

Background document on the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, the Global Objectives on Forests, and the Millennium Development Goals

Actions reported by countries to the United Nations Forum on Forests

Summary

The report of the Secretary-General to UNFF11, *Reviewing progress towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests* (E/CN.18/2015/3), drew on 81 voluntary national reports to UNFF11, which provide substantial information on the actions taken by countries to achieve SFM, in line with the provisions of the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (the “Forest Instrument”). It was not possible, however, to present all this information in the Secretary General’s report. Accordingly, the present document has been made available online as a background paper containing further information on the actions and examples reported by countries.

This document is structured in accordance with the questions contained in the reporting format to UNFF11 (Annex 2). It has two main parts: (A) the Forest Instrument; and (B) the contributions of forests and SFM to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In their voluntary reports, countries described challenges and provided success stories, lessons learned and examples related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, the Global Objectives on Forests and the MDGs. The national reports constitute a “catalogue of actions” and an overview of bilateral and multilateral cooperation on SFM. Some of the reports are highly detailed and provide excellent sources of information on forest activities in countries; they could be used as a reference for both donor and recipient countries in engaging in further cooperation and projects linked to the implementation of the Forest Instrument and SFM. All national reports are available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/reports-unff11.html>.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

C&I	criteria and indicators
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GOF	Global Objective on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MOU	memorandum of understanding
NAPA	national adaptation programme of action
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODA	official development assistance
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PES	payments for ecosystem services
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RMB	yuan renminbi
SFM	sustainable forest management
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFF11	Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
US\$	United States dollar(s)
VPA	voluntary partnership agreement

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (the “Forest Instrument”), as set out in the annex to its resolution 62/98, in December 2007. The Forest Instrument has the following purpose:

- (1) To strengthen political commitment and action at all levels to implement effectively sustainable management of all types of forests and to achieve the shared Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs);
- (2) To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability; and
- (3) To provide a framework for national action and international cooperation.

Through the Forest Instrument, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to working globally, regionally and nationally towards the achievement, by 2015, of the four GOFs. To achieve its purpose, the Instrument identifies 25 national policies and measures and 19 actions related to international cooperation and the means of implementation.

Resolution 7/1 requests that the main task of the United Nations Forum on Forests at each session is a discussion of the achievement of the GOFs and the implementation of the Forest Instrument. Resolution 7/1 also states that: “*Countries should, on a voluntary basis, submit national reports to the Forum, in accordance with a timetable established by the Forum, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives set out in Council resolution 2006/49*”.

Article 8 of the Forest Instrument states that Member States should monitor and assess progress in achieving the Forest Instrument’s purpose. This is reiterated in Article 9, which calls on Member States to submit, on a voluntary basis, national progress reports as part of their regular reporting to the Forum, taking into account the availability of resources and the requirements and conditions for the preparation of reports for other bodies or instruments.

The main purpose of reporting to the Forum is to track progress towards the implementation of the Forest Instrument and the GOFs. The mainly action-oriented, qualitative reports submitted by countries are complemented by quantitative data gathered by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through its Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and others.

The national reports submitted to the Forum secretariat enable:

- (1) the assessment of progress (by the Forum, as well as self-assessment by Member States);
- (2) the exchanging of experiences and the sharing of lessons learned; and
- (3) demonstration of the main challenges and obstacles faced by Member States, and their successes, in implementing the Forest Instrument.

With a view to reporting on progress in the implementation of the Forest Instrument and its GOFs, Member States were invited to submit voluntary national reports to the Eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11). In accordance with requests by the Forum, the reporting guidelines and format were developed to encourage Member States to highlight success stories and

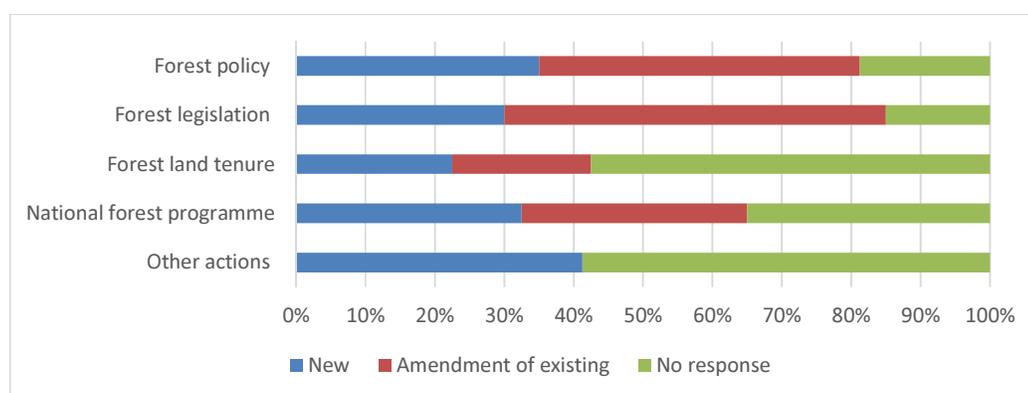
best practices and to avoid the duplication of requests for information made by other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, such as FAO’s FRA 2015, and the duplication of information available in other international databases. Part I of the reporting format for UNFF11 comprises 18 questions related to progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including the achievement of the GOFs; and Part II comprises four questions on the contributions of forests and sustainable forest management (SFM) to the achievement of the MDGs. A total of 81 Member States (listed in Annex 1) provided reports for UNFF11 responding to some or all of the questions posed in the reporting format.

A. PROGRESS TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOREST INSTRUMENT AND ACHIEVING THE GLOBAL OBJECTIVES ON FORESTS

1. Actions taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management

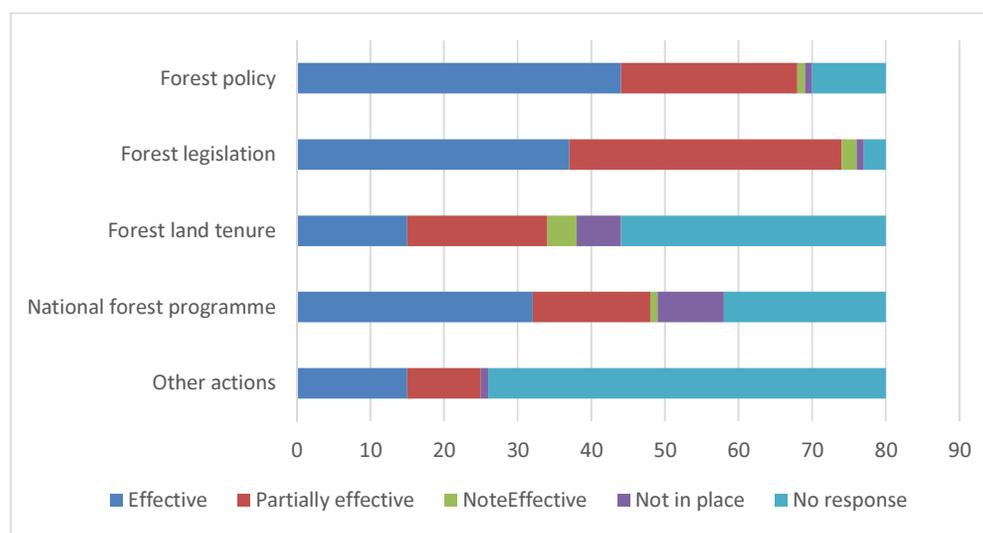
National reports demonstrated an increase in activities and actions, at both the national and international levels, to implement SFM; most responding countries reported new or amended forest policies and legislation since 2007 (Figure 1), the majority of which had been either effective or partially effective (Figure 2). A number of countries reported that the Forest Instrument had helped to provide a framework for, and to influence, the development of new forest legislation, policies and programmes. Many of those countries that had undertaken “other” actions referred to institutional reforms, such as the creation of the Forest Service Agency in the United Republic of Tanzania, the merging of the national forest authority and the national authority for nature conservation in Portugal, and changes in forest-related institutions in Finland that emphasize a wider and more holistic approach to natural resource management. A number of countries noted that their actions were not necessarily due to the Forest Instrument and would have taken place anyway, or that they had largely implemented the provisions of the Forest Instrument prior to 2007. In France, for example, the law that guides the national forest policy is based on the Forest Code, which has existed since 1827. Where progress had been limited, countries attributed this to, among other things, political instability, economic recession, and the lack of political commitment to forests.

Figure 1. Percentage of countries indicating they have taken action on forest-related policies, legislation, tenure, national forest programmes or other in support of SFM since 2007



n = 80

Figure 2. Percentage of countries indicating the effectiveness of various actions taken to advance the implementation of the Forest Instrument



n = 81

Countries reported a range of actions, including the following: adaptation to and the mitigation of climate change (including REDD+¹); the reforestation of degraded areas and combating desertification; forest inventory; the protection of forest areas and species with high conservation status; protection against fire; monitoring forest health; development of the wood-processing industry; log export bans; forest concessions and royalty payments; payments for ecosystem services (PES); ecotourism; forest tenure; community rights; participatory forest management; capacity-building within communities; forest awareness initiatives; decentralization; and the development of cross-cutting policies. (Reference was also made to actions aimed at reducing illegal trade, which are addressed in question 2.) Examples of reported actions in support of the Forest Instrument are given below.

- In Afghanistan, forest legislation reflects a mandate in the Constitution. The national forest programme is supporting a rehabilitation strategy for forestry, and forest associations are supporting community participatory management.
- In Albania, a new national forest programme has accompanied institutional reforms in the forest sector; thus, forest policies are new, and this is reflected in changes in the law.
- In Azerbaijan, the Greater Caucasus Landscape Project (supported by the Global Environment Facility – GEF) aims to promote sustainable land and forest management, for example by managing natural forests to emphasize natural regeneration and by improving practices related to grazing and wood-collecting in forests.
- In Belarus, forest legislation has been amended, for example to define the powers of the President in the field of forest policy, to revise the classification of forest protection categories, and to introduce environmental impact assessments for forest regulation plans.

¹ REDD+ = reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

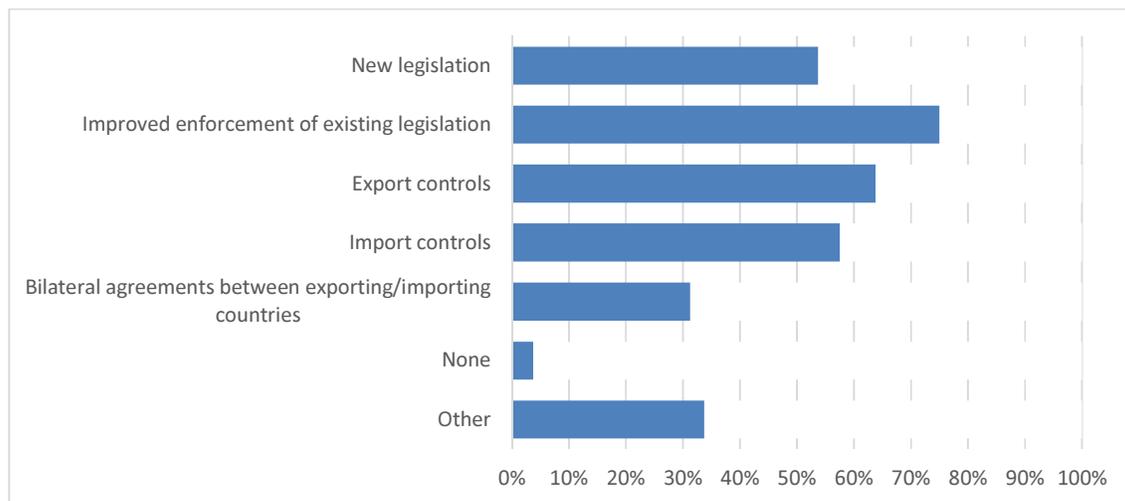
- In Botswana, the recognition of the value of forests has led to the development of policies and programmes, including the Forest Policy (approved by Parliament in 2011) and a review of the 1968 Forest Act.
- In Brazil, the Government has created new forest policies and legislation and amended existing ones. These include laws and decrees related to: the control of logging; tracking the origin and destination of transported forest products; promoting the recovery of native vegetation; the sustainable management of public forests; a federal programme for the management of community and family forests; sustainable production models in municipalities prioritized for the control and reduction of deforestation in the Amazon; the National Fund for Forest Development; an environmental conservation support programme (“Bolsa Verde”); the rural environmental registry system; support for forest restoration and agroforestry by small farmers; and voluntary targets for the forest sector, such as the consolidation and expansion of legally protected forests and reforestation areas and the restoration of forest cover in degraded areas. The Government has also created new protected areas (mostly national forests) and continued to implement the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon, which was launched in 2004 and has resulted in a decrease in the deforestation rate in the Amazon from 1.29 million hectares per year in 2008 to 0.48 million hectares in 2014.
- In Canada, where provinces and territories are largely responsible for forest management, the Province of Alberta has introduced a requirement for companies to start reforestation within two years of completing timber harvesting; and the Province of Ontario is modernizing the system that governs forest management on publicly owned land, including the system for working collaboratively with indigenous people and other stakeholders.
- In China, the Forestry Development Plan 2011–2015 was implemented smoothly and its targets have mostly been met. The forest area increased from 195 million hectares in 2009 to 208 million hectares in 2013, and there was a 277 per cent increase in total forestry output and a 485 per cent increase in total investment in forestry over the same period.
- Côte d’Ivoire has a programme whereby occupiers of State-owned land receive contracts in which they agree not to clear any more forest and to plant trees (at a low density) on land currently in agricultural use.
- In Ethiopia, forestry is one of the four pillars of the economy-wide strategy.
- In Mexico, there has been close cooperation through the Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Rural Development to align policies and programmes in rural areas with the aims of: reducing potential negative impacts on forest resources; promoting complementarity and bringing agricultural and forestry programmes together; preserving and restoring the ecological functions of landscapes and watersheds; reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change; fighting poverty; and improving rural infrastructure.
- In Nepal, local people have been given authority for conservation and management in the Kanchanja Conservation Area, the first conservation area to be handed over to a local community.
- In Niger, the government has identified the forest sector as one of the sectors to serve as a pilot in the transfer of powers to decentralized local authorities.

- In Nigeria, the forest policy has been amended, and there is ongoing awareness-raising about the Forest Instrument, with regional workshops planned for the last quarter of 2014 and a national workshop planned for the first quarter of 2015.
- In Paraguay, the National Forest Institute was created by law in 2008, and further legislation in 2010 addressed the restoration of forests that protect waterways.
- In the United States of America, the 2014 Agricultural Act includes provisions to assist the United States Forest Service, particularly in priority areas such as ecological restoration, support for communities, reducing the risk of wildfires, and addressing insect and disease threats to National Forests and Grasslands.
- In Viet Nam, new legislation (requiring users of forest ecosystem services to pay forest owners who provide those services) was piloted in two provinces. This policy has had positive impacts for SFM, livelihood improvement and environmental protection. Since 2011, the policy has mobilized about US\$160 million, which has mainly been reinvested in forest protection and development.

2. Steps taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources

Most countries reported that they had taken various steps taken since 2007 to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally harvested forest products, especially the improved enforcement of existing legislation (about 75 per cent of responding countries), export and import controls, and the enactment of new laws (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Percentage of responding countries taking various measures to prevent trafficking in illegally harvested forest products



n = 81

A number of countries referred to action taken in response to the European Union (EU) Timber Regulation and through voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs), which form part of the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. The EU Timber Regulation, which came into force in 2013, prohibits operators in Europe from placing illegally harvested timber and products derived from illegal timber on the EU market. Accordingly, EU Member States reported that

they had taken action to incorporate the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation into domestic laws and to ensure their proper application at the national level. The Congo, Ghana and Liberia reported that they had entered into VPAs with the EU, and other Member States (e.g. Côte d'Ivoire and Viet Nam) reported that they were negotiating with the EU about VPAs, and the Dominican Republic has developed a project plan in this context. Norway reported that it is in the process of implementing the EU Timber Regulation.

Countries noted a range of ways in which they had improved their enforcement of existing legislation, such as by enhancing surveillance capacity through aerial approaches, ranger training and increased community involvement. Some countries mentioned efforts to strengthen the capacity of governmental regulatory agencies and to improve coordination between forest services and police, the military and customs at the national, subnational and local levels. Examples of practical measures were: integrated electronic information systems for tracking the movement of timber; the preparation of detailed guidance on the import and export of forest products; portable wood identification tools for customs officials; and training for prosecuting lawyers and judges to increase their understanding of the importance of tackling forest-related crimes. A number of countries noted the actions they were taking to meet their obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Some timber-exporting countries described their application of export controls. Measures taken include bans on the logging of particular tree species (e.g. *Pterocarpus* species in Côte d'Ivoire, sandalwood in Kenya, walnut and junipers in Kyrgyzstan, and rosewood in Madagascar); bans on the export of charcoal (e.g. Jamaica, Kenya and Nigeria); and export restrictions related to roundwood and products from certain protected and indigenous trees.

Some importing countries not parties to the EU FLEGT initiative outlined steps they have taken. For example, Canada has legislation in place which, in concert with customs measures, minimizes the risk of importing forest products derived from activities that contravene the laws of exporting countries. New Zealand's approach is to support the private sector in taking action to reduce imports that are at risk of having been logged illegally; the New Zealand Imported Tropical Timber Group, the membership of which includes importers, retailers and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is taking steps to ensure that all tropical timber imports come from sustainably managed forests. Switzerland requires that any party selling timber or timber products to consumers must disclose information about the species used in those products, including whether the species is listed in the appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and its place of harvest. In the United States of America, the amended Lacey Act (2008) prohibits trade in wood and plant products taken in violation of domestic and international laws; cooperation on forest law enforcement has intensified among federal, state and local entities, and the United States Forest Service has continued to build capacity to combat international timber trafficking.

Countries also gave examples of bilateral and multilateral arrangements aimed at tackling illegal logging and associated trade. These include Angola's joint and bilateral commissions of defence and security with neighbouring countries, particularly Namibia and Zambia; the China–Australia task force on countering illegal logging; Ghana's memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cross-border trade with Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo; MOUs between China and Canada, Japan and Nepal; Morocco's cooperation arrangements with the United States of America; work in Papua New Guinea to prepare country-specific guidelines to assist Australian importers; Nepal's regular cross-border meetings with India; and bilateral MOUs between the United States of America and China and Indonesia on combating illegal logging and associated trade. Multilateral initiatives (in addition to the

EU FLEGT Action Plan) included the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Experts' Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade; the Association of South East Asian Nations Wildlife Enforcement Network; Asia's Regional Response to Endangered Species Trafficking; the South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network; the East African Community Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management; the Economic Community of West African States' consultation mechanism between States to help fight the cross-border trafficking of natural resources; and the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument. Some countries highlighted the role of international organizations such as INTERPOL, ITTO and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (which produced the Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit) and referred to public/private/voluntary partnerships and cooperation with NGOs such as the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC in combating the illegal exploitation of forest and wildlife products.

Some countries gave examples of government timber procurement policies that seek to ensure that forest products purchased by public bodies derive only from legal and sustainable sources. For example, the New Zealand Government's public timber procurement policy requires that all timber and timber products purchased by government departments are certified for legality, and it encourages that such products are also certified for sustainability. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's timber procurement policy requires all central government departments to purchase only timber verified as sustainable and legal or which has a FLEGT licence. Mexico's regulatory framework on public procurement has been modified to promote the use of forest products from forests that are certified as being sustainably managed under the National Forest Certification Scheme, which is seeking international recognition through the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

Other examples of initiatives reported by countries include the following.

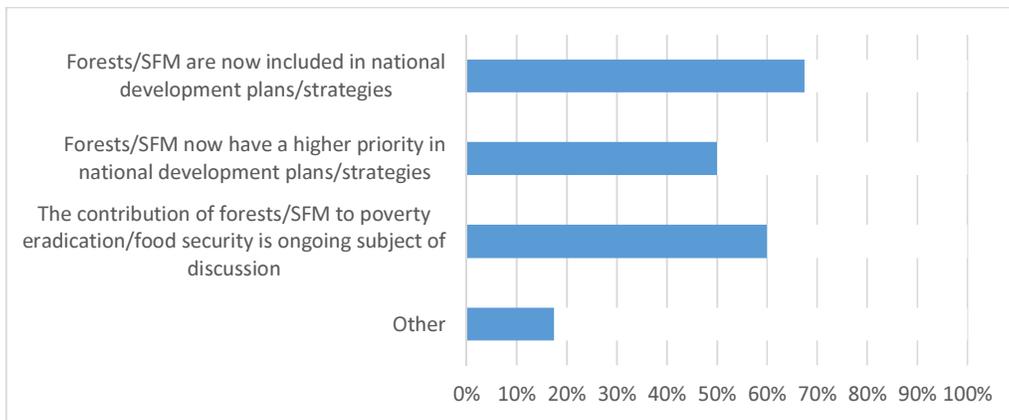
- INTERPOL's Law Enforcement Assistance for Forests project, a partnership between INTERPOL and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), focuses on illegal logging and associated corruption, tax fraud and money laundering. Norway has pledged financing for a pilot project on fighting illicit timber trade in East Africa.
- Brazil has implemented a web-based system for controlling the transportation of forest products nationally aimed at preventing the illegal transportation of wood and thus inhibiting illegal deforestation and illegal logging.
- Guatemala has implemented an electronic information system for forestry companies to promote legality in the use and transportation of forest products, and it is also developing an electronic forest management system.
- Based on their Memorandum on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade for Sustainable Forest Management, China and Japan will make a joint effort to: develop a legality verification system for wood and wood products that are domestically harvested, processed and distributed as well as imported and exported; promote the trade and use of legally harvested wood and wood products; and support timber-producing countries in combating illegal logging and associated trade.
- With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Resources Institute and the Environmental Investigation Agency have launched the Forest Legality Alliance, which aims to reduce illegal logging by supporting the supply of legal forest products. USAID has also allocated around US\$125 million since 2007 for combating wildlife trafficking, mainly by supporting community engagement and law

enforcement monitoring for anti-poaching in Africa; strengthening capacity and international coordination in Asia; and reducing the demand for wildlife products that drives illicit trade.

3. Steps taken to raise the importance of forests and sustainable forest management

Countries were asked what steps their governments had taken since 2007 to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans. Figure 4 shows that more than 65 per cent of responding countries had included forests or SFM in national development plans or strategies, and the contribution of forests and SFM to poverty eradication and food security was the ongoing subject of discussion in about 60 per cent of countries.

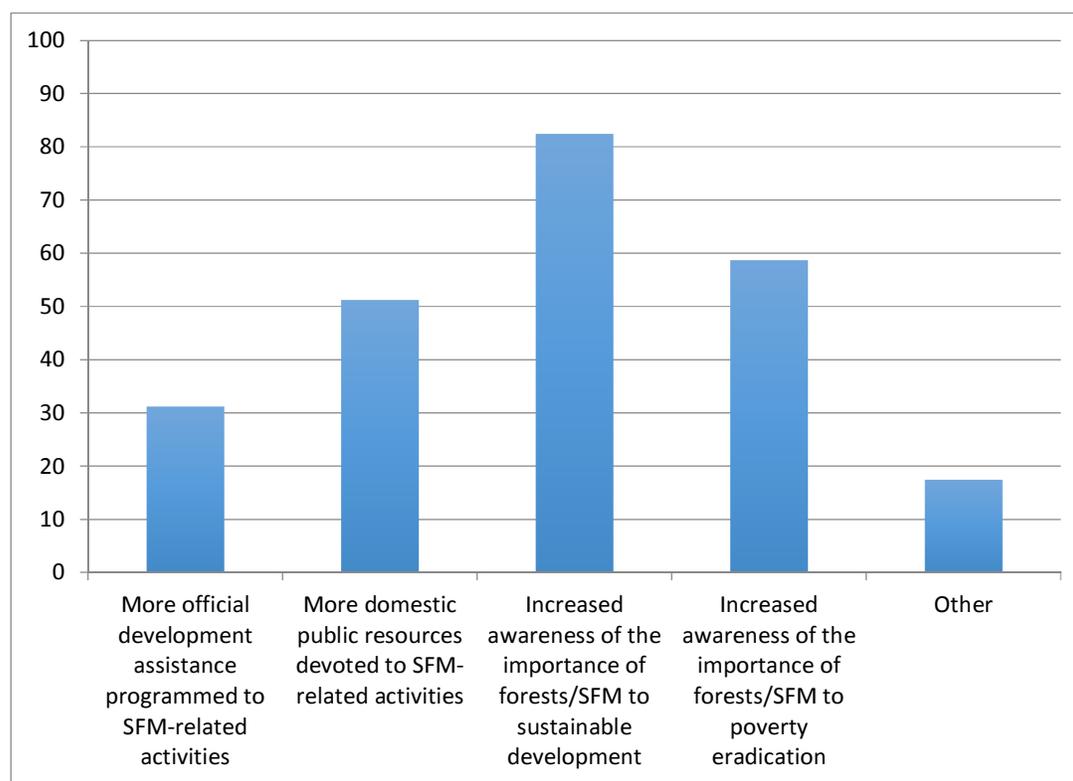
Figure 4. Percentage of responding countries taking various actions to raise the importance of forests/SFM in national development plans



n = 80

Figure 5 shows that more than 80 per cent of responding countries reported that their actions had resulted in increased awareness of the importance of forests and SFM in sustainable development, and more than 50 per cent reported an increase in awareness of the importance of forests and SFM in poverty eradication.

Figure 5. Percentage of responding countries in which actions taken to raise the importance of forests/SFM in national development plans achieved results



n = 80

Countries reported on other steps taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM, including national programmes for adaptation to, and the mitigation of, climate change, including REDD+ and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs); national biodiversity strategies and policies for protected areas; community forestry and participatory forest management programmes; activities aimed at achieving the equal participation of indigenous peoples in forest-related benefits; economic development policies recognizing the valuable contributions of forests, including non-timber forest products and ecosystem services; organizational changes, such as the creation of new forest services and voluntary organizations (such as tree-growers' associations); and the annual celebration of the International Day of Forests and similar national initiatives, such as National Arbor Day in the Comoros, Ghana's National Forest Week, Portugal's national awareness campaign, "*Portugal pela Floresta*", and National Tree Planting Day in the United Republic of Tanzania. Several countries noted that forests and SFM were already high priorities before 2007.

Countries gave the following examples to illustrate changes in the availability of resources.

- Among donor countries, Finland stated that annual official development assistance (ODA) for SFM-related activities had increased from approximately US\$20 million in 2007 to about US\$40 million in 2013. Norway is also a major contributor to REDD+ through the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative, which provides results-based finance to tropical developing countries that can reduce greenhouse-gas emissions; the funds are channelled through direct bilateral partnerships with, for example, Brazil, Ethiopia, Guyana, Indonesia, Liberia, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam and through multilateral programmes such as the United Nations Collaborative Programme for Reducing Emissions

from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Programme. The budget of this initiative is approximately US\$500 million per year. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also stated that it had increased ODA for forestry in recent years and that its International Climate Fund, which aims to reduce poverty by assisting developing countries to adapt to climate change, take up low-carbon growth, and reduce deforestation, will provide £3.87 billion in ODA from 2011 to 2016.

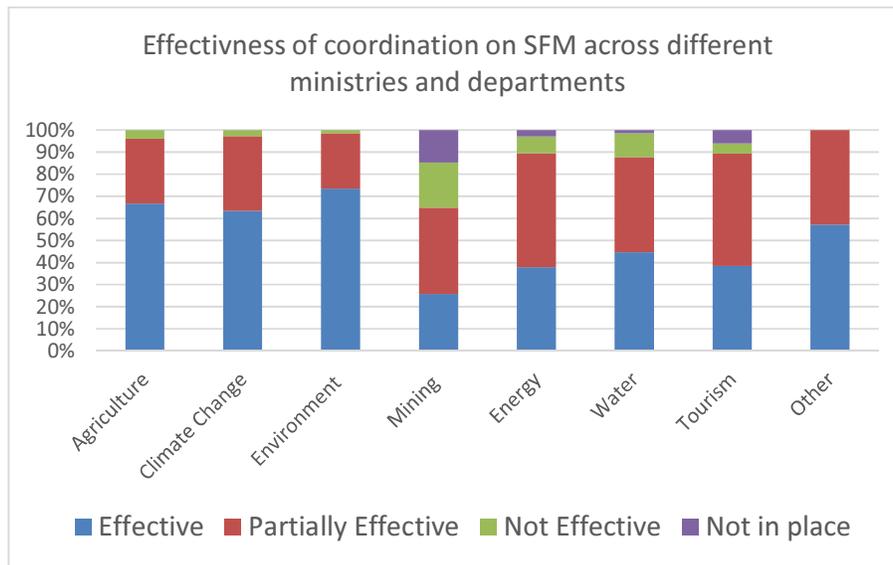
- Several developing countries and countries with economies in transition gave examples of the role of ODA. Georgia, for example, referred to cooperation agreements it had with Austria and Germany. Ghana highlighted support from the EU, the World Bank, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Forest Investment Program. Kenya reported that ODA from development partners had increased, and it mentioned multilateral organizations such as the African Development Bank, FAO, the GEF, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the World Bank, as well as ODA from Australia, Finland, Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Morocco reported mobilizing funding from the EU to strengthen the implementation of sector programmes in SFM and the participation of non-state actors. Papua New Guinea referred to support from Japan, FAO and UN-REDD. The Congo gave details of a World Bank-financed forest and economic diversification project, and Samoa referred to ODA from Australia and Japan.
- A number of countries reported increased domestic public resources. For example, Argentina has created the National Fund for the Protection of Native Forests. Belarus has a five-year programme of forest road construction. In Kenya, revenues from the sale of forest produce help fund forest development and SFM. In Lebanon, more public funds are being directed to the management of forests, reforestation, buying equipment for forest guards, and forest fire-fighting. In Liberia, the national budget is providing funding for the reforestation of degraded areas, while the Government of Mauritius is funding a project to build capacity in sustainable land management. In Mexico, the federal budget for the National Forestry Commission increased by 41.7 per cent between 2007 and 2014 to promote the sustainable management of forest ecosystems. There has been a significant increase in the annual budget allocation for the forest sector in Morocco. Niger has adopted a priority investment plan that includes SFM and which, in the period 2012–2015, will establish 120,000 hectares of forest plantations, assist in the natural regeneration of 200,000 hectares, and consolidate community forest management on 900,000 hectares. The Government of Panama has increased its budget allocation for forests. The Government of Saudi Arabia increased budget allocations for SFM-related activities such as afforestation using treated wastewater, forest rehabilitation and reforestation, and forest guarding, and there were also increases in public and private investment in recreation and tourism in forests. The availability of forest finance increased in the United Republic of Tanzania through the establishment of the Tanzania Forest Fund; in addition, the semi-autonomous Forest Service Agency there can collect revenue by selling forest produce and services and retain sufficient funds for the implementation of its strategic plan. Additional funding was provided in Ukraine for the construction of forest roads to facilitate the implementation of environmental measures, improve protection against fire, and support forest recreation and tourism.
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Kenya both reported that their constitutions make explicit reference to the role and importance of forests. Countries referred to ways in which the forest sector had been taken into account in: key policy documents such as national development plans, poverty reduction strategy papers and other economic development programmes;

agricultural, agroforestry and related food production programmes; community engagement and collaborative forest management strategies; conservation and land restoration plans; policies for combating desertification; and watershed management plans. Several countries explained how these policies and programmes recognized the importance of the sustainable management of forest resources in producing a wide range of goods and services. Countries also highlighted the need to strengthen: research capability to improve understanding of inter-linkages; intersectoral dialogue; and effective communication, including through media awareness.

4. Measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and sustainable forest management

Nearly all responding countries confirmed that their governments had taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM, with most countries referring to the ministries (or departments) of agriculture/rural development, climate change, environment and energy. Coordination with mining ministries or departments was not in place in more than 10 per cent of responding countries, and four countries stated that coordination with tourism ministries or departments was not in place (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Percentage of responding countries reporting on the effectiveness of coordination on SFM across ministries and departments



n = 80

Some countries reported that their procedures for interministerial or interdepartmental coordination were well established and had been in place for many years. Countries identified a number of relevant ministries or departments in addition to those listed in the reporting format (i.e. agriculture/rural development, climate change, environment, mining, energy, water and tourism), most commonly those responsible for economic planning, finance, trade and industry and for regional development, decentralization and community affairs (including those related to indigenous peoples). Some countries mentioned coordination with ministries or departments responsible for education (both in schools and universities), science and technology, interior affairs (including authorities cooperating

against illegal forest-related activities), meteorology, transport, health, urban development and foreign affairs and international development.

Countries provided a wide range of examples to illustrate cross-sectoral cooperation. These included a significant number of REDD+/NAPA-related activities and other multilaterally funded projects; cooperation on strategies related to biodiversity conservation and combating desertification; and MOUs between forest agencies and other ministries or departments. EU Member States referred to the cooperation required to develop rural development programmes under the EU Rural Development Regulation. Some countries noted, however, that while their national forest policies might recognize the role and importance of other sectors, those other sectors did not always make explicit commitment to forest protection and sustainability. It was suggested that, in some cases, intersectoral coordination was not strong, that any such arrangements were impermanent, and that there was weak implementation capacity. Examples of intersectoral coordination included the following.

- In Angola, there is strong cooperation and coordination with the Department of Internal Affairs on controlling the trafficking of illegally harvested forest and wildlife products.
- In Bangladesh, the Forest Department has signed an MOU with the Water Development Board on afforestation programmes, and another MOU with the Department of Tourism on the development of tourism in ways that do not hamper forest conservation.
- In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth is in charge of formulating and implementing policies, strategies, plans, programmes and projects and the transfer of financial resources related to the dynamics of climate change and the coordination of actions for the integrated and sustainable management of forests. The Plurinational Authority operates through the Implementation Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated and Sustainable Management of Forests and Mother Earth, based on the principle of the non-commercialization of the environmental functions of Mother Earth and through the sectoral Mitigation Mechanism for Living Well. The Plurinational Authority also promotes sustainable economic development and energy conservation and fosters processes of adaptation through participative and supportive interventions.
- In Brazil, the Plan to Prevent and Control Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon, which is managed by an interministerial working group, involves partnerships and collaboration among institutions at the federal, state and municipal levels, as well as in the private sector.
- In Ghana, cross-sectoral issues are discussed at the annual Environmental and Natural Resource Summit.
- In Japan, the Cabinet has established a task force, headed by the Prime Minister, to consider ways in which agriculture, forestry, fisheries and rural areas can be sources of vitality and developed sustainably. Interministerial cooperation also exists in monitoring progress in implementing legislation to promote the use of wood in public buildings.
- In Kyrgyzstan, the ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources have an MOU on forest pastures and another on mutual cooperation in combating illegal logging.
- In Lebanon, an interministerial committee was set up to oversee a programme to plant 40 million forest trees in public lands over a 20-year period; the roadmap for this programme includes promoting collaboration among sectors (such as agriculture, livestock, forestry and city councils) and a consensual approach to land-use planning.

- In Mexico, the National Forestry Council brings together representatives of academia, indigenous peoples, government (federal, state and municipal), the industrial private sector, and civil, professional and social society. It does this through groupings with national, subnational or specialized coverage, and each sector appoints advisors to represent them at plenary sessions. Under the General Law of Sustainable Forestry Development, the National Forestry Council is a consultative and advisory body and its opinion must be sought on matters related to forest planning, regulations and standards. The National Forestry Council is also part of the council of representatives for the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources and of the National Forestry Commission.
- In Nepal, the Ministry of Agriculture Development and the Ministry of Forests cooperate in securing food for, and the livelihoods of, poor people through a leasehold forestry programme.
- In Niger, an interministerial committee comprising the ministries in charge of forests, energy, trade and finance has a mandate to improve collaboration, for example on action aimed at reducing the consumption of woodfuel, in order to preserve forests.
- In Papua New Guinea, the Forest Authority and the Department of Agriculture and Livestock work together when proposals for agricultural projects require the clearing of large areas of forest. Both agencies have working mechanisms to ensure that agricultural development is carefully planned, executed and monitored so that landowners benefit fully and the destruction and degradation of forests and lands is minimal.
- In Portugal, the national forest authority and the national authority for nature conservation have been merged, allowing closer collaboration on matters related to forests and nature conservation.
- Romania has an interministerial action plan (involving the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and the National Customs Authority, under the Ministry of Finance) to prevent and combat illegal logging and associated trade.
- In Samoa, the Forestry Division works closely with the Water Resources Division on the rehabilitation of water catchments to ensure safe water supplies and sustainable watersheds. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries works closely with the Forestry Division in the implementation of agroforestry demonstration plots.
- In Saudi Arabia, there is cooperation among municipalities and with the Ministry of the Interior in combating the illegal cutting and marketing of woodfuel.

5. Time-bound and quantified targets related to forest area

Countries were asked whether their governments' national forest policies, strategies or programmes contained time-bound and quantified targets on forest area; Figure 7 shows that 65 per cent of responding countries answered "yes" to this question. Countries were also asked to list the targets and the dates by which those targets are to be achieved.

Figure 7. Responses of countries to a question on whether their governments' national forest policies, strategies or programmes contained time-bound and quantified targets on forest area

The majority of targets related to overall forest cover (expressed in hectares or square kilometres or as a percentage of land cover) and afforestation area (including, in some cases, plantation area). There were also targets for protected-forest area, forest restoration area, area under SFM (in some cases related to certification), and reduction in the area of net deforestation. Targets not related directly to area included those on production (e.g. timber or biomass/charcoal), carbon storage, combating desertification, biodiversity conservation, participatory forest management and community benefits, and the MDGs. Some countries reported that quantitative time-bound targets had not been adopted but that their national forest programmes included goals, general principles and measures to support implementation. Time-scales for achieving targets varied but were typically 5, 10 or 20 years.

6. Activities to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests

Figure 8 shows that 80 per cent of responding countries reported undertaking reforestation since 2007, and more than half reported undertaking afforestation or restoration.

Figure 8. Percentage of countries reporting that they had undertaken afforestation, reforestation and restoration since 2007

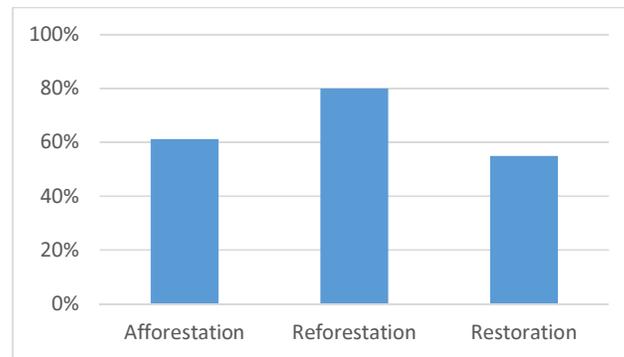
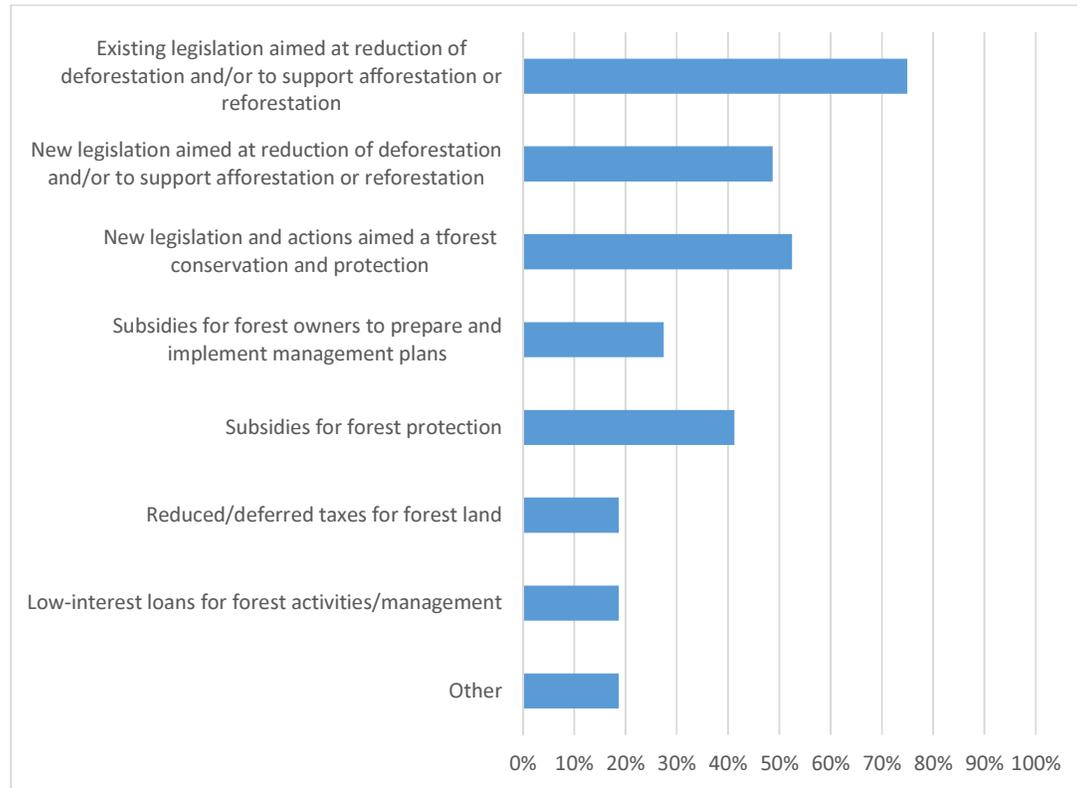


Figure 9. Percentage of countries with legislation aimed at reducing deforestation or supporting reforestation, and subsidies for various purposes



n = 80

Figure 9 shows that the most frequently cited measure for reversing the loss of forest cover and enhancing the area and quality of forests was the enforcement of existing legislation aimed at reducing deforestation and/or supporting afforestation/reforestation. Figure 9 also shows that nearly half of responding countries introduced new legislation after 2007 aimed at reducing deforestation or supporting afforestation and reforestation, and slightly more than half introduced new legislation and actions aimed at forest conservation and protection. More than 40 per cent of responding countries provide subsidies for forest protection. Some countries referred to REDD+ and other schemes that make use of carbon finance. Several countries highlighted community-related mechanisms, such as the transfer of management and use rights to local communities, community forestry programmes, community-owned woodlots and community-based agroforestry demonstration plots. Reference was also made to awareness-raising campaigns and associated tree-planting initiatives.

Countries gave a wide variety of examples of how regulations and financial incentives are being used to reverse the loss of forest cover and enhance the area and quality of forests, such as the following.

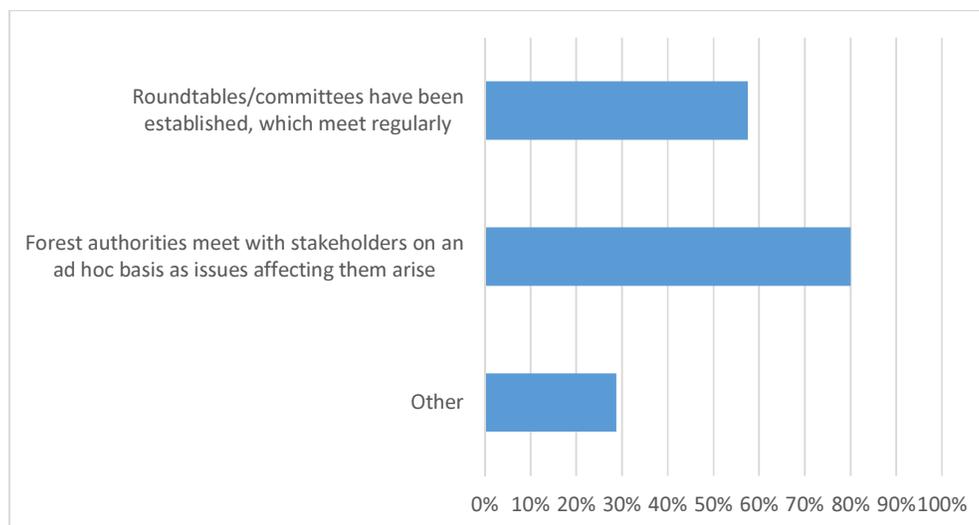
- In Austria, forest owners are obliged by law to reforest after harvesting. If forest is removed (e.g. for agriculture, infrastructure or housing), compensatory afforestation is required.
- In Ontario, Canada, afforestation is being driven by the “50 Million Trees” initiative. In British Columbia, Canada, 1.1 million hectares has been reforested under the “Forests for Tomorrow” programme.
- In China, 48.6 million hectares of young and middle-aged forests were tended between 2007 and 2013 as a result of a forest-tending subsidy. Benefits included a large number of job

opportunities for forest farmers and foresters, support for emerging industries that use residues from tending operations, and improved forest management.

- In Côte d'Ivoire, the ministries of Forests and Education are collaborating on a State-funded initiative called the "Five-hectare School Forest". The initiative has planted 150 hectares of land in its first two years, and it has had a strong impact in initiating environmental education among young people.
- In Finland, the Forest Biodiversity Programme for Southern Finland includes activities such as the voluntary protection of private forests, and restoration activities in public and private forests.
- In Grenada, forest seedlings are propagated at the Government's forest nursery and distributed to farmers and landowners at prices that are lower than the cost of production to encourage tree-planting on agricultural land.
- In Ghana, the revolving Community Investment Fund has been created as an alternative livelihood scheme that supports income generation and collaborative resource management by forest-fringe communities.
- In Lithuania, the law was amended in 2011 so that forest land may only be converted to farm land (or other land uses) in exceptional cases, and, in those cases, private forest owners must plant an equivalent or larger area of new forest on their own land or pay compensation to a State fund used to plant and maintain new forests. The same rules apply in State forests.
- In Malaysia, soft loans are available to encourage the development of forest plantations.
- In Nepal, a youth mobilization programme aims to attract 3,000 forest volunteers for forest conservation and development activities over the next 10 years.
- In Niger, the "One Village One Wood" programme promotes tree planting and maintenance, assisted natural regeneration, and the increased use of alternatives to woodfuel as energy sources through intensive awareness campaigns in both rural and urban areas; by establishing village woodlots using local species with high economic, food and nutritional value; and by promoting agroforestry techniques.
- In 2013, Pakistan achieved a world record by planting 750,000 mangrove seedlings in one day – this was done in an island village and involved 300 people.
- In Romania, tax exemptions apply to non-public forests up to 20 years old and to non-public forests designated by forest management plans with special protection functions.
- In South Africa, the annual National Arbor Week promotes the planting and maintenance of indigenous trees and raises awareness of urban greening initiatives.

7. Mechanisms in place for involving stakeholders in forest/sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation.

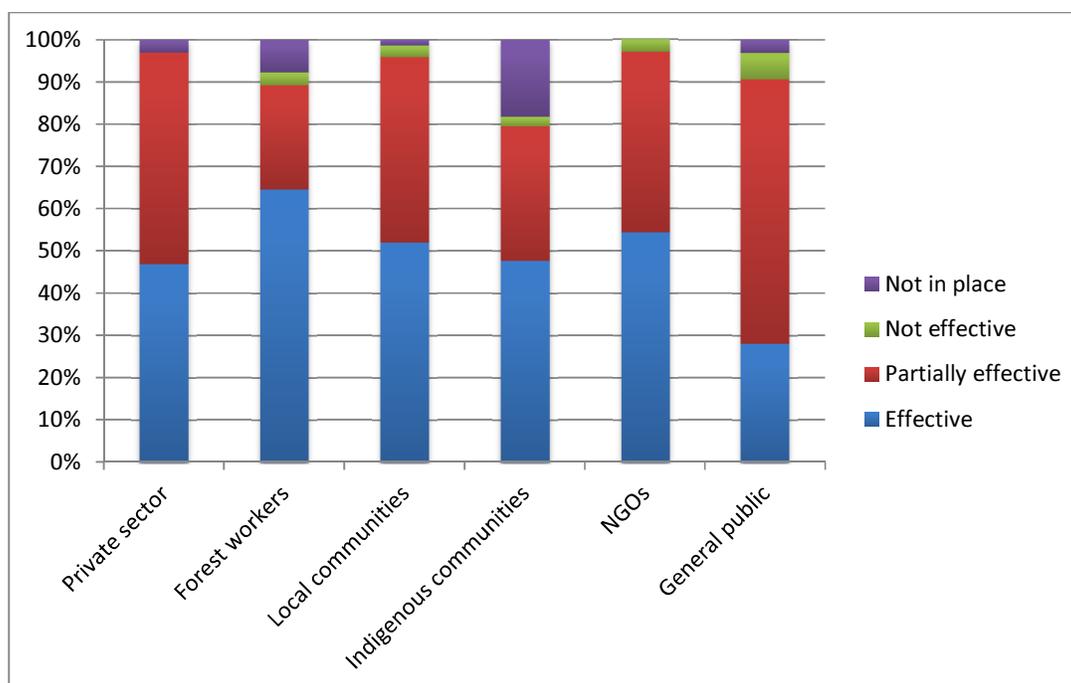
Figure 10. Percentage of countries with mechanisms for involving stakeholders



n = 80

Figure 10 shows that forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an ad hoc basis in 80 per cent of responding countries, while more than half of responding countries reported that roundtables or committees have been established and meet regularly. Other mechanisms used to involve stakeholders noted by countries included invitations to make written comments, respond to website-based consultations and participate in interactive consultation workshops. Several countries highlighted the role of cross-stakeholder discussions, and discussions within the forest sector. Reference was made to certain processes (such as environmental impact assessments) with formalized consultation requirements, and to stakeholder consultation arrangements that exist in processes such as forest certification, FLEGT and REDD+. Some countries referred to “forest days” and related occasions as opportunities to promote stakeholder participation. Constraints on the involvement of stakeholders included a lack of staff in forest administrations and low levels of civil-society and stakeholder awareness. The majority of responding countries considered that mechanisms for promoting a consensus approach to SFM with forest workers, indigenous communities, NGOs and local communities were effective (Figure 11). Fewer than half of responding countries indicated that such mechanisms were effective in promoting consensus with the private sector and the general public, although nearly all countries regarded them as at least partially effective.

Figure 11. Effectiveness of mechanisms in promoting a consensus approach for SFM, by stakeholder group



n = 80

Examples provided by countries of mechanisms to involve stakeholders include the following.

- In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), legal requirements for the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated and Sustainable Management of Forests and Mother Earth include establishing or strengthening territorial/sectoral consultative platforms and programmes with the participation of representative bodies; and the participatory development of plans, programmes and projects.
- In Brazil, indigenous lands are defined in the federal Constitution and cannot be used by anyone other than the indigenous peoples themselves; 4 million hectares of new indigenous areas were recognized from 2008 to 2012. Laws assure the rights of traditional peoples living in and depending on forests within protected areas, while respecting and valuing their knowledge and culture; these rights are defined in accordance with the type and purpose of each protected-area category. The overall legal framework favours local communities and indigenous peoples and allow for the management of natural resources when those communities and peoples are recognized. Legal assurances for indigenous peoples include a guaranteed right of tenure and exclusivity over natural resources and utilities provided by their land. Local communities living in conservation units do not own the land (it belongs to the State), but they have an assured right to continue their traditions, including their own way of sustainably exploiting the natural resources.
- In Canada, the Government's Aboriginal Forestry Initiative fosters enhanced Aboriginal participation in the transformation of Canada's forest sector. The initiative focuses on economic development and empowers Aboriginal entrepreneurs in the forest sector by facilitating knowledge exchange, coordination and support. In Ontario, the Environmental

Registry is a website where the public can find notices about environmentally significant proposals, such as forest harvesting operations on State-owned land. In British Columbia there are requirements for the public review of draft operational plans; in addition, policy forums have been held on topics such as the mid-term timber supply, water sustainability, and tenure conversion.

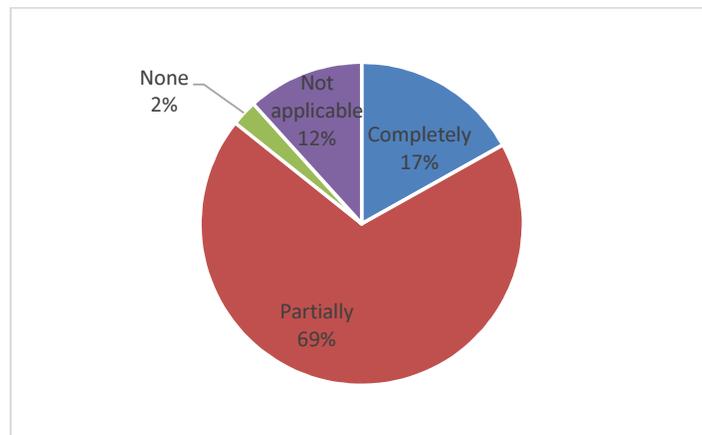
- In Côte d'Ivoire, local farm-forest committees are responsible for forest management and, if necessary, dispute resolution.
- In Croatia, public review is an obligatory part of the process of creating new forest management plans. A draft is made available to all stakeholders, including local people, to seek their views and suggestions for changes and improvements.
- In Cyprus, a forest advisory body has helped promote consensus on the formulation of a new forest policy statement; there is also an advisory committee on the disposal of State forest land.
- In Ethiopia, participatory forest management, which aims to enhance people's participation in managing and using forests, is the model approach used in forest management and has reduced unwanted pressure on forest resources.
- In Jamaica, the Government has established a policy register, which is an up-to-date information system containing a record of all national policies (including their purpose, the responsible ministry and the announcement date). This register serves as a reference point for stakeholders.
- In Liberia, there are social agreements between communities and the concession contract holders.
- In Morocco, forestry authorities consult directly with local people and other stakeholders on forest management studies; marking out the permanent forest estate; identifying and implementing reforestation, water-basin and protected-area management programmes; preparing and reviewing campaigns against forest fire; and proposals to create protected areas.
- Nepal has a forest-sector coordination committee, district forest-sector coordination committees, and forest user groups. About 30 per cent of the forest area is under a community-based forest management regime, which allows local user groups to develop and implement operational management plans, with technical input from government agencies.
- In New Zealand, there is a strategic partnership between the Government and the forest sector (represented by the Wood Council of New Zealand); its focus is on improving information-sharing and the alignment of Government and industry priorities. There are initiatives on options for a Government-led assurance scheme to enable wood exports to meet international requirements on illegal logging; mainstreaming engineered timber; and exploring how Government policies can better reflect the "whole of life cycle" environmental attributes of timber.
- In South Africa, the National Forests Advisory Committee, with representatives from Government, industry, communities, private individuals, labour and traditional authorities, advises the Minister of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries on matters related to SFM. There are also various forums at the local level.

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum is a national civil-society organization aiming to bring about citizen-driven changes in policy and practice to achieve more effective, efficient and equitable sustainable natural resource management. The Forum promotes community-based natural resource management as the focus for strengthening the voices of citizens through a holistic, cross-sectoral approach. The Forum’s working groups include the Forest Working Group, the Wildlife Working Group and the Pastoralist Livelihood Task Force.
- In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Forestry Commission in Scotland held public consultations on choosing Scotland’s national tree, the policy for managing forest and peatland habitats, and local district forest design plans for State-owned forests.
- In the United States of America, extensive public consultations were held on the revision, in 2012, of a rule that guides the revision of land management plans in all National Forests and Grasslands. Since 2008, states have completed state forest action plans, which by law include stakeholder engagement.
- In Yemen, the forest authorities liaise with local leaders to encourage them to disseminate conservation messages to local communities and to urge people to seek technical advice about afforestation and soil and forest conservation.

8. Extent to which local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly owned forests

Figure 12 shows that local and indigenous communities have partial tenure or user rights in publicly owned forests in 69 per cent of responding countries, and complete rights in 17 per cent of countries.

Figure 12. Extent to which local and indigenous communities have tenure/user rights in publicly owned forests



n = 80

Countries provided examples of how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced in forests. In many countries, traditional ownership and/or rights allow communities to use forests and benefit from them in ways that have no adverse effects on forests, but the following examples show that there is considerable variation in detail.

- In Albania, local communities may use forests to meet their needs for woodfuel, construction materials and cattle-grazing.
- In Angola, local communities are entitled to benefit from forest and wildlife resources on community lands.
- In Armenia, citizens have the right to visit the forests owned by the State or communities for recreation and the collection of wild fruit, berries, nuts, mushrooms and plants for personal use (except where there are legal exceptions).
- In Belarus, local people have the right to unlimited access to the forest, to collect non-timber resources for their own needs, and to purchase timber from forest fund holders.
- In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Constitution recognizes and protects community land belonging to indigenous peoples and gives indigenous communities located in forest areas exclusive rights over their use and management.
- In Botswana, the Community Based Natural Resources Management Programme promotes community participation in the management of forest and woodland resources. It is founded on the premise that all members of the community share an interest in improving their livelihoods while at the same time managing and using natural resources sustainably. The programme is implemented through community trusts, and its activities include subleasing concessions to private companies; managing cultural and photographic tourism; and marketing wood carvings and non-wood forest products such as basketry.
- In Brazil, thousands of families living in extreme poverty who reside inside protected areas, extractive reserves and sustainable settlement projects, and who depend on forests for their livelihoods, receive financial benefits through the Bolsa Verde programme if they commit to maintaining vegetation cover and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- In Cambodia, the traditional use of forest resources by local and indigenous communities is recognized and respected by forestry law.
- In the Comoros, local communities may use forest resources such as timber, honey, aromatic and medicinal plants, and woodfuel.
- The forest law in the Congo recognizes the use rights of local communities residing in or around forests.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, local people have the right to harvest woodfuel, fruits and medicinal plants to meet domestic needs, but the occupation of State-owned forests is not a recognized right. Because there is considerable occupation of such forest land by farmers, however, there is a programme under which occupants agree to plant trees (at low densities) and not to clear more forest.
- In Croatia, local communities may use publicly owned forests for activities such as walking, studying, recreation, art and performances.
- In Cyprus, agreements between local community councils and the Department of Forests set out the rights and obligations of each partner and require management plans.
- In the Dominican Republic, State-owned land (totalling about 14,000 hectares) has been passed to communities, subject to management in accordance with agreed forest management

plans. In much of the country, however, there is no property title to land covered by forests, although the government has confirmed rights to traditional use that does not damage the forest.

- In Estonia there is an “everyman’s right” of access to forests, including for berry-picking and camping.
- In Finland, “everyman’s right” of free public access applies in all forests (both public and private, excluding strict nature reserves and military areas) and includes the right to pick berries and harvest mushroom. There is also free reindeer herding in public forests in northern Finland and regular negotiations with the Sámi Parliament over land use in the Sámi area.
- In Gabon, communities in rural forests have rights related to community forest reservations and logging for pit-sawing.
- In Ghana, local communities are permitted to collect firewood, medicinal plants, food and other materials, and to perform traditional rites and rituals (such as keeping and managing sacred groves).
- In Guatemala, areas of forest that are in ancestral ownership by indigenous communities are worked by them in accordance with their traditional knowledge.
- In Guinea-Bissau, rural communities may use the forest to obtain wood products (for construction, furniture manufacture and other products, and for firewood and charcoal); fodder for livestock, fertilizer and forest litter; food (bushmeat, roots, edible leaves, fruits, nuts, mushrooms, honey and spices); medicinal plants; dyes; and craft products. There is also agroforestry and slash-and-burn shifting cultivation.
- In Guinea, local communities have rights to use wood and non-wood forest products.
- In the Islamic Republic of Iran, local and indigenous communities may benefit from forest goods and services in the form of woodfuel and construction materials for their local purposes.
- In Jordan, communities are allowed to collect fallen branches, fruits and mushrooms, and they may use 1,000 square metres of forest land for beekeeping and to cultivate ornamental and medicinal plants or mushrooms.
- In Liberia, concessionaires sign “social agreements” to provide benefits to affected communities around concession areas: 2.55 per cent of revenues received from the exploitation of community forests remains with the communities for development, and the Government remits 30 per cent of land rental fees to communities through the Benefit Sharing Mechanism Trust Board.
- In Luxembourg, there is a right of access to forests for recreational purposes, including the right to harvest regulated mushrooms.
- In Kenya, there is country-wide woodfuel collection, grazing, and use of forests for cultural/religious purposes, as well as particular activities (such as butterfly farming) in certain areas.

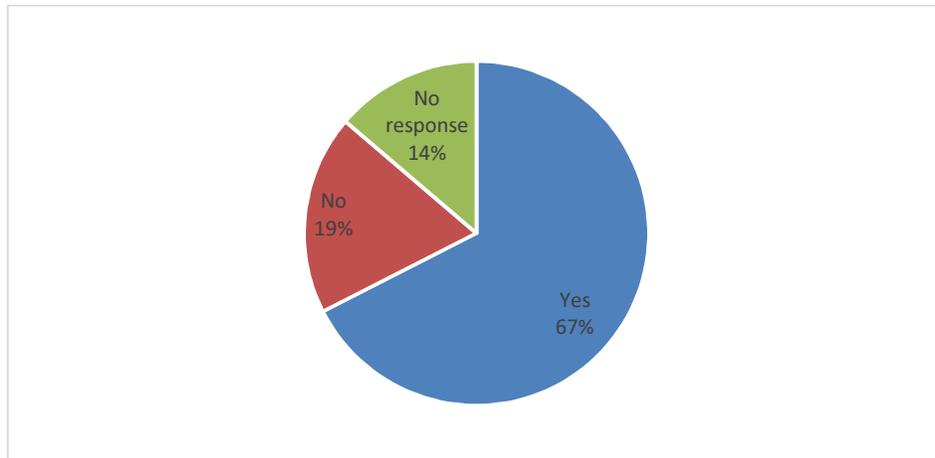
- In Kyrgyzstan, local people may use forest lands for pasture, hay and the cultivation of agricultural products, as well as for the collection of forest fruits, berries, mushrooms, woodfuel and construction timber.
- In Madagascar, local communities are entitled to use natural resources, subject to compliance with a management plan. Such compliance is closely regulated in the buffer zones of protected areas.
- In Morocco, local populations have rights, recognized by law, to remove dead wood lying on the ground and other secondary products for domestic use.
- In Myanmar, local communities may benefit from small timber, posts, poles, woodfuel, non-timber forest products and other ecosystem goods and services under the community forestry programme.
- In Nepal, community-based management regimes give local communities and indigenous people considerable rights over the goods and services derived from forests, based on management plans. Benefit-sharing arrangements vary, however: under the community forestry regime, all benefits go to the community; under the collaborative forest management regime, benefits are shared equally between the Government and local communities; and pro-poor leasehold forestry gives all benefits from forests to the poor in order to improve their livelihoods.
- In Niger, the law gives local communities a monopoly on the commercial exploitation of timber from village forests. Local communities also receive 50 per cent of taxes levied on the transportation of wood.
- In Panama, communities negotiate forest harvesting directly with logging companies and receive benefits from the sale of wood; community-based enterprises for harvesting and forest management have been organized. Forests are State-owned, but – with the support of community leaders – communities may use the resources if they meet Government requirements.
- In Papua New Guinea, nearly 97 per cent of land is owned customarily by clans and tribal groups.
- In Portugal there is public, private and community forest ownership; in some cases, community-owned land is co-managed by local communities and the State. Local inhabitants have rights to designated land (called “baldios”, which cover more than 400,000 hectares) and may use the pasture and collect wood and non-wood products. Public forests are managed by the State or by local authorities; access is granted to the public, but no land tenure or rights apply.
- In Samoa, 80 per cent of land is owned by the Samoan people.
- In Slovakia, the national law guarantees an “everyman’s right” to enter forests and use them for recreational purposes.
- In Switzerland, full rights apply in cases where the community owns the public forest. Where the community is not the owner, the community has free access for recreation, a right to collect dead branches as firewood and to harvest mushrooms (subject to regulations), and a share of deer-hunting fees.

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, local communities are allowed to participate in forest management as well as to benefit from its products and services. Communities living adjacent to forest reserves may collect woodfuel, timber and other forest products freely and undertake (for example) beekeeping, butterfly farming and ecotourism. There is some regulation of the harvesting of woodfuel (including for charcoal) and timber.
- In Ukraine, people have an unrestricted right to access forests free of charge and to collect non-wood forest products for their own consumption.
- In Zimbabwe, the law provides inhabitants and occupants of communal land with the right to exploit forest produce for their own use.

9. Financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the Forest Instrument

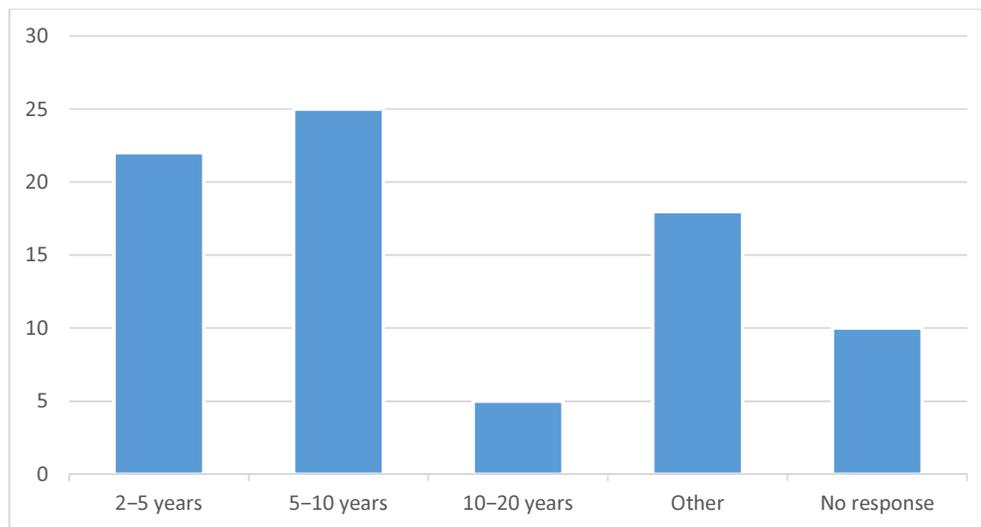
Figure 13 shows that, in more than two-thirds of responding countries, governments have developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument since 2007. Nearly half such strategies have a time frame of between 2 and 10 years (Figure 14). Figure 15 shows the percentages of these strategies that take into account various forms of funding.

Figure 13. Responses of countries to the question, “Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?”



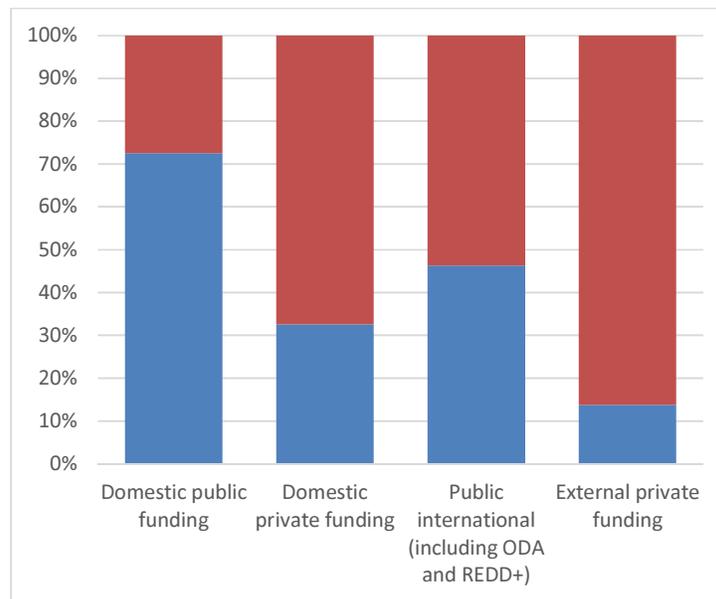
n = 80

Figure 14. Time frames among responding countries for financial strategies to achieve SFM



n = 80

Figure 15. Forms of funding taken into account in government financing strategies developed or updated since 2007 to achieve SFM and implement the Forest Instrument



n = 80

Countries were invited to provide examples of financing strategies. Some reported that they had not developed or updated financing strategies for SFM explicitly to implement the Forest Instrument or that any such financing strategies pre-dated the Forest Instrument and were driven by domestic policy priorities. Several EU Member States pointed out that their domestic funding for SFM was co-financed by the EU under its Rural Development Regulation. Some countries (e.g. Grenada, Kenya, Malaysia and the United Republic of Tanzania) referred to funding from foundations, often for specific purposes such as conservation and biodiversity projects and special events. Other examples of financing included the following.

- Bolivia (Plurinational State of) has a cooperative programme with Denmark for the integrated and sustainable management of forests in the context of the Joint Implementation Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for Integrated and Sustainable Management of Forests and Mother Earth.
- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a levy on commercial income of 0.07 per cent helps fund the public functions of forests. Similar levies also apply in Serbia and Croatia. In the latter, a “green tax” was introduced in 1991 and applied at 0.07 per cent in 2011, 0.0525 per cent in 2012 and 0.0265 per cent in 2013 and 2014; it is distributed to all categories of forest owners/managers to support defined SFM-related activities.
- In Brazil, the National Forest Development Fund is part of the federal Government budget and is managed by the Brazilian Forest Service; it aims to foster the development of forest-based sustainable activities and to promote technological innovation. Since 2010 the fund has supported 150 organizations (with approximately 7,300 beneficiaries) in SFM-related projects throughout the country. The Climate Fund supports projects and studies and finances efforts to mitigate climate change. The Amazon Fund raises donations earmarked for non-refundable investments in preventing, monitoring and combating deforestation, in addition to the conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian forests; federal, state and municipal governments, scientific institutions and NGOs are eligible for grants from the Amazon Fund.
- In China, the Forestry Development Plan 2011–2015 continues to scale up investments in forestry development, from RMB263.2 billion in 2011 to RMB334.2 billion in 2012 and RMB378.2 billion in 2013 (including State investment of RMB110.6 billion in 2011, RMB124.5 billion in 2012 and RMB139.4 billion in 2013). In the three years 2011–2013, the investment was allocated as follows: 48 per cent to ecological construction and protection, 7 per cent to forestry support and guarantees, 24 per cent to forestry industrial development, 4 per cent to forestry livelihood projects and 17 per cent to other areas.
- The Congo has a project to develop plans for concession management, supported financially by France, and a forest inventory supported by the World Bank as part of the five-year Forest and Economic Diversification Project.
- In the Dominican Republic, the Government relaunched the “Quisqueya Verde” reforestation plan in 2007. This plan has an annual investment of more than US\$15 million and involves social forestry (reforestation with community participation), the creation of multiple-use forests, the recovery of national and local natural areas, environmental education (with workshops and field days), and improved housing, infrastructure and community services.
- In Lebanon, EuropeAid financed the Agriculture and Rural Development Programme aimed at fostering afforestation and reforestation activities in line with the goals of the “40 Million Trees” programme.
- The Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar received US\$10 million from the GEF as its contribution to financing the conservation of Madagascar’s forest and environmental heritage.
- Mauritania has a national programme against bushfires and is a partner in the Great Green Wall of the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.
- In Nepal, domestic public funding increased from US\$23.2 million in 2007 to US\$49.2 million in 2011 and US\$76.6 million in 2014; the net ODA received for the forest sector was US\$9.5 million in 2011 and US\$25.2 million in 2014. In addition, forest user groups have

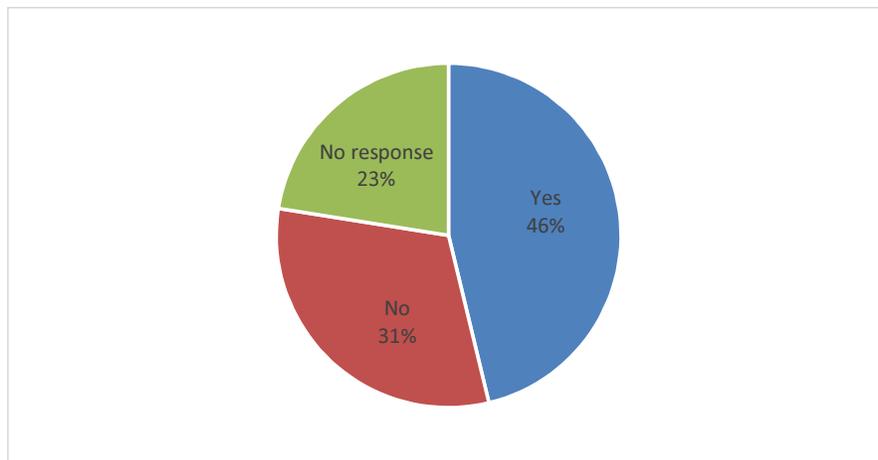
used a US\$20 million fund sourced largely from the sale of forest products for SFM, community development and poverty reduction activities.

- In the Russian Federation, the State Forestry Sector Development Programme 2013–2020 aims to improve forest use, protection and reforestation and satisfy public demand for forest resources, while preserving forest resources, the environment and the comprehensive functions of forests. Key tasks include reducing forest losses due to wildfire, pests and illegal logging; creating conditions for the rational and intensive use of forests while preserving their environmental functions and biodiversity; improving the supervision of forest use and reforestation; ensuring a balance between forest loss and reforestation; improving forest yield and quality; and making forest management more efficient.
- In Samoa, Japan is supporting a number of programmes focused on building forest monitoring and inventory capacity in the context of climate-change mitigation.

10. Systems/mechanisms for payments for ecosystem services provided by forests

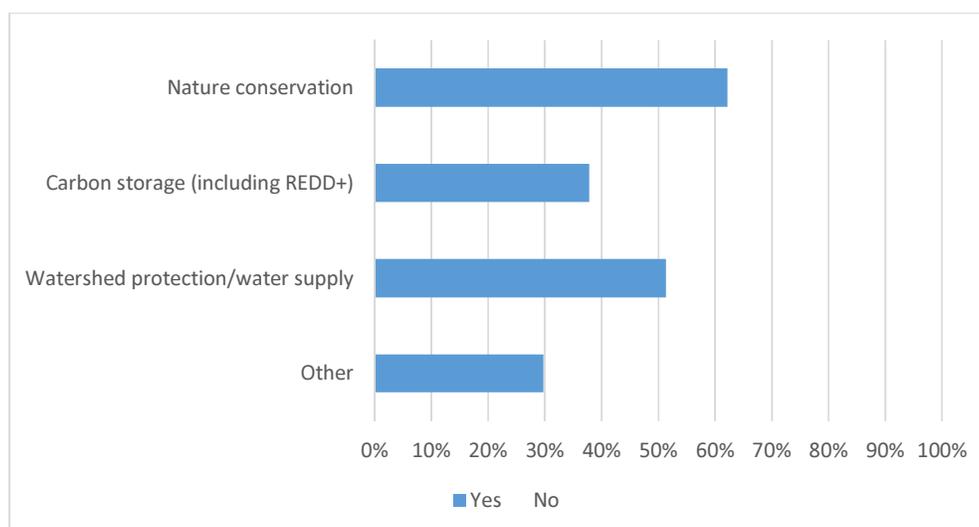
Nearly half of responding countries reported one or more systems or mechanisms for payments for the ecosystem services provided by forests (Figure 16). Of the 37 countries that reported the existence of PES schemes, more than 60 per cent had schemes that supported nature conservation, more than 50 per cent had schemes that supported watershed protection, and more than 35 per cent had schemes that supported carbon storage (Figure 17).

Figure 16. Responses by countries to the question, “Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payments for ecosystem services provided by forests?”



n = 80

Figure 17. Percentage of countries with various types of PES scheme



n = 37

Other ecosystem services mentioned by countries include landslide prevention/erosion control, soil conservation and recreation/ecotourism. Many of the reported PES schemes involve the use of public funding and some involve the use of private funding. Some PES schemes offer “bundles” of ecosystem services and therefore may not be attributed directly to particular ecosystem services.

- Costa Rica has established debt-for-nature swaps in cooperation with the Government of the United States of America: a US\$26 million fund established in 2007 will be disbursed over 16 years to promote the conservation, maintenance and restoration of tropical forests through project financing and land acquisition in prioritized geographical areas, and a US\$27 million fund established in 2010 will finance the consolidation of protected wild areas.
- In Côte d’Ivoire, revenue derived from ecotourism in national parks and reserves will increase in coming years. In 2008, the Government and a private company signed a partnership agreement for the management of four forests (totalling 41,000 hectares) for ecotourism; the proposed investment is valued at nearly US\$12 million and should help improve biodiversity conservation and generate substantial financial resources.
- In Japan, 35 prefectures (of a total of 47) have, since 2003, imposed their own forest environment taxes. These taxes provide a source of funds for the improvement of forests to fulfil functions such as landslide prevention and soil conservation, water resource conservation, carbon storage, awareness-raising and forest environmental education. Many public water suppliers for large cities charge water consumers a fee to help pay for forest management as a way of ensuring a stable, high-quality water supply.
- In Malaysia, fees are charged for entry into national parks and nature reserves. A number of other countries, such as Grenada, Liberia and Ukraine, also referred to payments for recreational facilities.
- In Mexico, the National Strategy of Payment for Environmental Services comprises three programmes: a national programme, in which the Federal Government pays the providers of environmental services; local mechanisms (of which there were 69 in 2013), in which at least half the funds paid to providers come from organizations, companies, state governments and

municipalities; and the Biodiversity Heritage Trust, which is a PES scheme in areas with globally important biodiversity that are not subject to other conservation schemes.

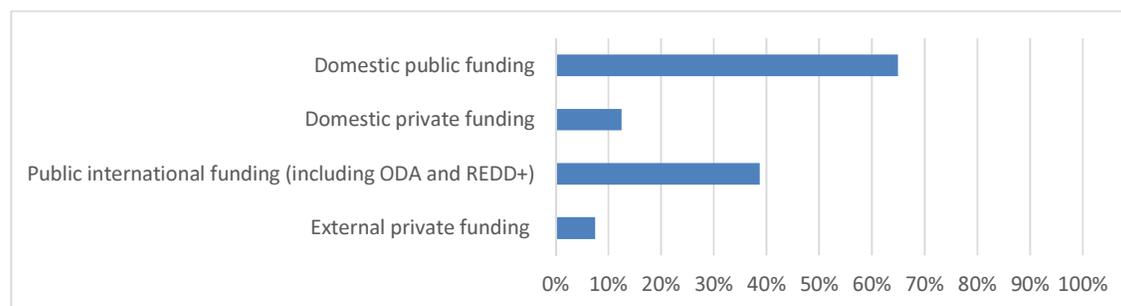
- The New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, the primary tool by which New Zealand aims to meet its international climate-change obligations, puts a price on emissions and therefore creates financial incentives to reduce emissions. Forestry was the first sector of the New Zealand economy to participate in the scheme (in 2008). There is also the complementary Permanent Forest Sink Initiative and the Erosion Control Funding Programme, in which the Government pays for the establishment of forests that provide ecosystem services and benefits.
- In Samoa, approximately US\$200,000 has been paid to community landowners for ecosystem services related to water catchment protection and conservation and the protection and conservation of forests and ecological services.
- In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Woodland Carbon Code, which is a voluntary assurance mechanism for carbon capture through additional afforestation, has enabled the sale of about 1 million credits since 2011, with an estimated value of at least £3 million. The Natural Environment White Paper, published in 2011, put in place initiatives to encourage private-sector funding for the natural environment through PES.
- In the United States of America, water conservation and purification projects to provide municipal water supplies are among the most common forms of PES schemes. There are also municipal investments in trees and green space as a form of “green infrastructure” that can substitute for investments in sewerage and related water runoff systems and provide other ecosystem services. The “i-Tree” software suite is designed to quantify the benefits provided by trees and therefore to assist communities in gaining support and funding for trees in parks, schoolyards and neighbourhoods. The State of California has put in place a carbon cap-and-trade programme that recognizes the value of forest-based carbon credits.
- In Viet Nam, a government decree on payments for forest environmental services has been applied nationwide since 2011, bringing positive impacts that contribute to SFM, livelihood improvement and environment protection. The scheme has mobilized about US\$160 million, most of which has been used to fund forest protection and development. The number of forest violations (e.g. those related to deforestation and forest fire) has declined sharply, and jobs have been created, with the participation of 236,425 households in the scheme and improved incomes for local people engaged in forestry.

Several other countries, including Canada, Ghana, Morocco, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania, reported that they have initiated studies on PES or are developing pilot projects.

11. Mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management

Figure 18 shows the percentage of responding countries in which significantly increased financial resources have been mobilized since 2007; mostly this has occurred through additional domestic public funding (more than 60 per cent of responding countries) and public international funding (in slightly less than 40 per cent of responding countries), and to a lesser extent through domestic and external private funding.

Figure 18. Percentage of countries that have mobilized significantly increased financial resources for SFM since 2007 from various sources



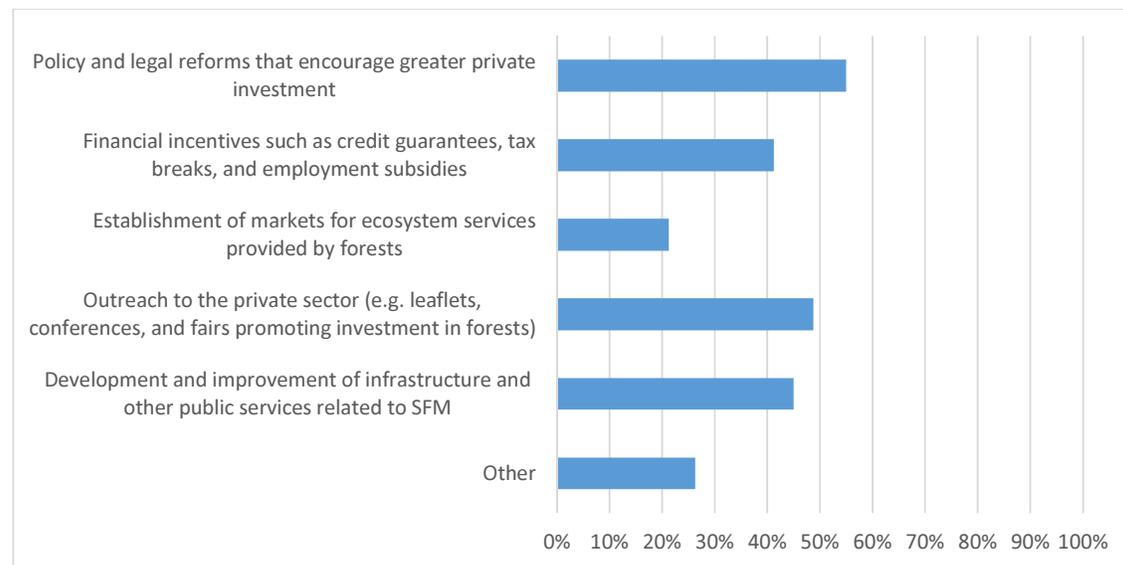
n = 80

Countries reporting no significant increase in the mobilization of financing resources were asked to describe the main challenges they faced in such mobilization. Many referred to the global financial and economic crisis that began in 2007, and some also highlighted issues such as the recession in forest markets, political crises, and economic sanctions. Some countries pointed out that a lack of political commitment made forests a low priority when decisions were taken on public funding, and they attributed this partly to an undervaluation of forests and their economic contributions. Some countries stressed the difficulties in attracting private-sector financing for SFM, even when public-sector co-financing was available. Securing additional funding through levies and similar charges (such as PES) can also be difficult, for example when they are regarded as para-fiscal taxes that place an additional burden on the national economy. Other challenges cited included changes in priorities; changes in development partners; changes of government; the fragmentation of funding institutions and mechanisms; complex procedures; a lack of national capacity; and delays in making payments.

12. Steps taken to encourage private-sector investment in sustainable forest management and forests

Figure 19 shows the percentage of responding countries in which governments have taken various actions to encourage private-sector investment in SFM and forests since 2007, with many countries adopting a mix of approaches.

Figure 19. Actions reported by countries to encourage private investment in SFM since 2007



n = 80

“Other actions” mentioned by responding countries include the development of technical standards; forest inventory work; the establishment of training institutions; forest extension services for the forest sector; allowing investors to establish plantations in State-owned forests; and the promotion of wood from sustainable sources. Specific examples of actions taken to encourage private-sector investment include the following.

- In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is an association of private forest owners.
- In Brazil, forest concessions are a form of public–private partnership that aim to promote SFM by leveraging resources from the private sector. Forest concessions for private companies to sustainably manage public forests have been allowed since 2006; 622,200 hectares of public forests are now under forest concession regimes.
- Ecological and hunting tourism has been developed in Belarus.
- In Canada, the federal Government created the Investments in Forest Industry Transformation programme in 2010 to accelerate the deployment of highly innovative, first-in-kind technologies with the aim of “de-risking” new technologies and encourage their broader adoption. The programme has supported 14 projects to date, such as the construction of the world’s first cellulose filament plant, the creation of an engineered fibre mat, and the implementation of a system to generate electricity using biomass-derived waste heat.
- In China, collective forest-tenure reform has given farmers tenure over forest land for 70 years, and forest-tenure mortgage loans and forest insurance are available in many provinces. A forest governance mechanism gives management rights and property disposal rights to forest farmers. The State Forest Administration released Opinions on Further Reform and Improved Logging and Management of Collective Forests in 2014 with the aim of implementing a more transparent logging quota distribution system, simplifying approval procedures for logging, improving logging oversight, and combining logging management with scientific operations in collective forests.

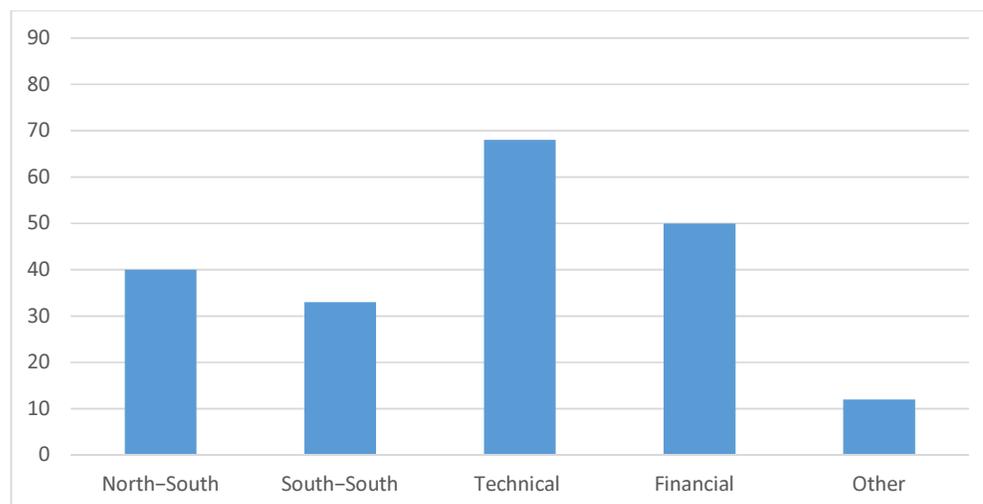
- In France, a package of measures to encourage investment in private forests and SFM includes creating a forest investment and insurance account (allowing owners to insure against storm risk) and tax incentives for investment in forests, with an enhanced rate for beneficiaries belonging to recognized producer organizations.
- In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a law on the reduction of State control of executive activities and the transfer of affairs to the private sector is increasing the role of the private sector in forest-related activities such as running nurseries and forest parks.
- In Jamaica, a private planting programme was designed to encourage private landowners and other entities to plant trees on land not currently under productive use for commercial wood production and soil conservation. The Declaration of Lands Programme was established as a mechanism to provide private landowners with tax incentives for declaring their lands as forest reserves or forest management areas, contributing to the preservation and protection of the environment.
- In Liberia, new regulations will encourage forest product processing and marketing. The construction and rehabilitation of roads and ports enables logging companies to transport and export harvested forest products. Changes to the land rental bid premium, and the merging of the processing timber export fee and stumpage, are aimed at encouraging the industrialization of the forest sector.
- In Malaysia, the participation of small and medium-sized licensees in SFM is being facilitated by the provision of long-term agreements for smaller licence areas. The provision of soft loans, and tax exemptions for 5–10 years, encourages private-sector investment in forest plantations. The private sector is also participating in community development projects in concession areas as part of corporate social responsibility programmes.
- In Mexico, there are funds to support forest investors by providing guarantees that help them obtain loans from the Rural Financial Institution; this funding is granted for activities such as the establishment of commercial forest plantations; the modernization of operations; forest roads; and industrialization. The Centre for Forest Business promotes business networks for forest enterprises through market research, corporate training, financing schemes and the promotion of forestry in national supply markets.
- In New Zealand, the Government seeks to encourage growth in the forest sector by ensuring that the taxation and regulatory systems are as efficient as possible and do not create barriers for investment. Following a forest-grower referendum, the mandatory Forest Owner Commodity Levy was introduced in 2014 to replace the previous voluntary levy; the funds obtained from the Forest Owner Commodity Levy will be invested in areas of research, development and promotion, as decided by forest-growers. The Government collects and disseminates information and data on the forest sector to inform decision-making about planting, harvesting and processing; this includes wood availability forecasts and information on export trends and market conditions.
- In Niger, the Government organizes an annual “Fight against Desertification” competition and awards at least one prize for private-sector investments in plantations that have contributed to that fight. Other incentives include tax breaks for wood from private plantations.
- In Pakistan, some private-sector companies and NGOs are investing in SFM as part of their corporate social responsibility programmes.

- In the State of Palestine, the private sector is provided with free seedlings and technical support.
- In Papua New Guinea, the Government consults the industry on forest management and use, and tax incentives are available for forest-sector industries. The forest industry has developed policy documents such as the National Strategy for Downstream Processing of Forest Products and the Reforestation and Afforestation Strategy.
- In South Africa, work is under way to align financial assistance policies to improve access by forestry to developmental finance (including microfinance) packages such as grants and credit.
- In the United Republic of Tanzania, Finland is supporting a programme to establish private plantation forestry and value chains, and Switzerland is supporting a project aimed at developing commercially viable value chains for legally and sustainably sourced charcoal.
- In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government is working with the private sector to meet the common objective of sourcing 100 per cent credibly certified sustainable palm oil by the end of 2015. As in other EU Member States, domestic support is provided for private investment in afforestation and SFM within the framework of the EU Rural Development Regulation.
- In the United States of America, technical and financial assistance (e.g. tax incentives, cost-sharing, rental payments and grants) that promote SFM on private forest lands is available through the Department of Agriculture and through state and local governments. Other incentives include grants to promote the use of wood biomass as a renewable energy source. The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 is a public–private partnership in which partners take voluntary actions to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with the production of commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, and paper and pulp.

13. International cooperation to promote sustainable forest management

Nearly all responding countries (77 of 80) reported that their governments were engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM. Sixty-eight were involved in technical cooperation, 50 in financial cooperation, 40 in north–south cooperation and 33 in south–south cooperation (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Number of responding countries engaged in various forms of international cooperation to promote SFM



n = 80

Countries were invited to provide examples of international cooperation. Many highlighted multilateral programmes, including those related to REDD+, the EU FLEGT Action Plan, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the Central African Forestry Commission, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, cooperation through processes such as Forest Europe and the Montreal Process, and funding from the GEF to help meet obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (It was also noted that definitions can be problematic when, for example, initiatives with a strong forestry component are coded to non-forestry sectors.) The following is a representative range of the examples provided by countries.

- Angola benefits from FAO technical assistance in its national forest inventory and from technical cooperation with Israel for action on forest conservation and to combat desertification in coastal areas.
- Belarus has concluded agreements with the forest authorities of the Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine. It also cooperates with Estonia and Finland.
- Botswana is in partnership with Germany on a project related to REDD+ monitoring, reporting and verification; with Japan on a project to enhance the national forest monitoring system, including capacity-building in forest inventory and spatial technology; and with the United States of America on the Tropical Forest Conservation Fund.
- Brazil is cooperating with Germany on grants and loans to finance SFM-related projects, especially in the framework of forest concessions. This financial cooperation will provide funding for infrastructure investments.
- Canada supported 128 projects between 2007 and 2014 that had at least some forestry component, of which just over 10 per cent were fully targeted at the forest sector. Examples

include the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities of training institutions in Cameroon, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo so they could become regional centres of excellence; the provision of “Fast Start” climate-change financing to the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility’s Readiness Fund, the Carbon Fund and the Bio Carbon Plus Fund; an agroforestry project in Indonesia; contributions to GEF projects related to forest conservation and management; and the sharing of technical expertise in SFM through the International Model Forest Network.

- Chinese–German fiscal cooperation projects on afforestation (funded by both countries) are carried out in poor regions in China. Outputs by the end of 2013 included the afforestation of 863,000 hectares, managed forests of 104,000 hectares, 50 nurseries, 23.19 million km of forest roads, and the training of nearly 120,000 personnel. Overall, the projects benefited nearly 1.04 million people. China also provided an example of South–South cooperation in forestry training: by the end of 2013, 128 training courses had been held involving about 2,300 trainees from over 60 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and, especially from 2014, this has included training courses on the implementation of the Forest Instrument.
- Costa Rica reported on triangular cooperation with Germany and Morocco to improve the management and sustainable use of forests, protected areas and watersheds in the context of climate change. Thematic areas included watershed management and desertification, preventing and fighting forest fires, the recovery of protected areas through ecotourism and other activities, and PES.
- The Dominican Republic is cooperating with Germany on a programme for the sustainable management of natural resources on the border with Haiti, which includes debt-swap arrangements.
- Finland has cooperated with the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on a participatory forest management project to improve forest governance and SFM. The project is working with communities to improve livelihoods in villages; for example, villages now receive a much larger share of logging benefits than in the past and are provided with livelihood alternatives. The project is also strengthening laws and law enforcement. Finland meets the cost of technical assistance and the World Bank meets other costs. In another programme, with FAO, Finland is promoting the capacity to collect, analyse and use reliable information on forest resources in Ecuador, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.
- India is cooperating with Japan on a project to develop capacity for forest management and the training of personnel, which is being implemented in 26 state forest training institutes, and on afforestation projects to improve livelihood opportunities in neighbouring villages. India is cooperating with the United States of America to promote scientific and technical collaboration on reducing emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration in India’s forests by taking REDD+ actions to scale.
- Japan has made bilateral technical and financial contributions to promote SFM and contributed to multilateral international cooperation through organizations such as FAO and ITTO. According to data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Japan was the second-largest donor in 2012, providing US\$250 million of forest-related ODA, out of a world total of US\$1230 million.
- Kenya is cooperating with Finland on forest resource assessments; with Japan on tree-breeding to develop drought-tolerant tree species; with the EU on community development; with Denmark on work to better understand the drivers of forest-related conflicts; and with the

United States of America on a project to enhance the sustainable and equitable management of biodiverse-rich areas.

- Mexico is implementing a REDD+ South–South cooperation project – with support from FAO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Norway – to develop monitoring, reporting and verification. Mexico is also cooperating in the North American Forestry Commission on issues related to forest genetic resources, fire management, forest inventory and the evaluation of forest resources, and with ITTO on projects to promote SFM, the valuation of ecosystem services and the restoration and rehabilitation of tropical forest ecosystems. Mexico is also cooperating with the EU, France and Spain on an SFM demonstration project to promote the participation of local stakeholders.
- Norway is a major contributor to REDD+ through direct bilateral partnerships with countries such as Brazil, Guyana, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Liberia, Peru, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam, as well as through multilateral programmes such as UN-REDD and the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Program. The budget for the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative is approximately US\$500 million per year.
- In Pakistan, a six-year GEF project is promoting SFM for biodiversity conservation, the mitigation of climate change, and securing the ecosystem services of forests in the western Himalayans, at a total cost of US\$35 million (including GEF grants of US\$8.34 million). Project components are embedding SFM into landscape-scale spatial planning, strengthening biodiversity conservation in and around high-conservation-value forests, and enhancing carbon sequestration in targeted forest landscapes.
- In Papua New Guinea, FAO, ITTO and some donor governments (particularly Australia and Japan) are providing development assistance to the forest sector. Activities include capacity-building and institution-strengthening, research and development, training, forest law enforcement, community forest management, a decision-support system, and activities related to climate change (such as the development of a map for monitoring changes in forest cover).
- Ukraine has forest cooperation agreements with Belarus, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey.
- The international cooperation of the Government of the United States of America has several objectives specifically on forests. These include: slowing the loss and degradation of remaining natural forest ecosystems; improving the sustainability of forest resource use across the broader production and supply chain; reforesting degraded areas to serve production and livelihood needs and enhance food security; maintaining ecosystem services; and improving the conservation of natural forests. The United States of America invests US\$250 million to US\$300 million per year in forest-related foreign assistance and cooperation.

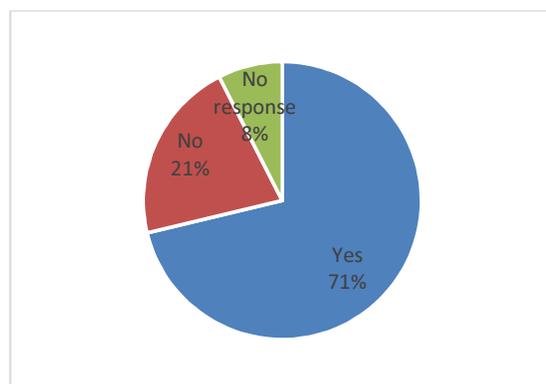
Countries were invited to list key challenges faced by their governments in implementing SFM. The cited challenges varied, reflecting differing national situations, but many responding countries reiterated the lack of adequate and sustainable financing and the consequences of this for institutional capacity and implementation on the ground. The lack of financing was linked to concern that governments afford SFM a low priority compared with other issues, reflecting an undervaluation of the economic, social and environmental benefits obtained from forests. Some countries highlighted the growing pressure on forests, for example from population growth and the dependence on forests for livelihoods, which leads to encroachment, overgrazing and the overexploitation of woodfuel and other forest resources. Countries also stressed the challenge of dealing with unclear land tenure regimes, with some reporting that deforestation rates are lower where communities have formal rights over

their forests and some referring to the adverse impacts of fragmented ownership on SFM. Other pressures include demand for forest conversion for plantation establishment, agricultural expansion, mining, and urban development; drought; desertification; and climate change. In the face of such pressures, many countries (especially in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean) noted that one of the consequences of inadequate funding for forest-related institutions was a lack of trained staff to monitor compliance with forest laws and regulations, engage sufficiently with stakeholders, undertake inventory work, and address management problems such as fire, pests and diseases and the expansion of invasive species. Some countries noted the challenges associated with political and security instability, and several referred to the challenges associated with creating enabling conditions for investment in SFM, improving the competitiveness of the forest products industry, strengthening partnerships with the private sector, and developing markets.

14. Institutes or centres of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for sustainable forest management

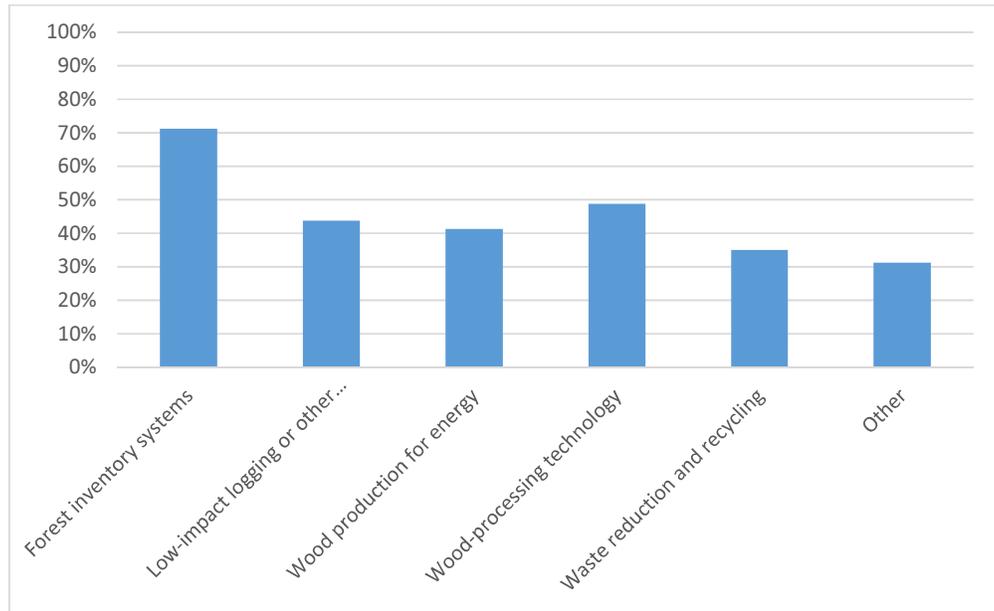
Figure 21 shows that nearly three-quarters of responding countries reported having one or more institutes or centres of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM. Figure 22 shows that forest inventory systems have been a focus of programmatic, technical or scientific activity in just over 70 per cent of responding countries, while wood-processing technology has been a focus in nearly half the responding countries. Figure 23 shows that the target beneficiaries of such activities were most commonly State agencies, followed by local communities and the forest products industry.

Figure 21. Response of countries to question whether they had institutes or centres of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM



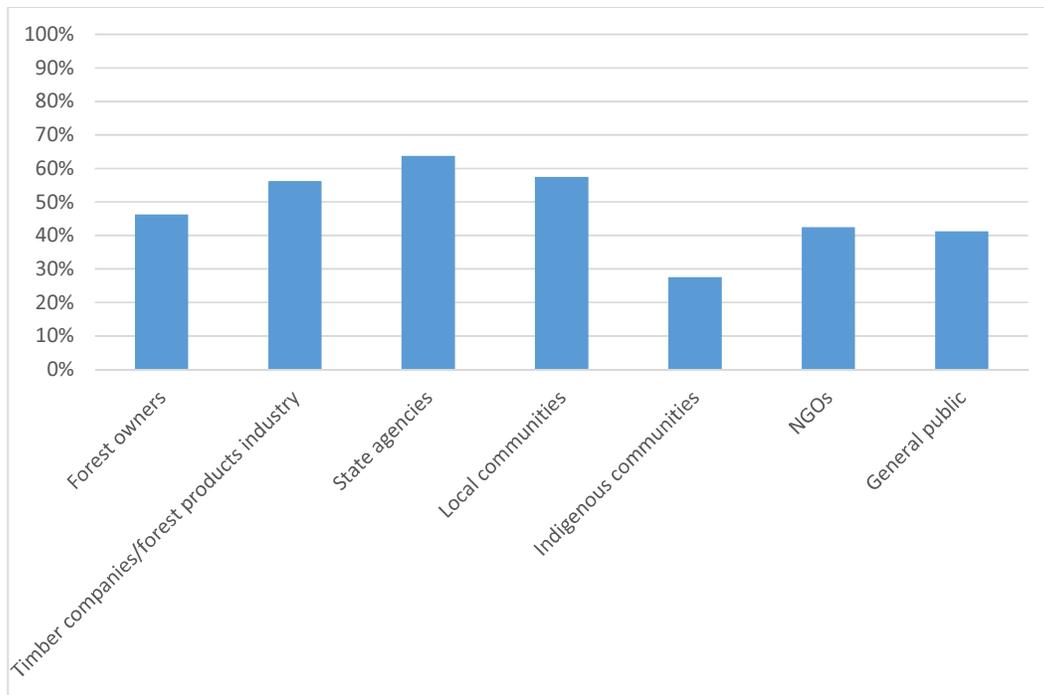
n = 80

Figure 22. Percentage of countries with programmes and technical and scientific activities in various focus areas



n = 80

Figure 23. Percentage of responding countries in which programmes and technical and scientific activities target various beneficiaries



n = 80

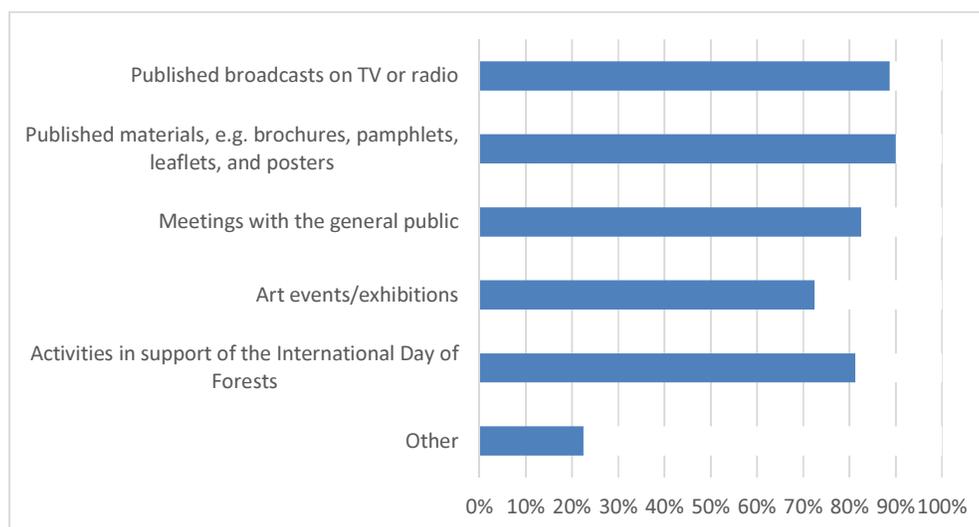
Just over half of responding countries reported that funding for forest-related science had increased since 2007, but some countries reported that it had decreased. Other countries indicated that they had

benefited from a range of external/non-public funding sources. For example, Grenada received grant funding from the American Bird Conservancy for a predator-control project and from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Funds for biodiversity conservation research in priority dry forest areas. The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute is undertaking research on tropical forest ecology in Panama. In South Africa, the industry is funding 90 per cent of research and development through companies and centres of excellence. Many countries provided details of their main forest research institutions (including universities), and some highlighted the importance of prioritizing research activities because of the limited availability of resources.

15. Actions to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests

Figure 24 shows that about 90 per cent of responding countries had published materials and broadcasts aimed at increasing public awareness of the benefits provided by forests. Other common actions with this aim were convening meetings with the general public and supporting the International Day of Forests.

Figure 24. Percentage of responding countries taking various actions to increase public awareness of the benefits provided by forests



n = 80

Examples of public awareness activities provided by countries included the following.

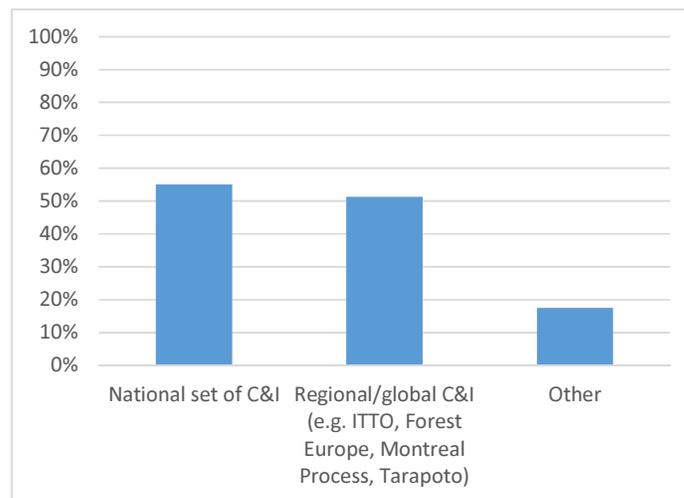
- Botswana identified a National Tree (along with a National Flower and a National Grass) in recognition of its cultural, historical, ecological and socioeconomic importance.
- In Brazil, public opinion polls are used to assess public awareness of the natural environment and biodiversity. Such polls demonstrate that Brazilians consider deforestation to be the main environmental problem.
- In Canada, Saskatchewan sponsored a teachers' tour/workshop designed to show teachers SFM activities in the field so they could pass this knowledge to students.

- In Jamaica, the Forestry Agency organizes an annual “forest trek” to increase public awareness of the role of forests. The trek involves taking interested members of the public on trails through thick natural forests, followed by a tree-planting exercise.
- In Japan, the Forestry Agency has encouraged the planning of forest-related novels and movies.
- In Madagascar, there is an initiative to strengthen the capacity of grassroots communities in the use of forest management tools (including simplified management plans).
- In Norway, Det norske Skogselskapet (“Forestry Society”) is a nationwide, membership-based organization providing the public with information on the importance and benefits of forests. The Forestry Extension Institute provides forest owners and forest workers with further education on forests. Both organizations play important roles in communicating forestry knowledge, especially to children and young adults. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food supports a project called “Learning with the Forest”, which is an interdisciplinary teaching programme designed for all education levels, from kindergarten to college.
- In Samoa, a participatory three-dimensional modelling process is used to integrate participatory methods, resource mapping and spatial information to produce stand-alone scaled relief models as a user-friendly research, planning and management tool. This technique has been used with local communities and primary schools.
- In Slovakia, a national strategy for forest pedagogics was developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as an integral part of environmental education.

16. Criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management

Figure 25 shows that more than 50 per cent of responding countries use nationally developed criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM, and about half use regional or global C&I. A majority of countries indicated that they are using C&I to assess progress towards SFM.

Figure 25. Percentage of responding countries using various types of criteria and indicators for SFM



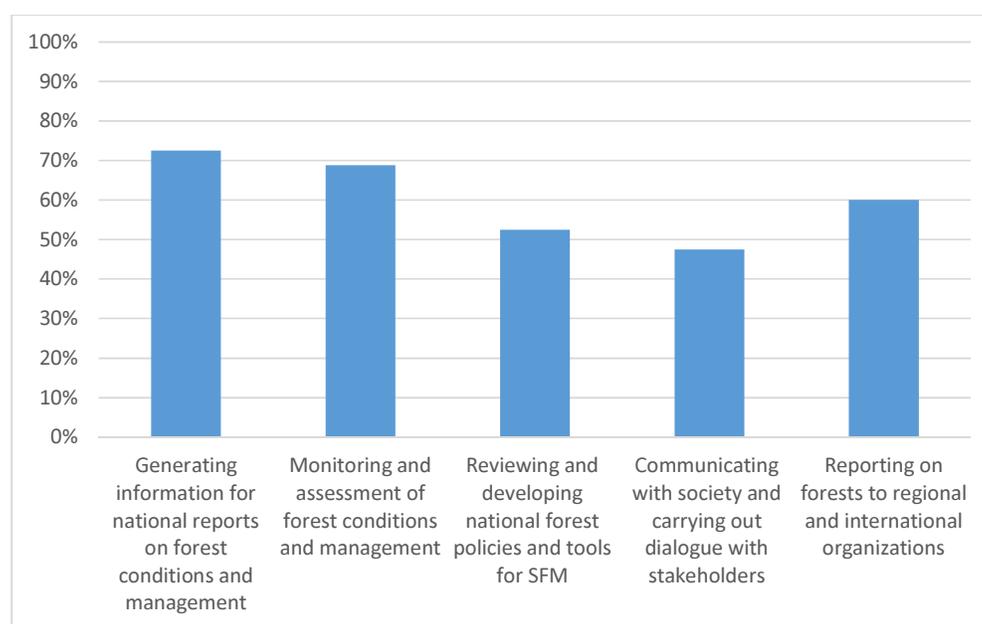
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Some countries (e.g. Armenia, Guatemala, Morocco, Nepal, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe) are working on the development, piloting and implementation of C&I for SFM. Examples of national C&I for SFM provided by responding countries included outcome indicators such as area afforested/reforested, reduced deforestation, measures aimed at improving forest quality, area burned/protection against fire, protection against pests and diseases, and the construction of forest roads; and economic indicators such as jobs, revenue and taxes. The following examples illustrate different approaches.

- In Canada, the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers has developed and uses a set of C&I for SFM for national reporting that is compatible with the Montreal Process C&I for SFM and also provides the basis for the Canadian Standards Association's certification standard for SFM. Ontario applies a provincial set of C&I for SFM, which is also compatible with the Montreal Process C&I for SFM.
- China has different sets of C&I for SFM suitable for different regions of the country, including tropical areas, based on the Montreal Process C&I for SFM.
- Croatia has implemented C&I for SFM through national legislation.
- In Ghana, national C&I for SFM are based on the four GOFs, the Forest Instrument, and forest certification standards.
- In Malaysia, a voluntary certification scheme operated by the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (and endorsed by the PEFC) uses the Malaysian C&I for Forest Management.
- Members of the African Timber Organization, supported by ITTO, have adopted a harmonized document that countries may use as a guide for the promotion and implementation of sustainable management in their natural tropical forests; there are also C&I for SFM for dryland Africa.

C&I for SFM are used to generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management; the monitoring and assessment of forest conditions and management; reporting on forests to regional and international organizations; reviewing and developing national forest policies and tools for SFM; and communicating with society and carrying out dialogue with stakeholders (Figure 26). Regional and international organizations and conventions to which countries report include the Convention on Biological Diversity, Eurostat, FAO, Forest Europe, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the GEF, ITTO, the Montreal Process, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, UNDP, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNEP, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the World Bank.

Figure 26. Percentage of responding countries using C&I for SFM for various purposes



n = 80

17. Forest Instrument in languages other than official UN languages

Question 17 asked whether the Forest Instrument had been translated into languages other than the six official United Nations languages. A combination of information from reports to UNFF11 and earlier sessions shows that the Forest Instrument has been translated by the following countries into their national languages: Afghanistan (Dari and Pashtu), Albania, Austria, Bangladesh, the Comoros, Finland, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, India (Hindi), Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Serbia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka (Sinhala), Suriname, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania.

18. Success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests

Countries were requested to provide examples of success stories and lessons learned in the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four GOFs. Although some (mainly developed) countries reiterated that much of their effort in promoting SFM had been in place prior to 2007, or that they had not been significantly influenced by the Forest Instrument, the majority of responses to this request highlighted efforts in making progress towards implementing the Forest Instrument and achieving the GOFs.

The following key elements for the effective implementation of the Forest Instrument were suggested:

- recognizing national conditions and local forestry conditions;
- having strong, independent forestry administrative agencies;
- securing cross-sectoral cooperation and mobilizing the whole of society in advancing SFM;
- recognizing the important role of governmental inputs in the initial stages of forest development, as well as the major economic, social and environmental drivers that influence SFM;
- understanding the importance of sound forest governance, based on a sound legal system and clear tenure; and
- securing effective international cooperation.

It was noted that, from a national perspective, the Forest Instrument provides a general international policy framework for action taken at the national and subnational levels, and that, by identifying a set of measures and actions, the Forest Instrument has provided relevant national authorities with policy guidance.

Examples of success stories and lessons learned provided by countries include the following.

- The Angolan Government's reinforced political commitment to SFM has resulted in the formulation and adoption of a new legal framework for forests and the adoption and implementation of a new national forest programme. The area of forests under a protected-areas regime has increased from 6.6 per cent to 29.45 per cent. Forests contribute to the alleviation of poverty and hunger through the provision of domestic energy (charcoal and firewood), the generation of family incomes, and many informal work positions. Woodfuel consumption, representing about 57 per cent of total energy consumption, contributes to deforestation, the rate of which is about 106,000 hectares per year in natural forests (0.21 per cent of the natural forest estate per year) and 370 hectares per year in forest plantations (0.25 per cent of the forest plantation estate per year).
- Armenia is cooperating with a number of international organizations, NGOs and donor countries. Projects include the sustainable management of bioresources in the South Caucasus (with Germany), afforestation and reforestation (with FAO), natural resource management and poverty reduction (with the World Bank), institutional reforms in the forest sector (with Sweden), community forest management (with Norway), Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia (with the EU and other partners), developing Armenia's protected-area system (with UNDP and the GEF), and increasing the resilience of forest ecosystems in the face of climate change in the South Caucasus through forest transformation (with the Worldwide Fund for Nature).
- Austria reported an increase in forest-related ODA and provided weblinks to detailed information on the Austrian C&I for SFM, REDD+ and international cooperation.
- Belarus has increased forest cover from 35 per cent to 38 per cent and the area of forest certified against international forest certification standards from 10 per cent to 62.1 per cent. Another success story is capacity-building in technologies related to forestry, such as harvesting and the use of woodfuel.
- Brazil reported a consistent and remarkable reduction in the annual rate of deforestation in the last 10 years.
- In Canada, British Columbia has made substantial efforts in forest health (including responses to infestations of mountain pine beetle) and fire prevention; a jobs plan has been created and the training of forest workers has been supported. British Columbia has also legislated for post-harvest reforestation; 14 per cent of the province's forest estate is in protected areas and at least as much as that again is in various types of other conservation-focused areas such as wildlife habitat areas and old-growth management areas. The provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador have forest protection and silviculture/tree planting programmes and low-interest loans for tenure and permit holders; an ISO 14001 environmental monitoring system is being developed.
- China reported that: the effective implementation of the Forest Instrument should be based on national conditions and on forestry conditions; the national forestry development plan should consider all elements together; independent and strong forestry administrative agencies ensure the promotion of SFM; cross-sectoral cooperation and mobilizing the whole of society can

effectively advance SFM; government input plays an important role in the initial stage of forestry development, while social input is the major driving force for SFM; a sound forest governance system needs a sound legal system and clear tenure; and international cooperation plays an important role in implementing the Forest Instrument.

- In the Comoros, there have been technical developments in the use of hedges as enclosures and in soil conservation and restoration, and institutional capacity has also been strengthened.
- The Congo noted that a logging company had been awarded FSC certification in four forest concessions in the country covering more than 1 million hectares and employing over 1,500 people. The company has developed an industrial centre and is well integrated, socially and economically, at the local level. A town has been built around the enterprise, which reconciles SFM objectives and the fight against poverty by improving the living conditions of workers and of local and indigenous populations.
- Costa Rica has designed and implemented thematic strategies and plans for SFM, forest fire, REDD, and the National Strategy for Adaptation of the Biodiversity Sector to Climate Change.
- In Côte d'Ivoire, local communities are involved in the management of forests within their areas, and they benefit from forestry contracts that provide them with income; they are also paid for surveillance and for combating forest fires. A portion of the revenues from logging is donated annually to departmental committees to monitor the management of logging schemes. This practice has helped raise community awareness of the economic value of forests for their communities and also helps protect the forests. The implementation of the state-funded "Five-hectare School Forest" initiative encourages the younger generation to love, respect and protect forests and also increases the area of planted forests.
- In Croatia, the implementation of SFM began 260 years ago. For many years, forests have been a valuable and sustainably used national resource, managed in an economically sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially responsible way. The basic forestry principles are: sustainable management that maintains natural structure and conserves biodiversity; and a permanent increase in the stable provision and quality of the economic and beneficial functions of forests. As a result of the dedicated work of many generations of forest experts and foresters, more than 95 per cent of the forest area is natural or semi-natural, with an extremely wide range of biodiversity.
- In the Dominican Republic, the Forest Instrument has influenced the development of the forest law, the national forest strategy and the REDD+ strategy, all of which reflect the principles and objectives of the Instrument. Contributions to GOF 1 include an increase in the area of forest plantations (60,000 hectares added since 2007); a decrease in the area affected by forest fires; reduced charcoal consumption (only about 12 per cent of the population uses charcoal for cooking as a result of a government subsidy for propane gas); and control of illegal logging. Contributions to GOF 2 include three PES pilots; the development of the National Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity; a national forest inventory; and the promotion of local wood processing, with over 200 small sawmills. Contributions to GOF 3 include an increase in protected areas (123 sites occupying 25 per cent of the land area); and more land under forest management. Contributions to GOF 4 include an allocation of more than US\$10 million in the national budget for national reforestation and the management of protected areas.

- In Finland, the preparation and implementation of development policy guidelines for the forest sector have contributed to GOF 1. Contributions to GOF 2 include the preparation and implementation of the National Forest Programme 2015, the Strategic Programme for the Forest Sector, the Government Report on Forest Policy 2050, and the Bioeconomy Strategy. Other success stories related to GOF 2 include the “Wellbeing from Forests 2008–2012” research programme, which aims to integrate economic forest uses and the benefits of forest recreation and tourism; and a project on innovative health-restoring services, with user surveys to find out which forest characteristics best improve psychological well-being. Contributions to GOF 3 include a continuous increase in the area of protected forest, from 3.86 million hectares in 2005 to 3.93 million hectares (12.9 per cent of the total land area) in 2014; and the certification of about 95 per cent of commercial forests under the PEFC and 2 per cent under the FSC. Contributions to GOF 4 include an increase in annual ODA for SFM-related activities from US\$20 million in 2007 to approximately US\$40 million in 2013.
- Gabon’s achievements include the widespread development of SFM, a review of the Forest Code, and the creation of 4 million hectares of protected areas, 11 per cent of which are national parks, and a World Heritage Site.
- In Ghana, major stakeholder consultation platforms, such as the National Forestry Forum, have been established; programmes to raise awareness of the national forest programme have been conducted; the visibility of the contribution of forests to national development, and political will for supporting SFM, have both been raised significantly; and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism has been established, including performance assessment frameworks.
- In Grenada, contributions to GOF 1 include: the provision of technical support to farmers on agroforestry; urban forestry initiatives; the reforestation of degraded forest; a national tree-planting exercise; the propagation of plants in the Forestry Department nursery for reforestation activities on private land and in coastal zones and degraded state forest areas; the distribution of plants to schools, NGOs and the general public; environmental awareness-raising programmes; and the demonstration of best practices. Contributions to GOF 2 have been made by an integrated climate-change adaptation project in mangrove and beach ecosystems to provide sustainable livelihoods for key community stakeholders and increase resilience to climate change. Contributions to GOF 3 include approval to create a new protected area on a significant area of State-owned land and the implementation of a project to provide community stakeholders with sustainable livelihood opportunities based on forest resources, while maintaining the socioeconomic and environmental integrity of protected areas. Contributions to GOF 4 include a “willingness to pay” survey to determine how much stakeholders would pay for the use of forest goods and services; and a project on valuing “nature’s hidden goods and services”. Lessons learned include the following: the GOFs cannot be achieved unless people and communities are fully involved and recognize the value of trees; and adequate human, financial and technological resources are required, together with government commitment, proactive institutions, and international donor support.
- India has a strong policy and legal framework for the protection, management and conservation of forests, but there was insufficient awareness of the Forest Instrument until efforts began in 2011 to educate stakeholders about its role and importance. A national-level workshop held in 2012, and four subnational consultations in 2013, recommended capacity-building in state forest departments for the implementation of the Forest Instrument and its GOFs. The conservation, expansion and improvement in the quality of forests is a national priority as a cost-effective mitigation measure against climate change that also ensures a sustained flow of ecosystem goods and services for local forest-dependent communities. The

National Mission for a Green India is one of eight missions prepared under the aegis of the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

- The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken a number of actions, including the finalization of forest resource maps of five vegetation regions; the formulation of Vision 2025 on natural resource management; the development of guidelines on SFM to prevent and control oak dieback, and other tree health measures; the revision of the Forests and Rangelands Law; the formulation of the Directives on National Land-Use Planning Law; the revision of the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification; the formulation of the Forest Exploitation Monitoring Programme; and the development of a national set of C&I for SFM.
- Jamaica highlighted a project on climate-change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (funded by the EU and UNEP), in which 405 hectares of denuded lands were reforested in watershed management areas. A similar project in 2013–2014 funded by USAID and an NGO reforested 200 hectares and trained more than 200 farmers. Lessons learned from these projects include the integral roles played by stakeholders in the successful implementation of the Forest Instrument, and the need for a multipronged, cross-sectoral approach involving those responsible for forests, environment, water, climate change and planning.
- Japan’s forests make a significant contribution to people’s lives and the national economy by performing multiple functional roles, such as landslide prevention, watershed conservation and wood production. There is growing emphasis on the functional role of forests in preventing climate change, and active measures are required to increase the forest-based carbon sink. The government, therefore, has taken various measures in this regard, including by fostering effective and stable forest management, establishing wood-processing and wood-distribution systems, and expanding wood use.
- Liberia’s achievements include the development of capacity to identify the policies and measures for SFM not previously adequately addressed, with an emphasis on the participatory identification of policies and measures in implementing the Forest Instrument. Monitoring and evaluation tools have been developed; communities have received capacity-building in agroforestry; manuals have been developed for use by forestry training institutions; 14,974 hectares of forest plantation have been established on degraded land; and regulations on sustainable wood biomass energy production and use have been developed.
- In Kenya, three regional workshops and one national workshop have sensitized forest-sector stakeholders to the Forest Instrument and built capacity. Stakeholders were able to relate the implementation of the Forest Instrument to their institutional mandates and operations, and to understand the linkages between international discourse and its application at the national level. The status of the Forest Instrument, and gaps in its implementation, were identified. The improved understanding of the Forest Instrument has enhanced its contribution to Kenyan forest policy and legislative reviews, in conformity with the country’s 2010 Constitution.
- Kyrgyzstan is developing cooperation mechanisms with local authorities and communities to reduce poverty and promote SFM. Within the framework of cooperation on joint forest management, a forest area of more than 300,000 hectares has been transferred to rental use, and lease agreements have been concluded with more than 20,000 tenants. These tenants include local communities that enter into forest lease agreements for various activities, such as the collection of forest fruits, berries and wild medicinal plants; grazing livestock; mowing; growing crops; and recreation and tourism. Tenants may also be rural residents and socially vulnerable people, who may use leased forests to earn incomes. As a result of the sharing of forest resources, forestry is contributing to poverty reduction.

- In Madagascar, 1,248 contracts (covering 2.4 million hectares) had been signed by 2013 to give local communities responsibility for SFM. Other actions include the control of forest degradation; decentralization; the legal constitution of 53 protected areas (and the granting of temporary protection to 96 areas); six contracts delegating management to nature conservation NGOs; management plans developed to conserve biodiversity; compensation paid to local communities for restrictions on access; and the rationalization and diversification of the exploitation of forest products, including essential oils.
- In Malaysia, forest and tree cover is maintained at not less than 50 per cent of the total land area, in line with a commitment made at the Rio Summit in 1992. Actions include: the gazetting of 2 million hectares of water catchment forests; commencement of the 26 Million Trees Planting Campaign, with the theme “Greening the Earth: One Citizen, One Tree” in 2010; the planting of mangroves and other suitable species in coastal areas in response to the 2004 tsunami disaster; the Heart of Borneo and Central Forest Spine initiatives, which provide important ecological corridors to connect fragmented forests; the greening of urban landscapes involving local authorities and communities; the establishment of high-conservation-value forests within the Permanent Reserved Forest; transboundary biodiversity conservation in two national parks; and the drastic decline in forest degradation caused by short-term logging licences.
- In Mauritania, actions under way include national aerial seeding and national reforestation; international cooperation; and the creation of the National Agency for the Great Green Wall.
- In Mauritius, activities include: the creation and maintenance of forest plantations; an increase in tree cover in water catchments; the establishment of tree cover on hilly slopes for soil and water conservation; a national tree-planting campaign (including the distribution of free plants); the management of nature reserves and other natural State-owned forests for the protection of indigenous fauna and flora; the creation of a gene bank; the growing of indigenous plants, including rare endemic/medicinal plants; the creation of 40 “nature corners” in schools and colleges; the presentation of conservation talks at schools and colleges and to local communities; the creation of “nature walks” for leisure and recreation; awareness-raising through the media; the sale of forest produce to registered merchants; the control of felling operations; the creation of a new national park; the designation of an “endemic garden” for the conservation of endemic and indigenous forests; and a project with UNDP and the GEF to strengthen the management of the terrestrial protected-area network.
- Mexico reported that, in relation to GOF 2, it is important to strengthen the management capacity of communities through training and the development of social capital, the integration of production chains, the organization of owners/occupiers at the community and regional levels, and technology transfer. In relation to GOF 3, five new terrestrial protected areas have been established, covering more than 1 million hectares and with 93.6 per cent forest cover. In relation to GOF 4, federal forestry programmes have been strengthened, and the budget for forestry increased by almost 42 per cent in the period 2007–2013. This budget is used to provide incentives to support SFM and environmental management; establish forest plantations; protect against fire, pests and diseases; and restore degraded forest areas through vegetation recovery and soil conservation. In addition, funds for PES, with inputs from the private sector, civil society and state and municipal governments, have been increased.
- In Myanmar, reforestation programmes have been undertaken in watershed areas and to combat desertification in the dry zone; mangrove ecosystems have been restored; and the permanent forest estate and protected areas have been expanded.

- In Nepal, contributions to GOF 1 include the gazetting of around 23 per cent of the land area as protected areas; increasing momentum to halt forest degradation through community-based forest management; and giving priority to plantations and natural regeneration for restoring degraded forest. Contributions to GOF 2 include efforts to allow forest-dependent communities to receive benefits from enhanced economic, social and environmental services derived from forests. Contributions to GOF 3 include efforts to conserve and protect forest areas: the area under strict protection has increased significantly in the last five years, and protection forests managed with the participation of local communities have been established across the country. Contributions to GOF 4 include the collection of US\$11.7 million in 2013 from the sale of timber and other forest products for the Community Forest User Group Fund; this fund is allocated to SFM and social development activities.
- New Zealand provided a comprehensive report to the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the implementation of the Forest Instrument's themes and also noted that most of this was in place before 2007.
- In Pakistan, the Forest Instrument was fully debated at the national level at the time of its formulation, and all provinces now refer to the Forest Instrument and its GOFs in their respective programmes and projects.
- In Panama, FSC certification has been achieved in 36,000 hectares of indigenous forests, and the creation of community forest enterprises increases the income of participating indigenous communities. This approach to SFM may be expanded to more than 200,000 hectares. Meanwhile, communities are able to negotiate directly with forestry companies through business roundtables to improve their incomes.
- In Papua New Guinea, the first protected area covers more than 78,000 hectares of tropical rainforest. Because of its remoteness, local people are treating parts of their forest as a protected area to protect its unique flora and fauna (including the habitat of the endangered Huon tree kangaroo). Clans from nearly 50 villages came together to set aside parcels of their clan land as a protected area in which human activities such as hunting, logging and other forest resource extraction are not allowed. A local NGO is assisting by empowering local communities to work together to manage the protected area and to initiate community development projects that address health, education and sustainable livelihoods. One such project is the Healthy Village, Healthy Forest Project, through which the NGO and medical research and health partners provide training and medical treatment. Healthy children and women make for healthy villages, and ultimately a healthy community means a healthy forest and environment.
- In Romania, the 2008 Forest Code applies the principles underlying SFM, and it has new chapters on biodiversity conservation, the integrity of forest land, awareness, and forest-owner associations. The new Forest Code attaches greater importance to forest expansion and ways of supporting the sustainable management of private forests, and provides more severe sanctions (including imprisonment). Research projects have been developed on environmental protection in areas at an increased risk of degradation using remote sensing, photogrammetry and geographic information systems. The forest area certified under the FSC increased from 1.09 million hectares in 2007 to 2.44 million hectares in 2013. The area of forest in protected areas increased from 0.91 million hectares in 2005 to 2.61 million hectares in 2014. The Forest Development Programme, which is financed by domestic funds and a five-year US\$23.7 million loan from the World Bank, is designed to address major concerns in the forest sector, including the extension of the private sector and institutional reform.

- In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Forestry Department has worked with the FAO regional office to implement a project to enhance community participation and develop livelihoods through SFM.
- In Samoa, the Development Strategy (2012–2016) endorses forest protection, forest restoration, and forest resource development using woodlots and agroforestry. Environmental policies include commitments to conserve and protect habitats (including upland cloud forests and lowland and coastal forests). The National Policy on the Sustainable Development of Forests (2007) provides a framework for the sustainable development of Samoa’s forests, the conservation of remaining native forests, and the promotion of community-based plantation forests, in partnership with all stakeholders. The proportion of land area covered by forest was 46 per cent in 1991, 60 per cent in 2005 and 58.3 per cent in 2013; the recent decrease was due to an increase in residential/industrial areas and agricultural developments and the impact of a cyclone in 2012. A further 3.4 per cent of the land area is covered by small areas not currently considered forest because tree density is too low but which may mature into forest.
- In Saudi Arabia, a successful project (in collaboration with FAO) has been implemented to combat juniper dieback and rehabilitate the juniper ecosystem. Techniques include removing dead trees and branches, establishing water-harvesting systems, producing juniper and other local tree seedlings, and planting these seedlings in rehabilitated sites.
- In Serbia, the forest area increased by more than 250,000 hectares over the 30-year period to 2009. The forest sector contributes about 15 per cent of final energy consumption, and it is a main actor in ensuring the energy security of rural people. The area of protected forest increased by 40 per cent in the last 20 years, and there has been a significant improvement in the management of protected areas. The Forest Development Strategy has identified clear strategic long-term forest policy issues.
- In Slovakia, the Forest Instrument is seen as a general international policy framework for actions taken in implementing and achieving SFM at all levels (including national and subnational). By identifying a set of national actions, the Forest Instrument has provided relevant national authorities with guidance on how to comply with the international perspective on SFM. The International Year of Forests in 2011 was a driving force in the convening of events and activities at the national level with the aim of increasing public awareness of forests.
- In the United Republic of Tanzania, the national forest programme recognizes the broad and cross-sectoral linkages between the forest sector and other sectors. Contributions to GOF 1 include the involvement of regional and local administrations in tree-planting campaigns coordinated by the Vice President’s office, with an annual target of planting 136 million seedlings per year. Contributions to GOF 2 include the introduction of community-based forest management: 7.2 million hectares are under participatory forest management, and involved communities receive direct benefits from forest products (such as revenue from the sale of forest products and services, including ecotourism fees). Contributions to GOF 3 include giving legal status to village land forests and managing them effectively; and the establishment of village land forest reserves that give ownership for the management and protection of forest resources. Contributions to GOF 4 include the establishment of local conservation funds; institutional reforms; and involving the private sector in, for example, the establishment of forest plantations.
- In Ukraine, contributions to GOF 1 include the annual creation of 30,000–40,000 hectares of new forests, and increasing the area covered by forest and its growing stock. In the last three

years, the new forest area created is 1.5 times larger than the area subject to clear-cutting. Increasing forest cover is a priority in forest-sector development. The state forest enterprises operate nurseries and greenhouses that are growing over 400 million forest plants (of various species) annually. In relation to GOF 2, forests are crucial in rural areas, providing employment and contributing to local economies. In relation to GOF 3, 13.2 per cent of forests are reserved; protected forests have been created according to strict management criteria that meet European standards for the conservation of biological and landscape diversity. In relation to GOF 4, the main objective of “Forests of Ukraine” for 2010–2015 is to ensure SFM and enhance the economic, social and environmental functions of forests. The strategy includes increasing the area, stability and productivity of forest stands. Implementation is carried out using State and local budgets as well as revenue received from the sale of wood products and forest services. The State budget mainly funds afforestation and the protection of forests against fire, pests and diseases, and it is also used to purchase forestry equipment and construct forest roads.

- The forest area has increased steadily in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Work is ongoing to bring neglected woodlands into sustainable management, including through policies on woodfuel (which also helps to substitute fossil fuels with sustainable energy) and an assurance system for voluntary forest projects that aim to capture carbon. The ODA spend on forestry is geared towards reducing deforestation and preventing forest degradation; so far the Government has invested over US\$500 million in bilateral and multilateral projects that have reduced greenhouse-gas emissions, improved the welfare of forest-dependent communities, and enhanced the protection of ecosystem services and biodiversity. Lessons learned in international efforts include the following: good governance is a prerequisite for tackling deforestation; there is strong evidence that where communities have formal rights over their forests, deforestation rates are much lower than in areas overseen by governments and companies; and weak governance, ambiguous laws and contested land uses mean that community rights over forests are limited in many countries.
- In the United States of America, the mandate of the United States Forest Service and its domestic forest management objectives are strongly compatible with GOF 1 and GOF 3; for example, forest restoration and health maintenance remain core objectives in the management of National Forest lands and in assisting other landowners. Slightly over half of all forest land is owned privately; training activities and subsidies from federal or local government sources may serve as incentives for implementing management plans, and market premiums and enhanced market access may motivate private owners to seek sustainability certification. The total forest area increased by 2 per cent between 2000 and 2010, and the area under SFM increased by 15 per cent. While various policies at the national, state and local levels contribute to GOF 2, their benefits can be difficult to quantify. Internationally, the United States of America promotes the four GOFs through institutional engagement and by providing direct assistance to countries.

B. CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

National reports provided insights into and demonstrated the contributions of forests and SFM to all MDGs and showed the interconnection between the Forest Instrument, the GOFs and the MDGs. Indeed, one purpose of the Forest Instrument is to strengthen the political will to implement SFM, achieve the GOFs and enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the MDGs. There is a

clear connection between the progress made in implementing the Forest Instrument and achieving the GOFs and a wide range of issues related to livelihoods, poverty alleviation, employment, food, energy and water security, climate-change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

19. Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1)

In their reports to UNFF11, 80 per cent of responding countries recognized the contribution of forests and SFM to the eradication of poverty and hunger. Many countries provided examples of the benefits derived from forests by rural communities living on the fringes of forests. Due to its decentralized nature, the forest sector is often the only source of employment (formal and informal) in remote areas. Several developing countries (e.g. Brazil, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, India, Liberia, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Yemen) underlined the role of forests in improving the livelihoods of rural communities, providing employment opportunities and stimulating local economies. In the Congo, for example, the forest sector is second only to the public service as an employer, providing 12,000 jobs. It is estimated that China's forest sector generated 52.47 million jobs in 2012, 50.85 million of which were seasonal for farmers and employees working in forestry. Developed countries (e.g. Croatia, Cyprus, Lithuania, Japan, Portugal and Serbia) also noted the employment opportunities created by forests, mainly in rural areas. For example, forests minimized the social impact of the recent recession in Cyprus, where the number of forest workers employed by the Department of Forests has been stable in recent years, despite the economic downturn.

Responding countries highlighted the cross-sectoral connections between natural resource sustainability and the eradication of poverty and hunger. There was recognition of the role of agroforestry systems in enhancing food security among rural communities in Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Nepal and Samoa. The support provided by forest companies for roads and social infrastructure (such as medical clinics and other health facilities, and schools) was also mentioned. Some countries (e.g. Croatia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia) cited the role of forests in the ecotourism industry.

There is a direct connection between the Forest Instrument and actions taken by countries to attain GOF 2 and MDG 1. Many governments have developed programmes, schemes and plans to promote rural empowerment and poverty eradication, and forests are frequently part of such initiatives. Some countries revised their national poverty eradication plans and strategies to incorporate SFM, with a view to increasing the socioeconomic benefits obtained by rural and local communities. A key message of FAO's 2014 report on the state of the world's forests was that "providing people with access to forest resources and markets is a powerful way to enhance socioeconomic benefits". As indicated earlier in this report, local and indigenous communities have partial or full tenure or user rights over publicly owned forests in most responding countries. Traditional community ownership and rights allow communities to use forests, benefit from them and support their livelihoods. Nevertheless, some countries stated that difficulties in capturing and measuring the contributions of forests, and a lack of understanding of the potential contribution of forests to poverty reduction, result in the insufficient allocation of funds and development assistance to SFM.

20. Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to environmental sustainability (MDG 7)

Forests are crucial for global environmental sustainability because of the multiple benefits they provide, such as mitigating the effects of climate change and conserving biodiversity, soil and water.

Ninety per cent of responding countries reported on the contributions of forests to MDG 7, highlighting, for example, the ecosystem services of forests and their crucial role in climate-change mitigation and adaptation; the regulative role of forests in the carbon and water cycles; and the protective functions of forests in providing habitat for endangered species and other genetic resources. Countries also reported on their efforts to combat deforestation through afforestation programmes and their plans for increasing the area of both protective and protected forests. Several countries alluded to the role of SFM in maintaining the protective functions of forests.

MDG 7 contains one official forest-related indicator (indicator 7.1) on the proportion of land area covered by forests. There are direct links between MDG 7, the provisions of the Forest Instrument, and GOF 1 and GOF 3. Countries provided examples of how forests help mitigate natural disasters and described their efforts to maintain and increase forest resources, as follows.

- China increased forest cover through afforestation and forest protection projects, reducing soil erosion in the Three Gorges Reservoir area by 1,312.39 km² compared with 2000. The project to return farmland to forests converted 9,063,000 hectares of sloping farmlands and 15,800,800 million hectares of barren mountains and wastelands to forests and tended 2,681,400 hectares of mountain forests.
- Forests cover 58 per cent of Brazil and therefore contribute significantly to and influence all aspects of the environment. Deforestation is the principal source of greenhouse-gas emissions (it was responsible for more than 60 per cent of total emissions in 2005, according to the Second Brazilian Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The creation and maintenance of conservation units in Brazil avoided the emission of at least 2.8 billion tonnes of carbon.
- In Croatia, 1 million hectares of forests crucial for the provision of habitat and the conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources is protected within the Natura 2000 ecological network.
- The Dominican Republic reported on endemic species and forest biodiversity. Forests provide a wide range of goods and services and act as giant “sponges”, absorbing rain in wet seasons, storing it in large quantities, and slowly releasing it in times of drought. Japan also underlined the importance of ecosystem services provided by forests, especially in watershed conservation, landslide prevention, climate-change mitigation through carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation. Forests also make important contributions to people’s lives and the national economy in Japan.
- Kenya reported on the role of forests as habitat for Kenyan wildlife and in soil stabilization and water conservation.
- In Luxembourg, forests play important roles in maintaining the biodiversity and in environmental education.
- Malaysia underlined the role of SFM in maintaining forest services. Timber and timber products contribute more than US\$6 billion to the country’s foreign export earnings and generate more than half a million job opportunities, both directly and indirectly. Forest ecosystem services also provide huge tangible and intangible benefits to the country, such as ecotourism, water security and carbon storage.
- Nepal reported on the crucial role of forests in climate-change mitigation and adaptation. Forest genetic diversity plays a critical role in people’s survival in a rapidly changing climate, and

the country is committed to increasing its forest area. To achieve this, the Government has initiated a number of community-based forest conservation programmes.

- Papua New Guinea reported on selective logging practices and an increase in the area of protected forests designed to maintain the role of forests in climate change. The country received assistance from FAO in reviewing its Logging Code of Practice to ensure that proper standards are in place to which developers must adhere to ensure environment sustainability.
- In Portugal, forest practices and management are environmentally friendly. Forest-related instruments, mechanisms, legislation and strategies take environmental concerns into account. The National Strategy on Forests and other relevant policy documents reflect those concerns.
- Samoa's national approach to achieving MDG 7 is to integrate the principles of sustainable development into the country's policies and programmes and to reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- South Africa has implemented several programmes to prevent environmental degradation and improve genetic resources, such as "One Million Trees" programmes, National Arbor Week, and afforestation.
- In Slovakia, national measures contributing to achieving MDG 7 include the adoption and application of the national C&I for SFM, forest genetic resource conservation (particularly through the Act on Forest Reproductive Material), and implementation of the Natura 2000 network on forest land.
- Forests in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are managed according to a series of guidelines that address biodiversity, climate change, the historic environment, landscape, people, soil and water. Specific targets for environmental sustainability are given in national strategies for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

21. Contribution of forest/sustainable forest management to developing a global partnership for development (MDG 8)

About 80 per cent of responding countries reported on the contribution of forests and SFM to MDG 8. Most countries cited their ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and/or the Ramsar Convention. Also frequently reported was cooperation on issues related to REDD+ and the improved governance of tropical timber trade, such as through VPAs as part of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. Countries also reported on international forest-related projects and activities. Many country responses confirmed the contributions of forests to the global development partnership and provided information that was complementary to information provided on international cooperation in forests and SFM under Question 13. There is a strong connection between the Forest Instrument and MDG 8. The principles contained in the Forest Instrument recognize the crucial role of international cooperation, including financial support, in achieving SFM. Countries provided many examples of how forests contribute to MDG 8, including the following.

- Major progress has been made in the development of China's forestry through bilateral, multilateral and private channels and by means of visits, studies, scientific and technological exchanges and programme cooperation. Such cooperation brings capital, technologies and advanced international ideas. The international community has generally recognized China's participation in international dialogues on forests and its efforts to promote the establishment of a just and rational international forest governance system.

- Croatia has taken an active role in negotiating the pan-European legally binding arrangement on forests – a clear case of engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance. The harmonization of national timber trade legislation with EU requirements is another example of participation in the global partnership for development through trade agreements involving forest products.
- Ghana attracted support from the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the Government of Japan for REDD+ and the Forest Improvement Programme.
- In recent years, India has entered into technical collaboration partnerships with many countries, such as China, Germany, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. India also partners with South Asian countries in forestry programmes as part of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. A number of multilateral and bilateral forestry programmes focusing on SFM and improving the livelihoods of local communities are being implemented in India.
- Japan promotes SFM internationally, mainly through intergovernmental organizations such as FAO and ITTO.
- In addition to ratifying most of the conventions and treaties geared to enhancing SFM and REDD+, Liberia adopted the Forest Convergence Plan for the Sustainable Management and Utilization of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa and the Sub Regional Action Programme for Combating Desertification in West Africa.
- Mexico is party to 25 bilateral cooperation instruments (North–South and South–South) relevant to the forest sector that promote technical and scientific cooperation through the exchange of knowledge and experience, education and training, and technology transfer. In virtually all cases, activities are financed through cost-sharing among participating parties.
- Slovakia supports global efforts to halt deforestation and eliminate illegal logging and trade with timber and timber products in the context of the EU and its efforts through the FLEGT Action Plan and VPAs.

22. Contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to MDGs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education

Several countries reported on the contributions of forests and SFM to MDG 2, as follows.

- In Ghana and Kenya, income earned in forest-fringe communities from plantation development and other afforestation schemes is creating opportunities for children to be enrolled in school.
- In Liberia, contractual agreements signed with investors in the forest sector are designed to ensure the provision of social services, including education, to forest-dwelling communities located close to operational sites.
- Participatory forest management programmes in Nepal have contributed to efforts to achieve MDG 7, especially in rural areas, by assisting rural people to obtain non-formal education.
- In Papua New Guinea, the forest sector contributes indirectly to MDG 2 by generating income from forest-based sales and enterprises that can help pay for school fees. Classrooms and teachers’ houses are built in timber concession areas under timber permit agreements. The

roads built by timber companies provide teachers and school supplies with access to remote communities.

- In South Africa, the Saapi Group (a pulp-and-paper company) promotes technical literacy and education with the main aim of increasing the skilled human resource base focused on engineering, science and technology. Natal Co-operative Timbers supports rural and special schools. The forest industry promotes culture and literacy in the younger generation by donating books to 45 community libraries.
- In Zimbabwe, forest companies contribute to universal primary education in both commercial timber plantations and natural forest areas through the construction of schools and by providing furniture for those schools. Beneficiaries are communities in forest areas and neighbouring communities.

MDG 3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

- The Dominican Republic has created a fund for women, who are forest users through their participation in the production of food for subsistence, the planting and harvesting of herbs, the collection of firewood, and the small-scale production of forest products for sale. The Ministry of Environment provides employment opportunities for many rural women in reforestation. Importantly, women participate in the use of timber species in the production of handicrafts, thus helping family welfare.
- In Ghana, improved incomes for women generated through the Community Investment Fund has supported them in forest communities and empowered them to embark on income-generating ventures.
- There is a 30 per cent requirement for women's representation in Kenyan forest institutions, such as the Kenya Forest Service Board, employers in the sector, community forest associations and forest conservation committees, and in the procurement of goods and services by government.
- In Liberia, women are given an equal opportunity to sit on community forest development committees to serve as mediators between contract-holders and communities at the fringes of concession areas. Liberia's Code of Forest Harvesting provides room for forest contract-holders to provide equal opportunity in employment, and women and men are to be paid equal remuneration for the same work or for work of equal value.
- Social or community forestry has empowered women in Malaysia, especially among indigenous peoples and local communities, in using forest products to create sources of income. A significant number of women are also employed in the forest sector, including in managerial, planning, research and development, and technical fields.
- Forest-related policies clearly promote gender equality in forest management and the decision-making process in Nepal. In 2005, 24 per cent of committee members in community forest user groups were women, and more than 600 community forest user groups had only women on their committees. Community forestry implementation guidelines, introduced in 2009, clearly state the goal that community forest user group committees comprise 50 per cent women. Other forest-related rules and guidelines also require the strong participation of women in decision-making and implementation bodies.

- Women are at the forefront in supporting their families by entering the male-dominated area of forestry in Papua New Guinea. There has been an increase in women's participation in reforestation and forest extension activities, such as tree-planting, in a number of forestry projects. Women are increasingly taking up senior managerial positions in the Forestry Department and the timber industry.
- In Samoa, the Forestry Division conducts gender and social assessments on the participation of men, women and children to ensure women's participation. A women's representative in each village is invited to workshops and consultations on SFM. There has been a significant increase in the participation of women and girls in Forestry Division meetings with communities, stakeholders and the general public.
- In South Africa, the Black Economic Empowerment Codes of Good Practice are being implemented in the forest sector. The codes aim to increase the number of black people, particularly women, who own, manage and control enterprises and productive assets, facilitating the ownership and management of enterprises and productive assets by communities, workers, cooperatives and other collective enterprises.

MDGs 4, 5 and 6: reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; and combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Countries emphasized the contribution of forests – specifically non-wood forest products such as fruits, berries and bushmeat – as sources of protein and keys to healthy and balanced diets. Ghana, Kenya, Niger, Papua New Guinea and Samoa all reported that, for many forest-dwelling and forest-dependent communities, forests constitute their sources of medicine. Traditional herbs and medicinal plants from forests are regularly used to help with maternal health and to reduce child mortality.

The forest industry in South Africa collaborates with the Department of Health to provide forestry workers with access to mobile clinics. About 28 million people use traditional plant medicine in South Africa, and they need to be assured of a continuing supply. Over 65 per cent of the plant material in urban markets comes from forest or savannah species, and the most favoured species come from forests. The Department of Health implements an HIV/AIDS prevention and management strategy, and a wellness programme is also in place to support affected employees.

In Ghana, awareness and sensitization programmes have been undertaken in forest-fringe communities to increase awareness about HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Income-generating activities have improved nutritional status and reduced the participation of forest-fringe communities in illicit sexual practices.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF MEMBER STATES THAT PROVIDED VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REPORTS FOR UNFF11

1. Afghanistan
2. Albania
3. Angola
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Austria
7. Azerbaijan
8. Bangladesh
9. Belarus
10. Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
11. Bosnia and Herzegovina
12. Botswana
13. Brazil
14. Burkina Faso
15. Cambodia
16. Canada
17. China
18. Comoros (the)
19. Congo (the)
20. Costa Rica
21. Côte D'Ivoire
22. Croatia
23. Cyprus
24. Dominican Republic (the)
25. Estonia
26. Ethiopia
27. Finland
28. France
29. Gabon
30. Georgia
31. Ghana
32. Grenada
33. Guatemala
34. Guinea
35. Guinea-Bissau
36. India
37. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
38. Jamaica
39. Japan
40. Jordan
41. Kenya
42. Kyrgyzstan
43. Lebanon
44. Liberia
45. Lithuania
46. Luxembourg
47. Madagascar
48. Malaysia
49. Mauritania
50. Mauritius
51. Mexico
52. Morocco
53. Myanmar
54. Nepal
55. New Zealand
56. Niger
57. Nigeria
58. Norway
59. State of Palestine
60. Pakistan
61. Panama
62. Papua New Guinea
63. Paraguay
64. Portugal
65. Romania
66. Russian Federation (the)
67. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
68. Samoa
69. Saudi Arabia
70. Senegal
71. Serbia
72. Slovakia
73. South Africa
74. Switzerland
75. United Republic of Tanzania
76. Ukraine
77. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
78. United States of America
79. Viet Nam
80. Yemen
81. Zimbabwe

ANNEX 2. Reporting Guidelines and Format to UNFF11

Country: _____

Date of submission: _____

Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Background

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

1. Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum², the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) – FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

² Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources. (United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 _E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national report **electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org, by 30 September 2014**, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/unff11_reporting_template.doc
2. Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf>

Abbreviations

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
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

General information

UNFF national focal point

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

Person to contact concerning the national report, if other than the UNFF national focal point

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

PART I:
Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,
including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

1. **Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:**

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument?

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

2. **Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?**

- New legislation
- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- None

Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

3. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?

- Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies
- Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies
- The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion
- Other, please list below:

Have these steps resulted in:

- More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities
- More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- Other, please list below:

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

4. Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?

Yes No

If Yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

5. Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?

Yes No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:

- Afforestation ha
- Reforestation ha
- Restoration ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- Subsidies for forest protection
- Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- Other, please list below:

Please describe, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?

- Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise
- Other, please list below:

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?

- Completely
- Partially
- None
- Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?

- Yes No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- Other, please specify:

These strategies take into account:

- Domestic public funding
- Domestic private funding
- Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
- External private funding

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?

- Yes No

If Yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- Watershed protection/water supply USD
- Carbon storage (including REDD+) USD
- Nature conservation USD
- Other, please list below: USD

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:

- | | 2007 | 2013 |
|--|------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public international funding
(including ODA and REDD+) | USD | USD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> External private funding | USD | USD |

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?

- Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.

- Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- Other; please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?

- Yes No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Private sector/philanthropy
- NGOs
- Others

Type of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- Technical
- Financial
- Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?

Yes No

If Yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- Forest inventory systems
- Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- Wood production for energy
- Wood processing technology
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Other, please list below:

Are these programs directed at:

- Forest owners
- Timber companies/forest products industry
- State agencies
- Local communities
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

Yes No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?

- Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
- Meetings with the general public
- Art events/Exhibitions
- Activities in support of the International Day of Forests
- Other

Please provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:

- National set of C&I
- Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Are these C&I used to:

- Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?

18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:

PART II

Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

19. How have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Improving livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Providing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

MDG5: Improving maternal health

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases