Entity name:	FOREST EUROPE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe)
Date of submission:	29.11.2019

Format for United Nations Forum on Forests regional/sub-regional partners reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 and the United Nations Forest Instrument

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030.
2. While considering the word limits, regional and sub-regional entities are invited to provide as much detail as possible in their answers, including regarding figures and deadlines, if applicable.
3. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
4. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
5. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org with cc: tavora-jainchill@un.org by 15 November 2019 (extended to 30 November 2019).

General Information

Information on Entity

Official Name:	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
Membership:	46 European countries and European Union
Mandate:	Pan-European high-level voluntary political process for dialogue and cooperation on forest policies in Europe.

Entity's focal point

Name:	Bc. Ing. Michal Vančo
Title:	Head of FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Bratislava
Address:	T. G. Masaryka 22, 96001 Zvolen, Slovakia
Entity:	FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Bratislava
Telephone:	+421 45 5314 556
Email:	michal.vanco@foresteurope.org, liaison.unit.bratislava@foresteurope.org

Person to contact concerning the entity's report, if someone other than the entity's focal point

Name:	Rastislav Raši
Title:	
Address:	
Entity:	
Telephone:	
Email:	rastislav.rasi@foresteurope.org

Entity/entities involved in the preparation of the report

Entity/Entities:	
Address:	
Email:	

Global forest goal 1 and associated targets[1]

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide [2]

1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015, [3] what types of action have been taken by your entity to support Member States to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date, if applicable, (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- Adoption of Ministerial Decision on Resuming the Negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe
- Madrid Ministerial Declaration 25 years together promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

Description of actions:

Ministerial Decision on Resuming the Negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe was adopted by the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting in Bratislava on 6 December 2018, and subsequently endorsed by ministers responsible for forests in Europe.
The signatories of FOREST EUROPE expressed readiness to resume the negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and agreed that further negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe should take place and be finalized under the auspices of the UN system (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Ministerial-Decision-on-Resuming-the-Negotiations-on-LBA_final.pdf).

The Updated set of pan-European indicators for SFM (the Annex of the Madrid Ministerial Declaration 25 years together promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Europe); FOREST EUROPE signatories committed themselves to use this set in forest policy, forest monitoring, as appropriate, and for collaboration with other sectors (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/III.-ELM_7MC_2_2015_MinisterialDeclaration_adopted-2.pdf).

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

Establishment and work of the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change (https://foresteurope.org/expert-group-adaptation-climate-change-sustainable-forest-management/)

Establishment and work of the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Implementation of Updated pan-European Indicators for SFM (https://foresteurope.org/eg_ci/)

Description of actions:

FOREST EUROPE signatories and observers have the opportunity to share knowledge and formulate findings in the meetings.

The Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change met four times (5 September 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey (https://foresteurope.org/event/15212/, 5 April 2019 in Prague, Czech Republic (https://foresteurope.org/event/14767/, 11 October 2018 in Budapest, Hungary (https://foresteurope.org/event/14199/, 6-7 September 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia (https://foresteurope.org/event/12057/)).

The meetings of the Expert Group on Implementation of Updated pan-European Indicators for SFM took place twice in 2017 (https://foresteurope.org/event/11455/, https://foresteurope.org/event/12682/) discussing implementation of the set of the Updated pan-European Indicators for SFM.

[1] Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

[2] Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

[3] Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:
Financing activities of FOREST EUROPE work programme
(https://foresteurope.org/foresteurope/#1475513108666-7133ada1-c052)

Description of actions:
According to the rotation principle, five countries usually guide activities of the FOREST EUROPE process through the General Coordinating Committee, these countries finance the Liaison Unit and activities of FOREST EUROPE work programme. The leading role in the period 2016-2020 has the Slovak Republic, covering substantial part of the budget, together with Germany, Spain, Sweden and Turkey. Also other signatory countries provided financial or in kind contribution to organization of joint activities.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- monitoring of sustainable forest management
- Workshop "Pro-active management of forests to combat climate change driven risks"
- Workshop on Understanding the Contribution of Agroforestry to Landscape Resilience in Europe
- ThinkForest - event

Description of actions:

The monitoring of SFM through the set of pan-European criteria and indicators is the regular activity within the process, countries provide information through national correspondents for elaboration of a synthetic report on the state of Europe's forests, data collection was coordinated with FAO's FRA (https://foresteurope.org/event/13881/).

Workshop "Pro-active management of forests to combat climate change driven risks: Policies and measures for increasing forest resilience and climate change adaptation", hosted by Turkish General Directorate of Forestry (https://foresteurope.org/event/14917/). Discussed the projected climate change, its impacts and potential adaptation options for increasing the resilience of forests, feasibility, reliability and effectiveness of adaptation measures (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WS_report_CC_Adaptation.pdf)

FOREST EUROPE workshop: Understanding the Contribution of Agroforestry to Landscape Resilience in Europe co-organized with FAO, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture of Hungary; sharing knowledge and building understanding between agricultural and forest sector, aiming at increasing ecological resilience at a landscape level (https://foresteurope.org/event/13961/, report https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WS_Conclusions.pdf.

ThinkForest - event *How to Respond to Forest Disturbances in Europe* – organized in cooperation of ThinkForest forum, EFI and FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit, focused on how to respond to forest disturbances in Europe, understanding of forest disturbances and the role climate change plays in their increase; connected science to policy, looking at the ecological, economic and social impacts of disturbances, risk prevention and forest management. (https://foresteurope.org/event/14746/).

(b) How do the actions listed above support Member States in the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

The FOREST EUROPE actions support:

- Sharing experiences among countries on SFM practices,
- Monitoring progress towards SFM

(c) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 1 in your region?

Damage due to climate change related events, funding of afforestation, reforestation, climate change adaptation, land use trade-offs, co-ordination of sectors/stakeholders pose challenges.

(d) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Area of forests is stabilized and slowly increasing in last years and SFM practices are implemented and further developed in the pan-European region. Ongoing preparation of the Draft Bratislava Ministerial Declaration for the 8th Ministerial Conference to be held in Bratislava on 28-29 October 2020, stressing the vital role of forests for European society and in achieving sustainable development globally. Ongoing preparation of the Draft Bratislava Ministerial Resolution (working name Improve the adaptation capacities of forests towards climate change) for the 8th Ministerial Conference to be held in Bratislava on 28-29 October 2020, aiming at strengthening of transnational cooperation in the pan-European region on the adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change. Ongoing preparation of the State of Europe's Forests 2020 report based on the set of 34 quantitative and 11 qualitative pan-European indicators for SFM.

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets [4]

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Associated targets

2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets

2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased

2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken by your entity to support Member States to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date if applicable (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

Madrid Ministerial Resolution 1 – Forest sector in the center of Green Economy (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/I.-ELM_7MC_2_2015_MadridResolution1_GreenEconomy_adopted.pdf)

Description of actions:

Madrid Ministerial Resolution 1 – Forest sector in the center of Green Economy; adopted by ministers in October 2015 at the 7th Ministerial Conference in Madrid; FOREST EUROPE signatories committed themselves to enhance the role of the sustainable forest management in a green economy and to enhance the social-economic aspects of sustainable forest management.

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

Establishment and work of the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Human Health and Well-being (https://foresteurope.org/forest-europe-expert-group-human-health-well/)

Establishment and work of the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Valuation of and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services (https://foresteurope.org/expert-group-valuation-payments-forest-ecosystem-services/)

Establishment and work of the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education and Training Systems (https://foresteurope.org/expert-group-green-jobs-education-training-systems/)

Description of actions:

The FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on human health and well-being is a group of experts nominated by countries to share expertise, exchange experience and formulate policy oriented recommendations on the thematic issues and challenges related to social benefits of SFM (https://foresteurope.org/event/13422/).

The FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Valuation of and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Services worked in the period January 2017-December 2018. The main outcomes of the work of the Expert Group are summarized in report (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/PES_Final_report.pdf).

The FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on Green Jobs, Education and Training Systems shared information and practices among the countries in the area of the forest sector employment, green jobs and skills development. The main outcome of the work of this Expert Group is UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Web portal on valuation and payments for forest ecosystem services (FES)

Description of actions:

The portal on forest ecosystem services serves as a platform for knowledge and information exchange on valuation methodologies of and payments for FES as well as for sharing best practices in this field. A web portal is a tool that aggregates available and published information on valuation of and payments for FES in one place via simple browsing systems. It enables facilitation of decision-making on FES, particularly selection of appropriate method for their valuation and appropriate financing mechanism (https://foresteurope.org/web-portal-forest-ecosystem-services/).

[4] Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Web portal on valuation and payments for forest ecosystem services (http://foresteurope.org/Web-Portal-on-Forest-Ecosystem-Services/)

Workshop on Forests for Human Health – Challenges and Opportunities

Workshop on Enhancing the long-term competitiveness of the forest sector in a green economy: Policies for forest-based bioeconomy in Europe

Workshop on Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector

Description of actions:

Joint FOREST EUROPE and Austrian Research Centre for Forests Workshop "Forests for Human Health – Challenges and Opportunities", held on 8 – 9 April 2019 in Vienna, Austria, targeted to policy and decision makers from different sectors (i.e. forest sector, health and social sector, sports, tourism, etc.), private and public forest owners, entrepreneurs as well as experts from research and academia (https://foresteurope.org/event/14512/).

Workshop on Enhancing the long-term competitiveness of the forest sector in a green economy: Policies for forest-based bioeconomy in Europe; organized in order to promote long-term competitiveness and viability of the whole forest sector and its contribution to the overall Green Economy; organized by the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit in cooperation with Norway, EUSTAFOR and USSE (https://foresteurope.org/event/13498/).

Workshop on Promoting Green Jobs in the Forest Sector was organized in order to receive feedback for various stakeholders for the purpose of further work on guidelines on the promotion of green jobs. The workshop was organized in June 2017 by the FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit in cooperation with UNECE and FAO (https://foresteurope.org/promoting-green-jobs-forest-sector-workshop-agenda/).

(b) What other action is being taken by your entity in support Member States to achieve goal 2?

Joint production of UNECE/FAO/Forest Europe Guidelines for the promotion of green jobs in Forestry (http://www.fao.org/3/ca6784en/ca6784en.pdf)

(c) How does the action listed above support Member States in the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

Improving the capacity of member states to promote green jobs in the forest sector

(d) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 2 in your region?

- Competition from other sectors and generally low competitiveness of the forest sector to other sectors
- Conflicting policy goals and interests put on forests
- Generally insufficient integration of full value of forest ecosystem service in real economy - payments for ecosystem services, which do not allow full recognition and balanced use of all benefits from the European forests.
- Lack of skilled workforce, deficits in decency of work in forestry, megatrends such as continued urbanization, digitalization, globalization as well as climate change

(e) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Climate change phenomenon and related disturbances also pose risks to competitiveness of the forestry and forest-based industries (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Workshop-report_final-1.pdf).

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets [5]

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Associated targets

3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken by your entity to support Member States to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date if applicable, (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:
Madrid Ministerial Resolution 2 - Protection of forests in a changing environment (http://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/II.-ELM_7MC_2_2015_MadridResolution2_Protection_adopted.pdf)

Description of actions:
Recalling that sustainable forest management integrates the protection of the long-term capacity of forests and forest ecosystems to maintain and improve their stability, vitality, resistance, and regenerative, adaptive and mitigating capacity as well as their potential to provide multiple goods and services while fulfilling relevant ecological, economic and social functions, FOREST EUROPE signatories committed themselves, among others, to further develop pan-European approaches to forest protection as an integral part of sustainable forest management to address new, varied challenges and threats posed to European forests, including climate change, and to further strengthen the role of sustainable forest management to this end.

(ii) Institutional actions (actions to advance implementation of SFM)

List of actions:

Continuation of the pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN).

Description of actions:

Coordinated pan-European efforts in protection of genetic resources of forest tree species in Europe.

[5] Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(b) What other action is being taken your entity in support Member States to achieve goal 3?

(c) How does the action listed above support Member States in the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

(d) What are the main challenges in supporting Member States in achieving goal 3 in your region?

Climate change phenomenon and related disturbances pose risks to all types of forests, incl. those available for wood supply but also those in protected areas or protective forests.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets [6]

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Associated targets

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Questions on goal 4

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your region to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

(b) Since 2015, has your entity been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources to support Member States in the implementation of sustainable forest management?

☐ Yes X No

The activities and outcomes of the process FOREST EUROPE encourage mobilization of funds for financing the sustainable forest management, however, process as such does not provide funding.

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

Costs linked to management of forests in signatory countries of FOREST EUROPE are primarily covered by the entities managing the forests (forest owners, companies managing forests) despite, they often undertake a number of missions (even required by law in some cases) which are not profitable by conventional economic criteria. However, governments also devote resources of staff and funds to support sustainable forest management. Governments use a number of economic instruments to help privately owned forests to achieve sustainable forest management and fulfilment of a number of specific objectives, including conservation of forest biodiversity, forest stand improvement, climate change adaptation, protected areas and afforestation. Countries often use grants, subsidies or tax tools for specific measures.

[6] Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16 -17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 4.3

(c) Please specify the actors/stakeholders with which your entity is cooperating:

X Governments

X Intergovernmental organizations/processes

☐ Private sector

X Non-governmental organizations

☐ Other (please specify):

Types of cooperation:

☐ North-South

☐ South-South

X North-North

☐ Triangular

X Technical

☐ Financial

X Other (please specify): policy

Areas of cooperation:

X Forests and climate change

X Forest biodiversity

X Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests

X Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods

X Forest degradation and rehabilitation

☐ Scientific cooperation

X Forest monitoring/data collection

☐ Technology transfer and capacity development

☐ Production of timber or non-timber products

X Other (please specify): policy

Progress towards target 4.4

(d) Since 2015, has your entity supported Member States in developing or implementing financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

☐ Yes

X No

Comments if needed:

The process provides sharing experiences among the countries and defines areas of common actions, however, development or implementation of financing strategies is competence of signatories.

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets [7]

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your region to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The main tools for integrated forest policies and strategies considered by FOREST EUROPE process are the National forest programs, strengthening coherence and synergies within the forest sector and across other forest-related policy domains which put their objectives on forests. The FOREST EUROPE monitors processes related to development and updates to the national forest programs (https://foresteurope.org/national-forest-programmes/).

[7] Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 5.2

(b) Since 2015, has your entity supported Member States in promoting or participating in National/Regional/Sub-Regional initiatives to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

X Yes

☐ No

Comments if needed:

FOREST EUROPE collects information on the progress of signatories towards commitments adopted at the Ministerial conference in Oslo (2011), known as "Goals for European Forests" and "European 2020 Targets". Issue of elimination of illegal logging is covered by Goal 8 "Goal 8: Illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products are eliminated in Europe" and Target 9: „Effective measures are taken at regional, sub-regional and national levels to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade"

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets [8]

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your region to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

FOREST EUROPE cooperates with regional entities (e.g. UNECE, EFI) and global entities (e.g. FAO, UNFF) in work on further development and promotion of the sustainable forest management. The joint coordinated data collection on the pan-European indicators for SFM was conducted in cooperation with FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment and UNECE (https://foresteurope.org/event/13881/). The UNECE/FAO/FOREST EUROPE Guidelines for the promotion of green jobs in Forestry were elaborated in close collaboration of FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO (http://www.fao.org/3/ca6784en/ca6784en.pdf) Synergies have been sough also in other work areas as appropriate.

[8] Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Progress towards target 6.3 (cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation)

(b) Please describe major actions taken in your region to regarding cross-sectorial coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation.

FOREST EUROPE Expert Group on the Implementation of the Updated pan-European Indicators for SFM invited also other sectors to discussions on the subsets of indicators (https://foresteurope.org/event/12682/)

Cooperation with other sectors was also sought in other work areas of FOREST EUROPE which are cross-sectoral by nature - such as Agroforestry, Benefits of forests for human health, Employment/Green jobs, education and skills development.

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are there criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used by your entity?

X Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

The Updated pan-European Indicators for SFM –
list of indicators was updated in 2015 and forms Annex I to the Madrid Ministerial Declaration – 25 years together promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Europe (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/III.-ELM_7MC_2_2015_MinisterialDeclaration_adopted-2.pdf)

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

X To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management

X To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

X To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

X To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders

X To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify): Part of indicators overlaps with FAO's FRA indicators.

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken by your entity to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

X Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

FOREST EUROPE has developed new, more interactive website (www.foresteurope.org) and periodically updated its content. Active promotion was also through Twitter, YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/user/FORESTEUROPE) Facebook.

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your entity to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

X Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Major groups are observers of FOREST EUROPE and participate in the FOREST EUROPE activities which also contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in the region. regione)

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your entity taken action to support Member States in promoting gender equality in the forest sector?

X Yes ☐ No

If yes, please indicate action taken regarding the following:

☐ Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources

☐ Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels

☐ Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

X Other

Please provide a brief description:

General support for gender equality, equal access and non-discrimination in the joint ECE/FAO/Forest Europe Guidelines on the Promotion of Green Jobs in Forestry (http://www.fao.org/3/ca6784en/ca6784en.pdf)

(b) What action has been taken by your entity in observance of the International Day of Forests?

☐ Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)

☐ Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)

☐ Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

X Social media activities

☐ Other

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

FOREST EUROPE #DiscoverForest campaign https://foresteurope.org/international-day-forests-2017-campaign/ with its related video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLR5WMOHqWA Linkage of FOREST EUROPE Work Programme Actions to regional and global forest related goals and targets: https://www.facebook.com/FORESTEUROPE/photos/a.571091692916520/2384193111606360/?type=3&theater, https://www.youtube.com/user/FORESTEUROPE

Success stories

8. Does your entity have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017– 2030? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

Success story 1

Action taken:

- Adoption of Ministerial Decision on Resuming the Negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe

Goals and targets addressed:

G1, T1.2, T1.3, T1.4, G2, T2.4, T2.5, G3, T3.3, G4, T4.2, T4.3, T4.5, G5, T5.1, T5.2, T5.3, T5.4, G6, T6.3, T6.4, T6.5

Outcome and results achieved:

Draft Ministerial Decision on Resuming the Negotiations on a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe was adopted by the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meeting in Bratislava on 6 December 2018, and subsequently endorsed by ministers responsible for forests in Europe.
The signatories of FOREST EUROPE expressed readiness to resume the negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and agreed that further negotiations on a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe should take place and be finalized under the auspices of the UN system (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Ministerial-Decision-on-Resuming-the-Negotiations-on-LBA_final.pdf).