected areas, whilst they are consistently invited to express their views during hearing at the Parliamentary Environment Committee. The awareness raising activities of NGOs are supported by financial assistance for specific actions. All the active NGOs receive an annual grand from the Government.</p> <p>Responsible for raising of public awareness is mainly the Publicity sector of the Department of Forests. The public awareness on forest and environmental issues is raised by the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giving of lectures and speeches to schools, army camps, communities, and organized groups on the importance and protection of natural resources, The organization of exhibition booths in different exhibition events like the Pan-Cyprian Agricultural Exhibition, the Annual International Fair and, the Pan-Cyprian Exhibition of Hunting and Outdoor Gear, The organization of ceremonies during the Arbor Week and the Forest Protection Week, Preparation and projection of films and broadcasting messages of environmental content in the mass media, Preparation and publishing of articles related to protection, development and expansion of forests in newspapers and magazines, The preparation and distribution of information material like leaflets, posters, stickers, cards, calendars, etc. related to the fauna, flora, recreation, forest protection, etc. Giving of interviews to journalists, The establishment and running of Visitors Centers, at Nicosia (Athalassa) and Troodos, for Environmental Education. |

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| | <p>6(u) At present the Cyprus Forestry College acts as an International Institute for foresters training at Diploma and Post diploma level offering also short training programmes for forest supervisors from other countries.</p> <p>Having also in mind that training contributes positively to the improvement of productivity, the College organizes various seminars and short courses on various forestry topics for the through-life vocational training of the Department of Forests' employees.</p> <p>The professional and sub-professional foresters employed by the Department of Forests have the chance for supplementary, extended training on a range of forestry and other courses provided by training organizations either in Cyprus or abroad.</p> <p>The training of forest labourers, regular or casual, employed by the Department of Forests is carried out through short duration, intensive training programs and seminars organized by the Department on various issues like forest protection, fire fighting, safety rules, use of equipment etc.</p> <p>Education and training of people are crucial for the protection of forests against the main degrading factors. Responding to this need, the Department of Forests organizes lectures in schools, the army and other organized groups about the benefits of the forests, the forest enemies, which can lead to deforestation and forest degradation and measures, which should be taken for the protection of woodlands. Many articles are written by foresters in newspapers and magazines every year about matters related to forests. Also a number of radio and television interviews are given through the various TV and radio networks in the country. However, there is much work to be done in the field of raising awareness among farmers and shepherds mainly, to control grazing especially in recently burnt areas.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | National Forest Programme 2000-2009 Forest Policy: Long term plan. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | -- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | -- |

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| F. Private Sector and Industry | |
| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |

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| <p>Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>Cyprus is a net wood importing country. The national annual wood production, as set by the Department of Forests after the last national forest inventory of 2001 is around 8000 m³/year and this is not enough to support the primary wood processing industries of the island. The national timber production accounts for only 2.2% of the local consumption compared to the imported timber and timber products which make up the remaining 97,8% of the market. Thus, the market shifts to imported final products and the local timber-based-industry is gradually shrinking.</p> <p>The yield is mainly obtained from the productive state forests and it is sold to sawmill owners or wood-cutter associations through open tenders.</p> <p>The local yield is used for the production of tailor made sawn-timber for constructional purposes mainly for renovation of traditional buildings, box-shooks and pallets for the export trade.</p> <p>There are not any significant exports of any wood based products form Cyprus, except from recovered paper for recycling purposes.</p> <p>The Rural Development Plan 2004 – 2006 beside others was financing investments to improve the harvesting, processing and marketing of forest products.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | <p>Forest Policy, Rural Development Plans</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item | <p>6(e), 6(h), 6(i) The Rural Development Plan 2004 – 2006 was financing investments to improve the harvesting, processing and marketing of forest products.</p> <p>6(w) The Forest Policy gives the opportunity to all interested parties (inhabitants of communities, forest owners and environmental NGO's) to express their opinion and make comments on each future management project. Their comments and opinions are taken into consideration in the planning and later on in decision-making. The multi-stakeholder participation in the procedure of National Forest Programme formulation has been proven of vital importance, and it can be considered as an excellent example of broad social dialogue for matters relevant to the forest sector. For the revision of the forest legislation, the Department of Forests carried out public consultation.</p> <p>7(f) The Government of Cyprus has been involved in the preparation of EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT Action Plan 2003). The Plan focuses on governance reforms and capacity building, to ensure that timber exported to the EU comes only from legal sources. It includes ideas for action in areas such as public procurement and the private sector.</p> |

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| | <p>The Department of Forests was actively participating to the FLEGT Committee which was established in accordance with the FLEGT Regulation. The committee was assisting the Commission in the implementation of the FLEGT Regulation. Detailed rules for the implementation of the FLEGT Regulation within the EU are under discussion in the Committee.</p> <p>In addition, Cyprus Government is in the final stage of the process to ratify the International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006, which refers to the international cooperation for management and trade of timber sourced from tropical forests.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | Rural Development Plans 2004 – 2006, 2007 – 2013. Forest Policy - long term plan. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | --- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | --- |

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| G. Indigenous and Local Communities | |
| <p>Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons.</p> | Yes. |
| <p>Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established.</p> | <p>In Cyprus, very few people depend exclusively on forests and forestry. This is merely due to the low productivity of forests and the dependence of the market on the imports of finished or processed wood products. Additionally, rural depopulation has been alienating people from the forests and pushing them to urban centres, where the service sector is growing.</p> <p>Even though the area of the privately owned forests comes to 65814 ha or 7,11 per cent of the total area of Cyprus, the practice of private forestry as such, is not existed in the country. The existence of these forests is due to the emigration of people from the mountainous or semi-mountainous to urban areas, the abandonment of agricultural land adjacent to the State forests and the natural expansion of the forest vegetation. The emigration of people resulted in the declination of grazing, in the reduction of the needs for fuel-wood, in the reduction of forest fires on the lands outside State forests and in the transformation of parts of them into forest.</p> <p>The Forest Law of 1967 offers privileges and rights to inhabitants of certain village close to forests.</p> <p>In the Forest Policy there are provisions for the participation of indigenous people and other stakeholders in decision making.</p> <p>The Department of Forests, understanding the vital role of local communities for the sustainable forest management, gives</p> |

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| | <p>lectures and provides advice and vocational training to these communities in order to let them become aware and familiar to sustainable forest management practices and particularly to forest protection.</p> <p>All these activities are further strengthened with the Rural Development Plans 2004-2006 and 2007 - 2013.</p> <p>In Cyprus, there is no traditional forest related knowledge.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | <p>Forest Law of 1967, Forest Policy of 2000 Rural Development Plans 2004 – 2006, 2007 – 2013.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item | <p>6(f) In Cyprus, there is no traditional forest related knowledge.</p> <p>6(h) The Rural Development Plan, is an economic instruments, co-financed by the European Union that facilitates progress towards sustainable forest management by funding forestry activities especially in the private sector like forest expansion, restoration of forestry potentials and introduction of prevention actions and maintenance and enhancement of the social and ecological role of forests.</p> <p>Realizing the importance of the participation of the local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders in sustainable forest management, the Department of Forests takes into account their views regarding the issues related to the forest management.</p> <p>Their comments and opinions are taken into consideration in the planning and later on in decision-making. The multi-stakeholder participation in the procedure of National Forest Programme formulation has been proven of vital importance, and it can be considered as an excellent example of broad social dialogue for matters relevant to the forest sector. Currently, there is broad public consultation and stakeholder participation for the revision of Forest Legislation.</p> <p>6(v) The Department of Forests, understanding the vital role of local communities for the sustainable forest management, gives lectures and provides advice and vocational training to these communities in order to let them become aware and familiar to sustainable forest management practices and particularly to forest protection.</p> <p>6(y) The forest law offers privileges and rights to inhabitants of certain village close to forests. According to this law, “the inhabitants of these villages may, after a license issued by a Forest Officer and without the payment of any fee or charge, and for their own domestic needs and not for sale, within the State forest or part of it prescribed in a Minister's Order Published in the official Gazette of the Republic and every one of such village,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> gather dead and dry fuel but not charred of same and, |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cut the part above the ground of any kind of growing bush prescribed in the Minister's Order.” |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time frame for implementation | National Forest Programme 2000 – 2009 Forest Policy – long term plan Rural Development Plans (2004 – 2006, 2007 - 2013) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences with implementation (if any) | -- |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | -- |

| H. Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting | |
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| Has there been any action taken to implement the tasks identified within this cluster? If the answer is 'yes' please proceed to the next question. If the answer is 'no' please provide reasons. | Yes. |
| Please detail action taken including measures, policies, actions or specific goals established. | <p>The Department of Forests developed and adapted a Set of National Criteria and Indicators for SFM, based on the Pan-European ones (MCPFE process), to serve as an evaluation tool to measure the forest condition and monitor the Department's progress towards the conservation and sustainable management of the forests of Cyprus and to evaluate the success of the implementation of the NFP.</p> <p>The Department of Forests reports on the state of forest resources through various questionnaires and on a constant basis to various international bodies and organizations (FAOSTAT, EUROSTAT, etc) through several questionnaires, like Joint (UNECE, FAO, Eurostat, and ITTO) Forest Sector Questionnaire, TBFRA questionnaires, MCPFE, etc.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type/source (<i>is it a policy, law, national forest programme, strategy?</i>) | Criteria and indicators for the SFM of Cyprus Forests is a monitoring – evaluation instruments by which progress towards implementing SFM can be evaluated and reported. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short description of each item | <p>6(b), 6(g) C & I for SFM provide a report of the current situation of the forests of Cyprus and provide quantitative and qualitative standards to evaluate sustainable management of the forest as an entire ecosystem and monitor changes over time.</p> <p>This document will be revised after the end of the current decade (the period that nfp covers), and the current values and situation will be compared with the new ones, allowing a sound evaluation of the progress towards sustainability.</p> <p>The present document addresses the following six Criteria (first six thematic elements of SFM as given in the Pan-European set): the maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles; the maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality; the maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non wood); the maintenance, conservation</p> |

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| | <p>and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems; the maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water); and the maintenance of the other socioeconomic functions and conditions.</p> <p>The seventh thematic element (qualitative elements - legal/regulatory framework, institutional framework, financial framework and informational data) is presented at a separate section of the document.</p> <p>8, 9 During the last years, there has been a noticeable improvement on the quality, quantity and accuracy of information collected and recorded in various databases of the Department of Forests.</p> <p>New collection mechanisms have been put in place and existing ones have been reexamined and adjusted to comply with modern trends and needs and provide continuous flow of dependable information.</p> <p>The personnel in charge for the collection of these information is continuously trained on methodologies and instruments.</p> <p>Continuous reporting on the state of forest resources either via international questionnaires or for the national needs (C and I for SFM, annual reports etc.) gives the chance to identify gaps and improve our information collecting mechanisms.</p> <p>This process of continuous reporting on the state of forest resources allows us to have a clear picture of the Departmental progress in applying sustainability principles in managing our forests.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time frame for implementation | <p>C & I for SFM refer to the current decade.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences with implementation (if any) | <p>The document shows that the principles of sustainability are applied in managing the Cyprus forests.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other comments, including lessons learnt and options for the future | <p>----</p> |