

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF). Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
 2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
 3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
 4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories
- To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)
5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
 6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
 7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
 8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
 9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

Slovakia

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

Name: : Boris Greguška

Title: : Chief State Counsellor

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3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:

(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report:

(up to five)

Institution Name:

National Forest Centre

Email address:

nlc@nlcsk.org

Address:

T. G. Masaryka 22, SK-96001 Zvolen, Slovakia

Institution Name:

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic

Email address:

info@land.gov.sk

Address:

Dobrovičova 12, SK-81266 Bratislava, Slovakia

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 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

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

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

Target 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

Target 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

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 and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030. NFP's strategic objective III: Utilize the potential of trees outside forests (on agricultural land) in adapting landscape to climate change.

Brief description of the action:

Forest area has been increasing, respectively is stable in Slovakia. However, some objectives set out in the NFP and measures identified in its Action Plan may contribute to the achievement of the Target 1.1.

NFP's specific target 3.1 aims at improving conditions for a transfer of agricultural land parcels, covered by trees, to forest land parcels and become forest land also in legal terms. There are estimated 0.2 – 0.3 million hectares (ha) of land which is registered in national cadastral system as agricultural parcels, but due to partial abandonment of agricultural management (throughout the past decades) this land has been a subject of natural forest expansion. As a consequence, such areas are covered by trees of various age, size, species, and with various tree cover density. Pursuant to the national legislation, such areas are legally considered as agricultural land, not being subject to forest management regulated by the Forest Act.

Main results achieved for the action:

In 2024, the area of forest land reached 2.030 million ha, of which forest stands accounted for 1.96 million ha. The long-term trend of increasing forest land area has continued. Since 2020 the area of forest stands has increased by around 5 500 ha. Forest cover reached 41.4% in 2024, it has increased by 0.5 % since 2000. Another 0.2 – 0.3 million ha of agricultural land is covered by trees of various age, species, and with various tree cover with potential to be partly converted to forest land.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29336/1> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30253/1>

Action (short title):

Afforestation measures in the EU Common Agricultural Policy

Brief description of the action:

There has been a public funding through EU Common Agricultural Policy (before and after 2020) to support intentional afforestation of agricultural land as well as initial forest management on afforested agricultural land.

Main results achieved for the action:

This stimulus contributed marginally to an increase in forest land.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.2
- 1.3
- 1.4

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Applying principles of sustainable forest management in existing forests in line with the NFP strategic objectives and the Forest Act.

Brief description of the action:

Applying sustainable forest management principles in existing forests guarantees that the forest area remains stable or is increasing, in a long run.

Main results achieved for the action:

In 2024, the area of forest land reached 2.030 million ha, of which forest stands accounted for 1.96 million ha. The long-term trend of increasing forest land area has continued. Since 2020 the area of forest stands has increased by around 5 500 ha. Forest cover reached 41.4% in 2024, it has increased by 0.5 % since 2000.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
1.4
2.4
2.5
3.2
3.3

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.mpsr.sk/en/index.php?navID=17&id=89>

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

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030. Objectives, targets and measures related to carbon stock enhancement.

Brief description of the action:

There are specific objectives and measures in the NFP and its Action Plan that may further enhance carbon stocks in soils and tree biomass:

NFP's specific target 1.1 To improve the effectiveness of implementing forest protection measures in the most threatened stands.

NFP's specific target 1.2 Transformation of stands with unsuitable tree species composition into more resilient mixed forests.

NFP's specific target 3.1 Improving the conditions for transfer of agricultural land, covered by trees, to forest land (described under the Target 1.1)

NFP's specific target 3.2 Promoting the implementation of agro-forestry systems at agricultural land which may increase carbon stock sequestered in trees outside forests.

Main results achieved for the action:

In 2023, carbon stocks in forests in living biomass, deadwood and forest soil reached the value of 511 million tonnes (3 million tonnes more than in 2020). The largest amount of carbon is stored in soil (270.5 million tonnes) and in aboveground tree biomass (167 million tonnes).

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.3
- 1.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1
- 15.2

Weblink:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29336/1> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30253/1>

Action (short title):

Actions resulting from the EU and national legislation

Brief description of the action:

Forest carbon stock in Slovakia is a subject of the EU's LULUCF targets as follows:

(1) for the period 2021-2025: "No-debit rule" which for forest land means to maintain emission levels under so called "Forest Reference Levels" (in case of Slovakia on the side of removals – i.e. negative emissions)

(2) for the period 2026-2030: national targets set out in the Regulation (EU) 2023/839. The 2030 Target for Slovakia was set as 0.504 Mt of CO₂ e.q below average removals level 2016-2018 in LULUCF sector. To meet this emission target for 2030 (and emission trajectory 2026-2029), forests will have to make a major contribution to the LULUCF removals.

On the other hand, these ambitious targets may prioritize short-term carbon stock (CO₂ removals) over the long-term stability of carbon sequestered in forests (forest management working towards stable, resilient and adapted forests).

Moreover, to implement the target 1.2, there is also an adequate legal and institutional framework in place, regulated mostly by Forest Act and Nature Conservation Act. Sustainability of forest resources is guaranteed by obligatory forest management plans for all forests in the country and their supervision by state administration.

Main results achieved for the action:

Preliminary calculations show that Slovakia is on a track to meet EU's LULUCF targets for the period 2021-2025, while meeting the targets for 2026-2030 seems to be more challenging.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3
1.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/839/oj/eng>

Target 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

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Close-to-nature forest management concept incorporated into the Forest Act and revised Nature Conservation Act limiting forest management intervention to close-to-nature methods in protected areas at defined level of nature protection.

Brief description of the action:

Close-to-nature forest management focuses on supporting natural processes in the forest to increase the stability and resilience of forest stands to climate change, minimizing the need for artificial regeneration and promoting biodiversity. The obligation to apply close-to-nature forest management in areas of the third level of nature protection (out of five levels, the fifth level is the most strict protection) was introduced by an amendment to Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection. This amendment was adopted in 2019 and effective from 2020. The Forest Act defines close to nature forest management as follows: individual tree selection or group selection at small scale irregular plots up to 0.2 hectare, on slopes above 40% it allows strip shelterwood system with width up to one tree-height and up to 1.5 hectare.

Main results achieved for the action:

Currently, close-to-nature forest management is applied at approximately 4% of the forest area in Slovakia. Specifically, this accounts for 90,000 hectares. In addition, about 230,000 hectares are subject to the obligation to apply close-to-nature forest management as a result of new legislation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.4
2.4
2.5
5.2
5.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2005-326> <https://www.zakonypreludi.sk/zz/2002-543>

Action (short title):

New legislative acts related to EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

Brief description of the action:

The Slovak Parliament approved a new law - the Act No. 81/2025 to ensure the implementation of the EUDR (the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the EU market and the export from the EU of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation (EUDR)) at a national level. The new Act also amends existing law - the Forest Act and the Nature and Landscape Protection Act.

Main results achieved for the action:

The approved new legislation defines the obligation of Slovakia to designate an assigned authority responsible for implementing the obligations arising from the EUDR that aims to prevent products linked to deforestation and/or forest degradation from being placed on or exported from the EU market.

The amendments provide procedure for carrying out supervision and imposition of measures ensuring the obligations set out in EUDR, including applying sanctions for breaching the obligations.

The amendments to the Forest Act and Nature and Landscape Protection Act should also amend the provisions necessary for determination of the origin of wood.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
5.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1115/oj/eng>

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030.

Brief description of the action:

The NFP headlined "Forests for Society" sets its vision to promote sustainable forest management through forest governance based on timely and accurate information, cross-sectoral cooperation, interdisciplinary approach and stakeholder participation at all levels, and thus contribute to sustainable development, protection of biodiversity, and human wellbeing. The vision should be achieved through 31 specific objectives grouped into 17 strategic goals. The objectives are classified in five thematic categories: Forests and climate, Forests and timber, Forests and new technologies, Forests and society, and Forests and public policies.

NFP's Strategic Goal II includes the ambition to expand close-to-nature managed forests to 500,000 ha by 2030, which represents 25% of the total forest area in Slovakia.

Main results achieved for the action:

The process of developing the National Forest Programme 2030 started in 2019. It was adopted by the Government of the Slovak Republic in March 2024. The NFP Action Plan was endorsed in December 2024.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.4
2.4
2.5
5.1
5.2
5.3
5.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29336/1> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30253/1>

Target 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

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030.

Brief description of the action:

NFP contains the following specific objectives and measures related to the Target 1.4:

NFP's Specific target 1.1: Improve effectiveness of forest protection measures to slow down decay of the most vulnerable forest stands.

NFP's Specific target 1.2: Convert 10% of forests with inappropriate tree species composition to more resilient mixed forests.

NFP's Specific target 1.3: Ensure maintaining the gene-pool of forest tree species.

To protect forests from further decline, measures and objectives are aimed at fundamental change of tree species composition on at least one third of the current area of Norway spruce and Scotch pine forests (approx. 100,000 ha) with a particular focus on artificially established monocultures in sites unsuitable for these tree species. Regulations regarding transfer of genetic material are being adjusted to account for changing climatic conditions and ensuring genetic pool of forest tree species for future reforestation.

Objectives and targets of the NFP aim at implementation of a comprehensive forest health monitoring system to identify risks (Strategic objective X; Specific goal 1.1: Improve the effectiveness of the implementation of forest protection measures in the most endangered stands).

Main results achieved for the action:

More resilient deciduous (46.7%), predominantly deciduous (8.6%) and mixed forests (20.1%) prevail in forest stands; their total proportion was 75.4% in 2024. The share of coniferous and predominantly coniferous forests was 24.3% and has decreased by 3.5% since 2015. In 2024, the average defoliation of coniferous trees was 39.1% and deciduous trees 22.6%, showing a slight improvement in forest health in the last two years.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
2.5
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29336/1> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30253/1>

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Slovakia faces several challenges in achieving goals related to forest area expansion, carbon stock increase, sustainable management, deforestation prevention, and forest adaptation to climate change.

Slovak forests are vulnerable to climate change effects like longer periods of drought, heatwaves and storms. These factors contribute to the bark beetle infestations and the decline of especially spruce and pine forests, but damaging also broadleaved tree species.

While there are programs supporting close-to-nature forestry and forest restoration, financial incentives for forest owners remain limited. Complexity of operations, limited road network, higher costs along with fragmented ownership and complex administrative procedures complicate the effective implementation of transformation mechanisms.

Expansion of natural forest regeneration faces several obstacles, as well. While the share of natural regeneration has remained stable at around 40 %, its full potential is not being utilized due to unsuitable tree species composition of mature stands, damage to young seedlings by ungulate game, and in some places also due to invasive vegetation or short regeneration periods.

Increasing demands for biodiversity protection in managed forests and expansion of non-intervention zones towards managed forests create tensions between conservation efforts and interests of forest owners and managers, and people living in rural areas who depend on forestry and forest based sectors. This conflict complicates timely implementation of forestry measures and slows down the adoption of sustainable solutions.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

Target 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

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

Target 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

Target 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

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, 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.

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Target 2.1 is not relevant for Slovakia.

Brief description of the action:

Target 2.1 is not relevant for Slovakia.

Main results achieved for the action:

Target 2.1 is not relevant for Slovakia.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Public policy tools to improve the management and competitiveness of small-scale private (non-state) forests

Brief description of the action:

Forest owners and managers, especially those with of small and medium-size enterprises up to 500 ha, have an important role in regional policy. The aim to increase public support of small-scale forest enterprises is reflected in Strategic Objective XII of the National Forest Programme 2025-2030: Create an effective mix of public policy instruments to improve the management and competitiveness of small-scale non-state forests. It focuses on specific measures supporting landscape management, providing ecosystem services, regional and local entrepreneurship, diversification of activities, supporting cooperation and modernizing production processes. Measures aimed at improving forest management practices for forests up to 500 ha and supporting forestry entrepreneurship are included in the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the national CAP Strategic Plan (SP). Investment support will contribute to more modern, efficient and environmentally-friendly forest management practices.

Main results achieved for the action:

Small enterprises' access to financing has been improved and subsidy programs for investments in sustainable forest management have been expanded. Support for provision of non-productive forest functions (<https://www.apa.sk/lesy-de-minimis>) doubled from 3 mil. € in 2020 to 6 mil. € in 2022 and 2023.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

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

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Support for the sale of wild game meat products

Brief description of the action:

In 2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic launched the project "Delicacy from the forest" supporting the sale of game meat. This project focuses on the processing and sale of wild meat originating from the local wild, supplied by the state forest enterprise "LESY SR" and hunting associations, in contrast to farmed wild animals' meat provided to our market from farms from abroad.

Another option for purchasing Slovak game meat is the web application developed by the Slovak Hunting Chamber. In this way, customers can buy fresh meat directly from the nearest hunting association.

Main results achieved for the action:

Since the launch of the application more than 70 tons of wild game meat was offered to customers.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Support for the economic stability of the forestry sector

Brief description of the action:

From 2020 to 2023, the effort in the forestry and forest-based sector was focused on improving economic performance, mainly by enhancing wood utilization, increasing added value in the wood-processing industry, and promoting sustainable forest management. Investments were also directed towards the modernization of forestry technologies and infrastructure. Through the Rural Development Program of Slovakia (2014-2022) and the Strategic Plan of the Common Agricultural Policy (2023-2027), € 98.3 million was allocated to support sustainable forestry practices, forest road networks, and reforestation efforts. Recently adopted National Forest Program 2025-2030 "Forests for Society" and its Action Plan are the key strategic documents guiding future investments in forestry, towards innovation, technological modernization and increasing the competitiveness of the sector.

Main results achieved for the action:

A 10.6% increase in fixed-price investments between 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the total revenues and earnings in the forestry sector of Slovakia, including forest managers and service providers, reached € 1,287.9 million, representing an 8.3% increase compared to 2022 and 48.7% increase compared to 865.8 mil. in 2020. The largest share came from sales of own products and services.

Forest sector in Slovakia provides jobs for a wide range of professionals. The forestry sector (forestry entities) directly employ roughly around 17.1 thousand workers, of which 7.85 thousand employees and 9.25 thousand other self-employed persons or one-person Ltd.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3
2.5
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

Target 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

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Biodiversity commitments

Brief description of the action:

By adopting the EU Regulation 2024/1991 on Nature Restoration, Slovakia is obliged to fulfilling several objectives related to strengthening the protection and restoration of biodiversity. By 2030, at least 30% of habitats listed in Annex I, which are not in good conditions, must be restored, with this target increasing to 60% by 2040 and 90% by 2050. Restoration efforts should prioritize Natura 2000 sites, ensuring that protected areas receive focused attention. Additionally, Slovakia must prevent further deterioration of the habitats and achieve improvements at least seven out of eight established indicators for forest ecosystems. The Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic is currently developing the National Nature Restoration Plan that outlines specific actions to implement these commitments effectively. These legally binding commitments are in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP 15 of the Convention of Biological Diversity and its 2050 Goals and 2030 Targets.

Main results achieved for the action:

Since 2020, biodiversity trends in Slovakia have developed in various directions. Despite the adoption of several strategic documents, such as the updated National Biodiversity Protection Strategy until 2020 and the related Action Plan, the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation remain a challenge. Although objectives were set, including stopping the deterioration of species and habitats and restoring 15% of degraded ecosystems, the implementation of these measures has often been insufficient.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
3.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Carbon removals commitments

Carbon removals commitments
Carbon removals commitments

Brief description of the action:

Legal obligations towards climate agenda has been done through adoption of revised (EU) LULUCF regulation setting the carbon removal targets for EU Member States, incl. Slovakia. These legally binding targets, aiming to achieve climate neutrality in the EU by 2050, are in line with UNFCCC and Paris Agreement.

Main results achieved for the action:

So far, Slovakia has been achieving its carbon removal commitments in LULUCF sector, where forest land and forestry are the most important sink category. However, climate change and natural forest disturbances in combination with more ambitious targets, pose significant challenge to meet the removal targets for 2030 and beyond.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Slovakia has a long tradition in applying sustainable forest management practices and is making incremental progress especially in introducing participatory mechanisms and internationally recognized goals into strategic forestry planning (NFP). To enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, more emphasis should be placed on clear policies, innovations, digitalization, reduction of bureaucratic processes, supporting measures to forest owners and communication with the public.

The economic performance of the forestry sector is influenced by fluctuations in timber prices, a decline in logging volumes, and increased operational costs.

Although financial incentives are allocated through the Rural Development Program and the CAP Strategic Plan (2023-2027), small forestry enterprises face bureaucratic obstacles in accessing funds.

Given the current state of public policies and communication, lacking long-term vision and consistency towards target groups, public awareness of the importance of holistic approach to forestry and managing forests is not sufficient.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

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

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

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

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, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

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

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Network of Pristine forests

Brief description of the action:

In 2021, a new network of strictly protected areas was designated under a joint name "Pristine forests of the Slovak Republic" ("Prálesy Slovenska").

Main results achieved for the action:

The new network of strictly protected areas includes remnants of primary and old-growth forests. Aiming to ensure connectivity between the remnants of primary forests and enlargement of old-growth forests in the future, the primary and old-growth forests network spanning almost 6.500 ha in total includes also some previously managed forests.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Changes in administration of national parks with the aim to align the whole system of their protection with international (IUCN) criteria.

Brief description of the action:

In the field of forest biodiversity protection, administration of national parks has been undertaking significant changes since 2021 with the aim to align the whole system of their protection with an international (IUCN) criteria. As a consequence, this measure will lead most likely to the enlargement of the share of strictly protected areas in the national parks. The measure also includes shift in land management responsibilities for the state-owned forest land in the national parks - the administration and management of the land (mostly forests) was transferred from state forest authorities to nature conservation authorities.

Main results achieved for the action:

Zoning of national parks which should be a precondition to above-mentioned changes is still in progress in five out of nine national parks (zonation completed in 4 national parks so far).

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

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

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forest Management Plans remain obligatory and state funded

Brief description of the action:

In Slovakia, there is a legal obligation to ensure management of forests according to approved forest management plans (it has been established decades ago, i.e. not introduced since 2020). Preparation of forest management plans is funded from the state budget for both public, as well as privately owned forests.

Main results achieved for the action:

All forests in Slovakia are managed according to forest management plans and the implementation of the plan is supervised and guaranteed by certified forest managers (special institute in Slovakia). Forest management plans are prepared for a period of 10 years. So, forest management plans are renewed every year for approximately one tenth of forest area.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.slov-lex.sk/ezbierky/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2005/326/>

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

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030.

Brief description of the action:

The issues of the forest products from sustainably managed forests are addressed in the Thematic area 2 „Forests and Wood“ of the new NFP and its Action Plan 2025-2030. NFP contains following specific objectives and measures related to forests products:

Specific target 4.1 To improve the qualitative structure of raw wood assortments supply and increase its domestic consumption.

Measures:

- Increase the share of raw wood (especially the highest quality assortments) sold through electronic auctions and public auctions,
- Support the creation of small local processing (value) chains,
- (Possibly, depending on the availability of resources) Ensure the implementation of an investment project in accordance with the rules of state aid for domestic processing of assortments of I. and II. quality classes and hardwood sawn wood.

Specific target 4.2 Technologically modernize and increase the added value of the forestry and timber sector

Measures:

- Support innovative projects in primary forestry production and primary processing of raw wood,
- Financial support for raw wood processors to implement advanced technologies for detecting wood defects,

Specific target 7.1 Support certified products and supply chains

- Implementation of supporting policies to increase the area of certified forests as well as to create opportunities for wider utilization of certified wood and wood products.

Main results achieved for the action:

The time frame for this measure was set for 2025-2030. Wood supply in 2020 was 7.45 mil. m³, in 2023 it was 7.10 mil. m³ with expected trend to further drop due to nature conservation measures described under Target 3.1. In the future, we can also expect changes in forest stand age structure that may have decreasing impact on wood felling opportunities.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29336/1> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30253/1>

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

There is a lack of wider consensus among the various groups of stakeholders, mainly from the forestry sector on one side and nature conservation on the other, regarding whether an active or passive (non-intervention) approach to forest protection is more appropriate and to what extent, in specific conditions of Slovakia (natural, socio-economic).

Regardless tensions at a political level, there is a number of good practise examples of cooperation between forestry and nature conservation sectors on the ground (for example: <https://web.nlcsk.org/pri-vyskume-moznosti-ochrany-mladych-lesnych-porastov-spolupracuju-lesnici-vyskumnici-aj-ochranari/>).

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 4: 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 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

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

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, 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.

Target 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

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Slovak Aid Project: Promoting SFM in the Republic of Moldova using innovative afforestation methods - project

Brief description of the action:

The Slovak Aid (ODA) funded project started in December 2024 and will be implemented by the National Forest Centre in Slovakia together with Moldovan partners – Association of Women in Forestry in Republic of Moldova and Forest Research and Management Institute. The main objective of this project is to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The project will focus on cooperation in the field of forestry research and practice, with an emphasis on the validation and implementation of innovative afforestation methods in forestry practice. To support afforestation, the technical equipment for forest monitoring – Field-Map – will be procured for the Institute of Forestry Research and Development (ICAS). On the basis of the knowledge acquired during implementation of innovative afforestation methods, training for the forestry professions and middle forestry management will be provided with a focus on afforestation.

Main results achieved for the action:

The project is planned for the period December 2024 - July 2026 and has been implemented with the funds from the official development assistance of the Slovak Republic (Slovak Aid).

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.3
- 1.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

Target 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

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

No

22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

Limited amount of resources due to COVID pandemic.

Target 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

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forestry measures in EU Rural Development Policy (Common Agricultural Policy) / EU Recovery and Resilience Plan

Brief description of the action:

The major source of public financial support comes from EU funds, mainly the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Current CAP Strategic Plan provides specific forestry measures to support implementation of close to nature forestry (25 mil. EUR) and forest restoration measures in forests damaged by natural disturbances and the prevention measures in already established forest stands (20 mil. EUR). These two measures together account for almost half of the CAP SP resources allocated for forestry for the programming period 2023-2027. Roughly, the other half of the allocated resources for forestry measures should support small forest holders, investments to water retention, and compensations for nature protection restrictions and forest-environmental measures.

Other amount of some 40 mil. EUR shall be made available from revised EU Recovery and Resilience Plan for Slovakia (revision under process). These measures shall support adaptation of forests to climate change in the framework of sustainable forest management.

In general, forestry activities on the ground (such as obligatory forest regeneration, tending and protection of young forest stands) are funded by forest owners / holders themselves regardless ownership of a forest. Forest management plans are obligatory for all forests in the country; these are procured and funded from public resources.

Main results achieved for the action:

The funding (after 2020) was provided from previous CAP programming period (2014-2020) mainly to restoration and regeneration of forests after natural disturbances. In total, the public resources to support forestry were at 47.26 mil. € in 2020 (including COVID pandemic measures) and 31.1 mil. € in 2023.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4
2.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.mpsr.sk/index.php?navID=47&sID=43&navID2=1180>

Action (short title):

Financial support for non-productive forest functions

Brief description of the action:

Support from the state budget (state aid) has been provided for provision of forest ecosystem services other than wood and non-wood production (so called non-productive forest functions). This financial support has the nature of direct payment to forest holders completing silvicultural operations according to a forest management plan, leading to provision of ecological functions (such as protection of soil, regulation of water cycle, regulation of climatic conditions) and social functions (e. g. positive impact on human health, cultural function, educational function, recreational function, biodiversity protection, and protection of water sources).

Main results achieved for the action:

Since 2017 on, there was a total amount of almost 36 millions of euros, as state aid, allocated to forest owners (holders) to support fulfilling non-productive functions of Slovak forests. Since 2020, the support doubled from 3 mil. € during the last three years amounting to 6 mil. EUR per year. This financial support recently falls under a new state aid scheme, based on the current Act on Providing Subsidies in Agriculture.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
2.2
1.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.apa.sk/lesy-de-minimis>

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030.

Brief description of the action:

NFP's Strategic Objective XVI is to introduce payment mechanisms for forest ecosystem services. Related measures aim at:

- 1) Improvement of existing public payment mechanisms for forest ecosystem services (incl. incorporating carbon sequestration assessment),
- 2) Securing financial resources for existing public payment mechanisms for ecosystem services from the state budget and EU funds,
- 3) Creating conditions for utilization of funds for public payment mechanisms for ecosystem services.

Main results achieved for the action:

The time frame for measures 1 and 3 were set for the period 2025-2026, and for measure 2 there is timeframe 2025-2030.

At scientific level, a monograph "The value of ecosystems and their services in Slovakia" was published in 2020, which provided a comprehensive biophysical and monetary assessment of ecosystem services.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.b

Weblink:

<https://www.sopsr.sk/files/hodnota-ekosys.pdf>

Target 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

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Cooperation between Slovakia and Moldova in the field of forest pedagogy

Brief description of the action:

The project titled "Transfer the knowledge and raise awareness about the sustainable use of natural resources on the example of forest pedagogy" was approved within the grant scheme SlovakAid in 2022. The main project partners are the National Forest Centre (Slovakia), State Forestry Agency MoldSilva of the Republic Moldova and Association of Women in Republic of Moldova. The project focuses on the transfer of knowledge and experience from Slovakia to Moldova in the field of forestry, especially forest restoration and monitoring, as well as strengthening the pedagogical skills of pedagogical staff and foresters through seminars and environmental education on the example of forest. The "Forestry Days" information campaign in Slovakia will be transferred as a best practice to Moldova. Moldovan partners will develop and organize a similar model in Moldova. Another project is described in Target 4.1.

Main results achieved for the action:

Knowledge transfer and capacity building in Moldova within the official development assistance of the Slovak Republic through the project lasting from November 2022 to April 2024.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030

Brief description of the action:

The Strategic Objective XIII of the National Forest Programme (NFP) aims to acquire innovative knowledge and strengthen human resources for good forest governance, listing specific measures:

- 1) Support the implementation of Horizon Europe partnerships related to forestry. This measure is intended to support cooperation of research and decision-making sphere with foreign partners through co-funded European partnerships in Horizon Europe programme and through BIOEAST initiative in relation to forestry.
- 2) Obtain financial resources and carry out research within the framework of domestic and foreign calls for projects. The measure intends to support the implementation of research projects in all priority areas of the NFP. Research of the impacts of climate change, biodiversity conservation, wood supply, bioeconomy, the introduction of new technologies, socio-economic issues, nature-based solutions and the provision of ecosystem services requires a broad multidisciplinary approach and investments in technology, living labs and innovation centres.

Main results achieved for the action:

The timeframe for these NFP Action Plan measures was set for the period 2025-2030.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.3
1.4
4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

**27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)**

Governments
Intergovernmental organizations and/or processes
Private sector

**28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

North-South
North-North

**29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

Science

Target 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

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

**32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Public domestic funding

Public international funding, including official development assistance

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

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

No

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

Yes

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

2016

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

**37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

The National Forest Program is the main strategy for forests and forestry in Slovakia for the period until 2030. The NFP Action Plan (AP) is an indicative document. AP identifies financial resources needed for the implementation of measures resulting from NFP, however, the funding is indicative in nature, and requires allocations from the state budget to the extent necessary to achieve all the established goals.

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 5: 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

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

Target 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

Target 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

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

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, 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.

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

38. In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes

39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)

National sustainable development plans

Target 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

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Implementing the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) at a national level

Brief description of the action:

The Slovak Parliament approved a new law - the Act No. 81/2025 to ensure the implementation of the EUDR (the Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the EU market and the export from the EU of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation (EUDR)) at a national level. The new Act also amends existing law - the Forest Act and the Nature and Landscape Protection Act.

The approved new legislation defines the obligation of Slovakia to designate an assigned authority responsible for implementing the obligations arising from the EUDR that aims to prevent products linked to deforestation and/or forest degradation from being placed on or exported from the EU market.

The amendments provide procedure for carrying out supervision and imposition of measures ensuring the obligations set out in EUDR, including applying sanctions for breaching the obligations.

The amendments to the Forest Act and Nature and Landscape Protection Act should also amend the provisions necessary for determination of the origin of wood.

Main results achieved for the action:

The new law designates an assigned authority responsible for fulfilling the obligations arising from the EUDR Regulation.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

Target 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

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation
Export controls
Import controls
Improved enforcement of existing legislation

Target 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

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030

Brief description of the action:

The entire process of preparing the National Forest Programme took place within the framework of a participatory process involving actors from various sectors and areas. The Council for developing the NFP and its Thematic Committees involved representatives of the following sectors: agriculture, environment, finance, academia, science and research, transport, defense and internal administration.

Main results achieved for the action:

The new National Forest Programme (NFP) and its Action Plan for 2025-2030 is a tool providing conditions to ensure the cross-sectoral coordination on forest related issues. NFP is a multi-sectoral tool of forest policy for planning, implementation, financing, monitoring and evaluation. NFP is based on the assumption that the issue of forests and forestry is an area of interest for policies of sectors whose activities significantly affect forests and the natural environment.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
5.1
6.3
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://nlp.nlc.sk.org/index.php/o-nlp/participativny-proces>

Target 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

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

Participation of stakeholders in policy development, decision-making and implementation is ensured through application of the general law, namely the Act No. 71/1967 Coll., as amended, that sets modalities for administrative procedures of public authorities in cases when the rights, legitimate interests or duties of interested persons are affected (in order to ensure participation of relevant stakeholders and other interested persons in these administrative processes). According to the measures of the new Action Plan of the National Forest Programme 2025-2030, a platform (forum) shall be created to ensure participation of individual interest groups in the negotiation of public policies related to forests. The forum on forests should start operating from the second half of 2025.

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

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

**46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.**

Although the process of policy development follows participative principles, there is a tendency to develop sectoral policies with limited coherence and base the preparatory effort on the already existing EU policies that may also lack coherence. In addition, there is a lack of holistic assessment of national and local conditions and wider stakeholder interests – that is necessary for development of proper policies.

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 6: 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

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

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

Target 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

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.

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

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Adoption of the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2030 by the Government of the Slovak Republic. Elaboration and endorsement of the NFP's Action Plan 2025-2030.

Brief description of the action:

A range of stakeholders involved in developing and implementing the National Forest Programme and its Action Plan. NFP passed cross-sectoral revision procedure and Government approval.

Main results achieved for the action:

National Forest Programme: Strategic vision, objectives, targets and measures that reflect interests and needs of different sectors and the general public.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.2
2.4
2.5
3.3
4.1
4.2
4.3
4.5
5.2
5.3
5.4
6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2
15.b

Other, please specify: 9.1, 9.3, 9.5, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.8, 15.9, 15.a, 17.6

Weblink:

<https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/29336/1> <https://rokovania.gov.sk/RVL/Material/30253/1>

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

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Climate change
Biodiversity
Rural development
Land use

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

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer

readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Reports on the state of Slovak forests and forestry elaborated and issued annually

Brief description of the action:

The report on forests and the forest sector in the Slovak Republic (so called green report) is elaborated annually in accordance with the pan-European criteria and indicators of SFM adopted by FOREST EUROPE. Reports are made publically available at the website of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

Main results achieved for the action:

Communicating and raising public awareness on the state and importance of forests and the forest sector for the society. Communicating relevant data and information (facts) on the situation of Slovak forests.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.5
5.3
5.4
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://www.mpsr.sk/en/index.php?navID=17>

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

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

**52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

National or subnational
Regional or international (for instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests)

**53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
To monitor and assess forest conditions and management
To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management
To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):: FAO FRA, Report on the State of Europe's Forests (FOREST EUROPE/FAO/UNECE)

Target 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

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Involvement of youth representative in a national delegation at the UNFF19 and UNFF20 sessions

Brief description of the action:

For the first time ever, a youth delegate, student of the Faculty of Forestry of the Technical University in Zvolen, took part in the UNFF 19 session as a member of the national delegation. The successful effort repeated for UNFF20. The students of the Technical University with support of the IFSA Slovakia and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic actively participated in promoting the interests of the country and at the same time the young generation of forest professionals.

Main results achieved for the action:

Better involvement of youth during UNFF19 and UNFF20 sessions. Triggering the dialogue among young generation on the international forest policy and its importance and relevance at a national level.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

6.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Other, please specify: 5.5

Weblink:

<https://www.tuzvo.sk/sk/rozhoduje-sa-o-buducnosti-svetovych-lesov-lesnicka-fakulta-tuzvo-je-pri-tom>

Target 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

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

Participatory approach implemented along the whole development process of the National Forest Programme 2030.

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Although the process of policy development follows participative principles, there is a tendency to develop sectoral policies with limited coherence and base the preparatory effort on the already existing EU policies that may also lack coherence. In addition, there is a lack of holistic assessment of national and local conditions and wider stakeholder interests – that is necessary for development of proper policies. Acceptance of the concept of Sustainable Forest Management by the nature protection sector is sometimes limited.

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area	X					
1.2 Carbon stock		X				
1.3 Implementation of SFM	X					
1.4 Resilience and adaptation		X				
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people						X
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises			X			
2.3 Food security			X			
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development			X			
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation		X				
3.1 Protected areas	X					
3.2 Long-term forest management plans	X					
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests		X				
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM				X		
4.2 Increased forest related financing			X			
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships		X				
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing			X			
4.5 Forest-related information		X				
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies		X				
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance		X				
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes				X		
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning			X			
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation				X		
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets			X			
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders		X				

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

Yes

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

VNC announced in 2018: https://www.un.org/esa/forests/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/VNC_SlovakRepublic.pdf
(Financial support for non-productive forest functions; for detailed description see the weblink).

Progress to date:

Since 2017 on, there was a total amount of almost 36 millions of euros, as state aid, allocated to forest owners (holders) to support fulfilling, so called, non-productive functions of Slovak forests. Based on legal conditions, the aim is to support non-productive functions of forests, that means ecological functions (such as protection of soil, regulation of water cycle, regulation of climatic conditions) and social functions (e. g. positive impact on human health, cultural function, educational function, recreational function, biodiversity protection, and protection of water sources).

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

1.4
2.4
2.5
4.2

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2
15.b

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

**62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:
(Select all that apply)**

Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions

Other, please specify: The National Labour Code explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sex and mandates equal pay for equal work or work of equal value.

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

The issue of gender equality in the forest sector is partially addressed. In general, the principle of equal treatment in the field of employment relationships is established in Act No. 311/2001 Coll., the Labor Code, and Act No.365/2004 Coll., the Act on Equal Treatment in Certain Areas and on Protection against Discrimination ("Anti- Discrimination Act"). In 2022, the National Forest Centre (NFC) adopted a gender equality plan, which is an internal document that defines the requirements related to the implementation of gender equality in all fields at NFC. It is a part of the strategic development at NFC that supports gender equality in all spheres of NFC activities and at any management level.

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests? (Select all that apply)

Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
Social media activities

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

The National Forest Centre – Centre for Knowledge Transfer and Forest Pedagogy prepares a campaign on the occasion of the International Day of Forests every year. The campaign includes various activities such as preparation of posters, key messages shared via social media, short sketches (published on the forest pedagogy website and social media), educational workshops intended for pre-primary and primary schools, knowledge quizzes about forests, photo contests for the general public, methodological materials for forest pedagogues.

Main national-wide awareness raising events are organized every year in April, so called "Forestry days". The topic of Forestry Days in Slovakia is usually based on the topic of the International Day of Forests.

Every year, an activity called "Forests Hidden in a Book" is carried out. Forest pedagogues read stories related to the forest to primary school children and prepare various interactive activities. The theme of the story reflects the theme of the International Day of Forests.

Weblink:

<http://www.lesnapedagogika.sk/portal/>; <https://www.lesnickedni.sk/>

International Forest Day Action:

Weblink:

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

Chairmanship of the FOREST EUROPE process in 2016-2021 (Pan-European forest policy process)

Brief description:

International intergovernmental cooperation: Slovakia hosted the secretariat, so called Liaison Unit, to the ministerial forest policy pan-European (regional) political process FOREST EUROPE from 2016 to 2020. This political process and its Programme of Work, and ministerial documents adopted at the Eighth FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held in 2021 provided the further political guidance to Sustainable Forest Management and strategic vision on cooperation on forests in Europe and thus also to the implementation of the UNSPF 2017-2030 (under the Slovak political leadership).

Main results achieved:

The Eighth FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference: European ministers responsible for forests signed the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution "Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change" - fulfilment of these commitments contributes also to achieving the Target 1.4 and 2.5.

GFG targets addressed:

1.4
2.5

Weblink:

www.foresteurope.org

Please review your responses. Click on the blue button below to download a PDF copy of your report.

If you wish to make changes, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Back" button to return to the section navigator. To continue with your submission, click on "Upload and Submit" at the bottom of the page.

Please upload the signed cover letter conveying this as the official UNFF report submission for your country.

The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The file size should not exceed 2MB.

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01/07/2025

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In case of any issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) at the UNFF secretariat.