

**Country: Afghanistan**

**Date of submission: 11/15/2012**

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

### **INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

This streamlined reporting format is prepared in response to the request made in the Resolution on Forests for People, adopted at the ninth session of the Forum in February 2011<sup>1</sup>. Accordingly, the Forum requested the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to ensure simple voluntary national reporting for UNFF 10 focused on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (hereinafter referred to as the forest instrument)<sup>2</sup> and a balanced reporting of all its four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs).

The streamlined reporting format is the result of consultations with the members of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting. In addition, UNFFS and FAO consulted extensively with government representatives and international experts on this reporting format and its content. These consultations were conducted through five regional capacity-building workshops<sup>3</sup> with the participation of UNFF and FRA national focal points. A total of 136 national and international experts from 78 countries and up to five international organizations participated in the workshops. The workshops also benefitted from the four on-going FAO pilot projects in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines on the implementation of the forest instrument.

The reporting format is intended to complement ongoing reporting by other processes and focuses on identifying critical gaps in international and national reporting, and on issues that are not sufficiently covered by other reporting processes such as forest financing and forest contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This will help to better measure the progress achieved across the full scope of the forest instrument and its GOFs.

The streamlined reporting format is prepared in a way that reduces the burden of multiple reporting exercises by countries. In this regard, the reporting format takes into account quantitative and qualitative information already submitted by countries to the FAO *Forest Resource Assessment* (FRA) 2005 and 2010<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the ninth session (1 May 2009 and 24 January to 4 February 2011\_E/2011/42\_E/CN.18/2011/20, Page 8)

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/261/57/PDF/N1126157.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the seventh session (24 February 2006 and 16-27 April 2007)\_E/2007/42, E/CN.18/2007/8

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>3</sup> The workshops held in Bangkok, Thailand (10-12 October 2011), Nairobi, Kenya (13-15 December 2011), Accra, Ghana (6-8 February 2012), Beirut, Lebanon (11-13 April 2012) and Santiago, Chile (18-20 April 2012) were jointly organized by UNFFS and FAO.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/67090/en/>

## GUIDANCE FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

This streamlined reporting format is made up of three parts:

- I. The forest instrument
- II. The four Global Objectives on Forests
- III. The contribution of forests to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

The forest instrument covers a broad spectrum of issues beyond forests. Its implementation requires close cooperation between different authorities. Consequently, the preparation of national reports may require a cooperative exercise among institutions and ministries such as ministries of environment, economic development, finance, agriculture, health and statistics, and in particular with national focal points for FRA, the NFP Facility, the ITTO C&I process and the Rio Processes, where applicable.

For reporting, please note the following:

- The fields with FRA indicators are highlighted in grey. This data will be derived by UNFFS from the FRA database;
- If information for a specific question does not exist, please enter NA (not available) or NR (not relevant) but do not leave the fields blank - all the responses to the questions contained in this reporting format are important for the Forum to analyze the progress, to identify the gaps and needs in implementing the forest instrument, including data gaps, and in finding ways and means to address them;
- Some of the questions include descriptive parts. We encourage countries to fill in these parts and provide context and background information in addition to the requested figures and the “yes” and “no” answers. At the same time, the responses should be limited [maximum 250] to keep the analytical efforts within reasonable bounds;
- The national report should be submitted in English, French or Spanish. To facilitate exchange of experience, countries are also encouraged to submit, where relevant, a translation of their summary report in English.
- The national reports should be submitted to UNFFS by **30 September 2012**. Submission of the reports ahead of this deadline is encouraged, as this will facilitate the preparation of analyses and syntheses to be made available to the UNFF10;
- Member States are kindly requested to submit the original signed copy of the national report with an official letter from their respective institution/ministry, via mail or email to the address below. Electronic copies should be available in word processing software, and the scanned copy of the official letter, as well as any graphic elements, should be provided in separate files.

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## General information

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### UNFF national focal point (please fill out if not same as above)

Name:	
Title:	
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### Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

Name:	
Title:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
Email:	

#### Abbreviations in the questionnaire/template:

B.Sc.: Bachelor of Science degree  
C & I: Criteria and indicators processes  
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
FLEGT: Forest law enforcement, governance and trade  
FRA: FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment  
GOF: Global Objectives on Forests  
ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organization  
MDGs: Millennium Development Goals  
M.Sc.: Masters of Science degree  
NA: Not available  
NFP: National forest programme  
ODA: Official development assistance  
SIDS: Small Island Developing States  
SFM: Sustainable forest management  
UN: United Nations  
UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests

**PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Thematic Clusters of the Forest Instrument</b>	<p>The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference<sup>6</sup>:</p> <p>1A: Strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management  1B: Financing sustainable forest management  1C: Capacity building and technology transfer  1D: Stakeholder participation  1E: Enhanced international cooperation</p> <p>2A: Forest law enforcement and governance  2B: International Trade in forest products  2C: Protection of forests  2D: Science and research  2E: Public awareness and education  2F: Private sector and industry  2G: Indigenous and local communities  2H: Monitoring, assessment and reporting</p> <p>Data provided on thematic clusters of the forest instrument will also be used for assessing progress toward its Global Objectives on Forests (Qs 33-49).</p>
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**1A: Strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management**

1. Existence of Forest policy statement with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database <sup>7</sup> (T14 – Policy and legal framework)		
2. Existence of national forest programme (nfp); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 – Policy and legal framework)		
3. Do you have inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management?	Yes <b>X</b>	No
If yes, which sectors are actively involved:		
Agriculture	<b>X</b>	
Climate Change		
Energy	<b>X</b>	
Tourism		
Water	<b>X</b>	
Other: National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)		
Please describe the inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation (maximum 250 words). The Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster, comprised of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MAIL), Ministry of		

<sup>5</sup> <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/469/65/PDF/N0746965.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>6</sup> E.CN.18/2009/2, pp 4-5 (<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/240/37/PDF/N0924037.pdf?OpenElement>)

<sup>7</sup> [http://countrystat.org/for/cont/inctables/pageid/8\\_mega/en](http://countrystat.org/for/cont/inctables/pageid/8_mega/en)

<p>Energy and Water (MEW), Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), and Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN), works cooperatively to achieve sustainable forest management under the auspices of the National Priority Program (NPP)-1 National Water and Natural Resource Development. The 2009 National Agriculture Development Framework (NADF) superseded and combined all previous strategic frameworks into a comprehensive inventory of key issues for agricultural development, divided into four main pillars (Natural Resource Management, Agriculture Production and Productivity, Economic Regeneration and Programme Support and Change Management). The National Water &amp; Natural Resource Development NPP is the first major step being taken by the Government of Afghanistan towards putting policy into effect, not only of the environmental management principles espoused in the NADF, but also of the 2008 – 2013 Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS), which recognizes the importance of environmental issues in all aspects of development and makes it a “cross cutting strategy” across the three pillars of ANDS (Security, Governance, Rule of Law/Human Rights, and Economic and Social Development).</p>		
4. Are your national forest programmes and relevant policies and strategies contributing to poverty eradication?	Yes <b>X</b>	No
If yes, please specify :	<b>X</b>	
National forest programs have been revised to include specific measures and resources for eradicating poverty.		
National poverty eradication plans and strategies or equivalent have been revised to incorporate sustainable forest management.		
<p>Please describe specific actions or measures taken to eradicate poverty and their effects (maximum 250 words). The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) serves as Afghanistan’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and uses economic and social development, including sustainable forest development, to accomplish those goals. Specific actions and measures taken to eradicate poverty and their effects include the establishment of alternative livelihood projects which are provided to communities as compensation for forest protection. Other actions include the establishment of home nurseries which create a source of income for households in rural forest areas. Additionally technical assistance is provided in establishment and marketing of non-timber forest products such as nuts, medicinal plants, and other products.</p>		
5. Has the forest instrument been translated into your country’s official/local language(s)?	Yes <b>X</b>	No
Please list the language(s) into which the forest instrument has been translated. Dari, Pashto		
<p><b>1B: Financing sustainable forest management:</b> Assessment of this thematic cluster will be conducted on the basis of data provided under Global Objective on Forests 4 (Q. 43-49).</p>		
<p><b>1C: Capacity building and technology transfer</b></p>		
6. Total number of persons employed in forestry (1,000 persons-years); data will be derived by UNFFS from the FRA database (T13 – Employment).		
7. Total number of staff working in public forest institutions; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T15 – Institutional framework).		
Does your country have adequate capacity and technology to implement sustainable forest management?	Yes	No <b>X</b>
<p>If no, please describe the main challenges, including institutional and technology priority needs and know-how areas of particular concern (maximum 250 words). Inadequate and poorly qualified human resources to implement sustainable forest management is a major challenge. Funding available for this task is far below what is needed and international donors have not been found to adequately make up the extreme funding shortfall. Awareness of the value of sustainable forest management is inadequate at the local level and awareness raising and technical training at this level is critical for community-based forest management success. Providing alternatives to fuelwood cutting need to be provided on a large scale to implement sustainable forest management. Priority needs include developing additional technical expertise in natural forest regeneration, silviculture, watershed management, and sustainable tree harvesting practices.</p>		

8. Is your country engaged in SFM-related technology transfer?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of SFM technology?		
Donor country		
Recipient country	<b>X</b>	
Describe the nature, source and target of technology transfer (maximum 250 words). Technology transfer is provided to Afghanistan in several ways. Forest management specialists from other countries are hired by the Afghanistan government via the CTAP program to provide technology transfer and capacity building. US Dept. of Agriculture natural resource advisors with strong forestry background have been recruited and assigned as embed employees with the MAIL. Organizations such as the UNEP, UNDP, UNOPS and FAO provide technology transfer to the MAIL on forest management.		
9. Are there any incentives for promoting improved technologies for SFM?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
If yes, please check where applicable:		
Low-interest loans		
Tax breaks		
Subsidies	<b>X</b>	
Participation in SFM best practice certification programmes that improve access to markets		
Others; please specify (maximum 250): Alternative livelihood programs are provided to communities as compensation for protection of nearby forested areas.		
<b>1D: Stakeholder participation</b>		
10. Does your country have programmes for involving stakeholders in SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation? If yes, please indicate the levels:	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
National	<b>X</b>	
Sub-national	<b>X</b>	
Local	<b>X</b>	
Describe the processes of public participation in SFM, indicating existing mechanisms and stakeholders involved (maximum 250 words). Sustainable forest management in Afghanistan is implemented through community-based forest management. Forest management or social associations are set up in communities which take responsibility for developing forest management plans with technical assistance from the MAIL and NGOs. Workshops are held while developing sustainable forest management policies which enlist input from local, provincial and national stakeholders.		
<b>1E: Enhanced international cooperation</b>		
11. Is your country engaged in international cooperation in sustainable forest management? If yes, please specify the type of the cooperation:	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
North-South		
South-South		
Triangular		
Others: trilateral workshops	<b>X</b>	
Please give examples, describing the main objectives and elements of the cooperation (maximum 250 words) . Bilateral and Trilateral workshops have been held with Pakistan and Iran on forest management topics of mutual interest.		
12. In which areas would your country like to see more international cooperation:		
Forests and climate change	<b>X</b>	

Forest biodiversity	<b>X</b>			
Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests	<b>X</b>			
Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods	<b>X</b>			
Forest degradation and rehabilitation	<b>X</b>			
Others; please list: Transboundary transport of illegal timber and non-timber forest products across international borders(Pakistan)				
<b>2A: Forest law enforcement and governance</b>				
13. Existence of law (Act or Code) on forests with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 - Policy and legal framework).				
14. Since the adoption of the forest instrument in 2007, have steps been taken to strengthen forest-related legislation, law enforcement and governance in support of sustainable forest management?	Yes		No	
	<b>X</b>			
15. Is your country participating in international agreements/partnerships to address illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources?	Yes		No	
	<b>X</b>			
If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of capacity building to address forest-related illegal practices?				
Donor country				
Recipient country		<b>X</b>		
Describe the recent significant steps taken to enhance forest law enforcement and governance in your country (maximum 250 words). The NPP-1 National Water and Natural Resource Development has been developed by the Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster and is close to being finalized. A National Forest Management Plan was completed by the MAIL in 2012 which provides a framework for sustainable forest management. The National Forest Law was signed by the President recently and disseminated in government official journal. The recent Presidential Decree on Fighting Against Corruption mandates taking appropriate measures regarding forests, especially the development and conservation of pistachio and pine trees. Afghanistan is participating in international agreements such as the CITES Act.				
<b>2B: International trade in forest products</b>				
16. Is your country involved in international forest products trade? If yes, please provide estimated market value (US\$ 1000):	Yes		No	
	<b>X</b>			
	Import		Export	
	2007	2011	2007	2011
Timber products	26,000	57,000	NA	NA
Fuelwood	NA	NA	NA	NA
17. Does your country trade in non-wood forest products? If yes. please list the most important and provide estimated market value:	Yes		No	
	<b>X</b>			
	Import		Export	
	2007	2011	2007	2011
Chilgoza pine nuts, pistachios,	NA	NA	20,130	16,220
Describe the recent significant steps taken to enhance international trade in forest products in your country (maximum 250 words). Timber product export from Afghanistan is illegal. Timber imports are needed to meet high current building construction demands. Conservation and reforestation projects have been initiated to increase production of pistachio and pine nuts for export. Technical assistance and workshops have been provided by the MAIL and other organizations in proper harvesting, processing, and marketing of pistachio and pine nuts for export.				
<b>2C: Protection of forests</b>				
18. Forest area (1000 hectares) conservation of biodiversity; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 3 – Forest designation and management).				

19. Forest area (1000 hectares) within protective areas; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 3 – Forest designation and management).		
Describe any significant actions related to protection of forests since 2007 (maximum 250 words). Remote sensing inventories have been conducted by the MAIL and international organizations to determine areas and severity of forest degradation in select northern and eastern provinces of Afghanistan. Forest management associations have been formed to develop forest management plans for protection of forest resources.		
<b>2D: Science and research</b>		
20. How much funding (US\$ 1000) was designated for forest-related research?	2007	2011
	0	70
21. Please specify the sources of financing:	2007	2011
Public sector		
Private industry		
Bilateral cooperation		
Multilateral cooperation X		
Others; please describe (maximum 250 words).		
22. Does your country have an institute(s) promoting the development and application of scientific and technological innovations for SFM?	Yes	No
	X	
If yes, do they have extension programs for promoting the use of these scientific and technological innovations directed at forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders?	Yes	No
		X
How many persons from the following groups were reached by these extension programs?	2007	2011
Forest owners	NA	NA
Local communities		
Private sector		
Indigenous communities		
<b>2E: Public awareness and education</b>		
23. Graduation of students in forest-related education: data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 16 - Education and research).		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with B.Sc. degree or equivalent		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with a technician certificate/diploma		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent who are women		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with B.Sc. degree or equivalent who are women		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with a technician certificate/diploma who are women		
24. Did your country organize specific events and activities in support of the International Year of Forests?	Yes	No
	X	
If yes, please describe them (maximum 250 words). The UNEP, NEPA and MAIL created forestry demonstration areas in Badam Bagh Experimental Farm and in various Districts in Afghanistan.		
25. Has your country implemented actions to increase public awareness of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management?	X	
If yes, which of the following approaches have been utilized?		
Published materials, such as brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc.	X	
Meetings with the general public to inform them of the benefits provided by forests to society	X	
Meetings with private and public sector stakeholders to inform them of the	X	



benefits of sustainable forest management		
Other; please describe (maximum 100 words). Workshops have been provided by the MAIL and other organizations to communities to increase awareness of the benefits of sustainable forest management for adults and school children in rural communities where forest management was being promoted.		
<b>2F: Private sector and industry</b>		
26. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist that engage the private sector and industry?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
27. Have you established or strengthened public-private partnerships to advance sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
If yes, please describe (maximum 250 words). Participatory community-based forest management is the mechanism used by the MAIL and partnering organizations to implement sustainable forest management in Afghanistan. Forest management associations are organized which develop and implement forest management plans to conserve and restore forest resources which they manage. The MAIL and partnering organizations provide technical assistance and workshops to build awareness and capacity of the forest management associations.		
Describe these mechanisms and their functions. What specific role do the private sector and industry play in promoting and supporting the forest instrument and sustainable forest management? (maximum 250 words). The private sector is represented by the farmers and villagers of the local communities who form the forest management associations with support from the MAIL and partnering organizations. The forest management associations develop and implement forest management plans that guide the conservation and restoration efforts in the forest areas under their purview.		
<b>2G: Indigenous and local communities</b>		
28. Are tenure and user rights of local communities and indigenous peoples over publicly-owned forests recognized by law?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
Describe how they are recognized and practiced (maximum 250 words). The tenure and user rights of local communities over publicly-owned forests are recognized by the Environment Law which states that every person has the right to 1) legally use natural resources in accordance with customary traditions and practices which encourage community-based sustainable natural resource management and 2) create and legally register civil society organizations which advocate sustainable management of natural resources and conservation and rehabilitation of the environment. The new forest law provides further recognition of user rights of local communities over publicly-owned forests.		
29. Are local communities and indigenous peoples benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests? <sup>8</sup>	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
Describe how this is functioning (maximum 250 words). Local communities are able to harvest nuts, medicinal plants, and other non-timber products from the forest, process and market them. Local communities benefit from the sale of these products and a tax is collected by the Government on non-timber products that are exported.		
30. Are traditional forest-related knowledge and practices used in forest management, planning and implementation?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
Explain how they are used and by whom (maximum 250). Use of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices is a right which is codified in the Afghanistan Environment Law. Traditional forest-related knowledge and practices are used by local communities through their forest management associations in the development and implementation of forest management plans. These plans guide the sustainable management of forest resources that are under the jurisdiction of the forest management association.		

<sup>8</sup> Benefit-sharing policies for management of forest resources vary among countries. In national policy regimes that require permits from a national forest authority, benefits can include payments for protecting, regenerating and planting forests; payments for ecosystem services; harvesting of non-timber forest products, dry timber and dead trees; and selective harvesting of timber, among others.

31. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist for the engagement of the following?	Yes	No
Indigenous peoples (where applicable)	NA	NA
Local communities	X	
Describe these mechanisms and their functions. What specific role do indigenous peoples and/or local communities play in achieving sustainable forest management? (maximum 250 words). Forest management associations are organized, at the local community and watershed level, which develop and implement forest management plans to conserve and restore forest resources which they manage. The MAIL and partnering organizations provide technical assistance and workshops to build awareness and capacity of the forest management associations.		
32. Are training and extension programmes being implemented that are directed at local communities and indigenous peoples in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests?	Yes	No
	X	
If yes, how many persons from the following communities were the beneficiaries?	2007	2011
Indigenous	NA	NA
Local	4,500	9,000
<b>Part II: The Global Objectives on Forests</b>		
<b>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;</b>		
33. Extent of the country's forests and other wooded lands (1000 ha.); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.1 - Extent of forest and other wooded land)	2005	2010
34. Extent of the country's forests under public/private ownership (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.2 - Forest ownership and management rights).	2005	2010
Extent of the country's forests under private ownership (1000 ha)		
Extent of privately-owned forests according to the following categories (1000 ha)		
Individual		
Business entities and institutions		
Local, indigenous and tribal communities		
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 1 (maximum 250 words). 361 forest management associations have been established in 13 provinces for community-based sustainable forest management planning and implementation. 348 forest protection guards have been hired in 22 provinces. Over 2700 hectares of Government land have been reforested in 16 provinces in northern and eastern Afghanistan.		
<b>Global Objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people</b>		
35. Extent of forest designated and managed for production (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management).	2005	2010
Extent of forest designated and managed for protection (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for conservation (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for social services (1000 ha)		
36. Total volume of industrial round wood removal (1000 m <sup>3</sup> ); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.11 – Forest Wood removals and value of removals).	2005	2010

Total value of industrial roundwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total volume of fuelwood removal (1000 m <sup>3</sup> )		
Total value of fuelwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total value of non-wood forest products (NWFP) (US\$1000)		
37. Has your country established a mechanism(s) for payment of ecosystem services?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
If yes, what is the estimated value of the payment of ecosystem services (US\$ 1,000)?	2005	2011
	1,000	4,000
Please describe how the mechanism(s) function (maximum 250 words). Home nurseries are established in local communities to provide an income for low incomes families and provide for growth of seedlings to plant in reforestation projects. Hiring of forest protection guards from local communities provides an income for community members in exchange for protecting the forest resources. Alternative livelihood projects, such as poultry and livestock raising, orchards, and other similar projects are established in local communities in exchange for protection of specific areas of natural forest on Government land. The Afghan Conservation Corps and Agricultural Support for Peace and Reintegration Programme have been used to provide an income to local community members in exchange for work on forest restoration projects.		
38. What is the number of visitors to national parks and other protected areas in your country? (Band-e-Amir NP)	2005	2011
	<b>30,000</b>	<b>126,000/year</b>
39. What is the area of urban parks in your country (1000 ha)?	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>
40. What is the estimated number of visitors to urban parks in your country?	<b>unknown</b>	<b>unknown</b>
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 2 (maximum 250 words). 410 home nurseries were established in 2004 and 200 in 2012 to provide an income for low income families in local communities in 4 provinces and provide seedlings for reforestation of Government land in proximity to the local communities. Hiring of forest protection guards from local communities to help conserve forest resources in proximity to the communities. 60 alternative livelihood projects were established in local communities in exchange for protection of specific Government forest areas. Established plantations of fast growing tree species on 593 hectares to reduce firewood cutting on natural forests.		
<b>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;</b>		
41. Extent of forest designated and managed for sustainable forest management (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management). Extent of forest with management plans (1000 ha)	2005	2010
42. Does your country have forests under internationally recognized certification schemes?	Yes	No
		<b>X</b>
If yes, please specify:	Certification Scheme	Area
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 3 (maximum 250 words). 361 forest management associations have been established in 13 provinces for community-based sustainable forest management planning and implementation. 348 forest protection guards have been hired in 22 provinces to protect forests from unsustainable use.		
<b>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;</b>		
43. Does your country have a government budget specific for forests?	Yes	No
	<b>X</b>	
44. What is the total amount of funding in forest management, administration, research and human resource development (US\$ 1,000)?	2007	2011
	1,200	4,692
45. If the funding for forests is spread among other sectors, please specify the main contributors:		
Agriculture	<b>X</b>	

Energy	<b>X</b>			
Water	<b>X</b>			
Climate change				
Nature conservation	<b>X</b>			
Others; please specify: National Environmental Protection Agency funding to conserve forests.				
46. Has the country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM since 2007? If yes, please specify sources:	Yes		No	
	<b>X</b>			
Domestic public funding	2007 (US\$)		2011 (US\$)	
	1,200,000		4,692,000	
Domestic private sector funding	2007 (US\$)		2011 (US\$)	
	0		0	
External private sector funding	2007 (US\$)		2011 (US\$)	
	unknown		unknown	
If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds (maximum 250 words).				
47. Does your country have a National Forests Fund?	Yes		No	
			<b>X</b>	
48. Is your country a donor or recipient of ODA for forestry?	Donor		Recipient	
			<b>X</b>	
49. If yes, what has been the net ODA received/donated for forestry (US 1000)?	Donor		Recipient	
	2007	2010	2007	2011
			Unk	unk
Please use this space to describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 4 (maximum 250 words). Additional funding has been provided by the Ministry of Finance for on-budget expenditures of the MAIL on sustainable forest management. International donors, such as the USAID, US Dept. of Agriculture, FAO and other donors have provided major funding for planning and implementation of sustainable forest management practices. The MAIL has pursued innovative funding mechanisms and developed a National Forest Management Plan and Pistachio Woodland and Chilgoza Pine Forest Conservation and Restoration Plans to guide the implementation of sustainable forest management strategies. Afghanistan signed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992 as a Non-Annex I Party to the Convention. Project proposals are being developed for GEF and REDD funding based on the forest plans developed to date.				

### PART III: Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

Forests can make significant contributions to poverty reduction, improved health, education and gender equity. Sustainable forest management aims to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the evidence of this contribution and greater recognition of the value of sustainably managed forests are difficult to gather.

Currently the only forest-related official MDG indicator that provides information on the proportion of land area covered by forest is Indicator 7.1 under Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. This indicator, however, neither reflects the full range of benefits and services including socio-economic benefits of forests to society, nor the contributions of forests to the achievement of other MDGs. Establishing the direct and indirect links between forests and MDGs is pivotal to ensure that concrete efforts are being taken to reverse the loss of forest cover and to prevent forest degradation while maximizing the benefits of forests for achieving

sustainable development.

The aim of this part of the reporting format is to explore the existing data, evidence basis and cases demonstrating the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to MDGs, at the same time identifying gaps in the monitoring systems and lack of adequate indicators.

**Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Please indicate the most forest relevant MDGs in your country

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	

Please list the indicators.  
The indicators used are the increase in income of families and communities from non-timber forest products after implementation of sustainable forest management practices and improved harvesting, processing, storage, and marketing of those products.

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).  
Pistachio, pine nuts, and medicinal plants are three of the main non-timber forest products of Afghanistan and provide an important source of income for rural communities in remote forested areas. Implementation of conservation and restoration measures ensures the sustainability of these sources of income. Technical assistance and education in improved harvesting, processing, storage, and marketing of these products increases the income of remote, impoverished rural communities by 25% or more.

**Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education:**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	

Please list the indicators.  
Number and percent of children receiving primary education

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).  
Non-forest products provide income for rural households and communities and forests provide firewood for them. This maintains economic and social stability and security which allows for hiring of school teachers. It also allows children in these stable communities to attend school.

**Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	

Please list the indicators. Number of home nurseries established

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words). Establishment of home nurseries provides a source of income for women, especially impoverished women. This helps promote gender equality and empowers women to be able to help provide a source of income for their families.

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
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If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	
Please list the indicators. World Health Organization statistics indicate a significant reduction in child mortality in rural communities in Afghanistan in the past 10 years.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). Sustainable forest management helps provide a source of income from non-timber forest products which helps ensure social and economic stability which allows for improved health care in remote rural communities. The improved security of rural communities as a result of social and economic stability also decreases insurrection activities in rural communities and child mortality resulting from those activities.		
<b>Goal 5: Improve maternal health</b>		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	
Please list the indicators. World Health Organization statistics indicate a significant reduction in birth-related mortality of women in Afghanistan in the past 10 years.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). Sustainable forest management helps provide a source of income from non-timber forest products which helps ensure social and economic stability which allows for improved health care in remote rural communities.		
<b>Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</b>		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	
Please list the indicators. World Health Organization Statistics indicate decreased incidents of disease in rural communities in Afghanistan.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). Sustainable forest management helps provide a source of income from non-timber forest products which helps ensure social and economic stability which allows for improved health care in remote rural communities.		
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability</b>		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	
Please list the indicators. Percent of total land area that is forested, canopy cover of trees, and biodiversity of forested areas. Natural tree regeneration percentage		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). Forested areas are still under extreme pressure in Afghanistan due to illegal timber cutting, firewood gathering, overgrazing reducing natural regeneration, drought, conversion of open woodlands to marginal dry land farming and other factors. Sustainable forest management has been shown to be effective in reversing the trend of forest degradation in areas where it has		

been implemented through community-based forest management. Without these sustainable forest management efforts, forest degradation will continue and environmental sustainability will be irretrievably lost.

**Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<b>X</b>	

Please list the indicators. Value of non-timber forest products exported

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).  
 Markets are being developed and expanded with regional nations for non-timber forest products. Sustainable forest management and improvement of non-timber forest product production and marketability will improve these global partnerships for development.

Please provide a short description of case studies and success stories on data collection on the contribution of forests to achieve MDGs that could serve as examples of good practice for other countries (maximum 250 words).  
 Data collection on the contribution of forests to achieve MDGs is in its initial development phase in Afghanistan's MAIL. International partners, such as the FAO, USAID, and US Department of Agriculture, currently collect and disseminate much of this data. The MAIL is increasing its capacity to collect, store, and disseminate this data.