

DRAFT<sup>1</sup>

Country: **BOTSWANA**

Date of submission: **30 SEPTEMBER 2014**

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

### **Background**

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

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

The submission of voluntary national reports by UNFF Member States on items (2) and (3) above will provide crucial input to the Forum's deliberations. Based on national reports, as well as globally available information, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) will prepare an analytical report on the progress and trends in the above areas which will be submitted to UNFF11.

At its tenth session the Forum requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to: "*Further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources.*" (WG1 Resolution)<sup>2</sup>

Accordingly, the UNFFS in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and consultations with countries revised and streamlined the reporting format. The revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format, including by asking Member States to submit only information currently not provided to CPF member organizations or unavailable in international data bases.

The attached draft reporting format is presented as a set of questions in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

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<sup>1</sup> This draft is a work in progress. After consultations with countries this document will be revised and finalized by the UNFFS.

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/session\\_documents/unff10/ResolutionWG1UNFF10.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/forests/pdf/session_documents/unff10/ResolutionWG1UNFF10.pdf)

The information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data from the following international data providers:

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

### Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

1. Submit their completed national reporting format **electronically (in word processing software) in English, French or Spanish to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org)**, at the latest, by **30 September 2014**. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical Secretary-General's report to UNFF11.
2. Submit in a separate electronic file of a **scanned version of the signed letter from their UNFF Focal Point** [or respective Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York] conveying their submission.
3. Submit any **graphic elements** included in their completed reporting questionnaire in a separate electronic file.

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

For questions that have multiple choice components, please check all boxes that apply. We encourage countries to fill in the descriptive parts as these parts provide context and background information in addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers. At the same time, please note that space provided for the descriptive parts is limited to 250 words, to keep the analytical efforts within reasonable bounds.

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

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

### **General information**

#### **UNFF national focal point**

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

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent are these actions effective in supporting the aims of the Forest Instrument?

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

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

The recognition of the value of forests in our country has led to the development of policies and programmes to address the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources. The Forest Policy was approved by Parliament in October 2011. The purpose of which is to among other things ensure that our forests and woodland are managed in ways that promote their continued existence so that they could benefit the present and future generation too. The policy further calls for collective responsibility of all stakeholders towards sustainable forest management.

The Forest Act enacted in 1968 which was only restricted to the establishment and conservation of protected areas is currently being reviewed to cover the whole forest domain in the country and the changing socio-economic trends and the development of the forest sector in the country.

2. Does your country's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme, contain time-bound and quantified targets related to forest area?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

- Number of trees planted: 150 000 trees per year from 2009 to 2016
- Area under rehabilitation: 163 hectares per year from 2009 to 2016
- Reduction in area burnt by wildland fires: 10% per year from 2009 to 2016

3. Has your country undertaken activities since 2007 to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify:

- ☐ Afforestation 200 ha  
☐ Reforestation NA ha  
☐ Restoration NA ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- ✓ Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation  
 ✓ New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation  
☐ Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans  
☐ Subsidies for forest protection  
☐ Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land  
☐ Low-interest loans for forest activities/management  
☐ Other

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

The National Tree Planting Day is commemorated in November each year to underscore the importance of reversing the loss of forest cover and enhancing the forest health. The programme encourages government sectors, NGOs, Civil Societies and other stakeholders to organize activities and events to plant trees and raise public awareness on the role of trees and forests in environmental protection, promote efforts for forest conservation and sustainable management, showcasing good conservation practices and inspiring further actions for preserving the environment and related ecosystems. This is facilitated through public information focusing on broader forest conservation issues of interest and relevance to the general public, development and dissemination of public awareness materials via radio and television, posters and leaflets.

4. Since 2007, has your government raised the importance of forests and SFM in national developments plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent plans?

✓ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, has this resulted in:

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

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

One of the forest management strategies promoted by the country as a poverty eradication initiative is to fund communities/individuals especially those economically deprived in establishing forest based projects, both formal (establishment of woodlots and backyard tree nurseries, Community Based Natural Resources Management) an informal (collection and sale of non-wood forest products) as a way of diversifying subsistence products and income, while contributing to the forest resource conservation. A number of forest based poverty eradication projects have been established which have contributed to attaining food security and minimum sustainable livelihoods amongst such individuals and or families.

The Kalahari Namib Project on enhancing decision-making through Interactive Environmental Learning and Action in Molopo-Nossob River basin in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa & Securing Rights and Restoring Lands for Improved Livelihoods which aims to support communities and policy makers in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa to effectively implement and upscale SLM in the Molopo- Nossob River Basin is an example of a project which contribute in raising the importance of forests and SFM in poverty reduction strategies. The overall aim of the projects is to maintain the integrity and ecological functioning of the entire Kalahari-Namib Ecosystem cutting across Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. The expected results of the project is to:

- Support communities and policy makers to effectively implement and upscale SLM in the Molopo- Nossob River Basin in order to significantly contribute towards improved local livelihoods.
- Maintain the integrity and ecological functioning of the entire Kalahari-Namib Ecosystem
- Reduce overall poverty, restore and sustainably manage key dryland ecosystem services, including the restoration of degraded areas based on strengthened institutional arrangements.

**5. To what extent are mechanisms for coordination across ministries and agencies whose policies have impact on or may affect forests and SFM effective?**

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

The Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism supported by the Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking a project on mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Rangeland Landscapes for Improved Livelihoods in certain areas of the country which is supported by UNDP under GEF funding. The project aims to mainstream sustainable principles into the livestock production sector, specifically in the North Western part of the country where rangeland degradation is most intense. The project is done in cooperation with various Government agencies, NGOs, Academia and local Community.

Another project promoting coordination across Ministries and Agencies is the Bio-Chobe Improved Effectiveness of the Kwando-Linyanti Protected Area Cluster undertaken by Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, University of Botswana, Botswana Tourism and Local Authorities in the area. The project aims at mainstreaming biodiversity in trade, transport and tourism in the Chobe-Linyanti wetland system and managing invasive plant species in the area.

**6. To what extent are mechanisms for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation effective?**

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

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

The country has made strides in involving stakeholders in policy formulation, planning and implementation to among other things strengthen cooperation and build capacity in sustainable forest management in the following areas.

**Fire management:** An Integrated Wild Land Fire Management Strategy has been developed as the basic guiding tool to foster national cooperation and integration of wild land fire management. The Strategy promotes proactive and comprehensive approaches to wildland fire management, and strongly calls for active participation of all relevant stakeholders such as traditional leaders, communities, land users, CBOs/NGOs, private sector, academia and Government institutions.

Areas of focus are: Establishment of Community-Based Fire Management (CBFiM) Programme, training of stakeholders such as communities and forest employees as first responders, training on basic firefighting techniques and formation of localized community fire brigade amongst others.

**The Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM):** The CBNRM Policy was developed in 2006 to promote community participation in the management of forest and woodland resources. The programme is implemented through Community Trusts. CBNRM activities are varied depending on the sectors under which they are employed, some of which include sub-leasing concessions to private companies, managing cultural tourism, photographic tourism and marketing of products made from non wood forest products such as basketry, reeds and wood carvings.

**Community-Based Rangeland Management:** The initiative addresses landscape degradation resulting from overstocking and overgrazing in areas where overgrazing is a challenge. This aims to improve sustainable management of forest and rangeland resources and empower communities to participate fully in sustainable forest management.

#### 7. Do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publically-owned forests?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, are the tenure or user rights recognized by law?

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

According to laws of Botswana, ownership and control of the biodiversity and forests belongs to the state, except on private or freehold and customary land. In the case of communal land, the resources belong to the whole community. The National Forest policy emphasizes that forests are held in public trust for the people, and that the beneficial use of forest resources must therefore serve the public interest and are to be protected as the people's

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common heritage. The Community Based Natural Resources (CBNRM) Policy also specifies land tenure and natural resources user rights, which may be devolved to communities. These instruments testify the recognition of tenure and user rights of local communities and indigenous peoples over publicly-owned forests.

**8. Are local and indigenous communities benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests?**

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Partly

If Yes or Partly, please specify how:

- ☒ Income generation
- ☒ Food provision
- ☒ Energy supply
- ☒ Shelter
- ☐ Health

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

Various programmes and policies and programmes have been put in place to support the development of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable forest based enterprises. One of the programmes in place is the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM). The programme is a joint approach towards rural development and natural resources conservation. It is based on the need for the promotion and empowerment of local communities, by linking economic and social development to natural resources management. CBNRM is founded on the premise that all members of the community share an interest in improving their livelihoods whilst at the same time managing and using the natural resources in a sustainable manner.

The Agricultural Resources Conservation Act (1974) ensures that communities are represented on local forest conservation committees to be part of the planning and implementation of forest management. The local communities are also equipped with skills with which to manage the resources sustainably through public education, training and awareness.

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

- ☒ Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- ☐ Export controls
- ☐ Import controls
- ☒ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

In implementing forest law enforcement and governance, the forest sector cooperates with other government departments such as Botswana Unified Revenue Service with regard to cross border trade in illegal forest species, the Botswana Police Service and Botswana Defence Force on border patrols, bilateral cooperation in cross border fire patrols and, community policing on illegal harvesting of resources. Botswana also cooperates with other countries particularly Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Zambia with regard to illegal cross border trade on forest species. In implementing CITES, the Country is monitoring illegal cross border trade in CITES listed species.

In order to address the issues of unsustainable harvesting, the forest sector has strengthened patrols against illegal resource harvesting and put on control mechanism against indiscriminate exploitation of wood resources and adherence to allowable harvesting standards and quotas. This is done through enforcement of the legal framework and a permit system.

**10. Has your country developed a national set of criteria and indicators for SFM or use a nationally applicable regional/international set of C&I?**

☒ Yes ☐ No



If Yes, are these C&I used to:

- ✓ ☐ Generate information on forest conditions and management
- ✓ ☐ Assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- ✓ ☐ Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

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

Capacity building in the development of national/regional set of criteria and indicators for MRV is being created through a Regional MRV Project on Integrated Monitoring Systems for REDD+ in the SADC Region which pursues the objective of (1) developing and putting into practice integrated monitoring systems for the development of forest areas, carbon stocks and emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and (2) integrating this into an approach supported by all SADC member countries. The key measure of this project is to achieve high accuracy in the calculation of emissions with a special combination of innovative remote sensing technology and terrestrial surveys of corresponding emission factors. Botswana is one of the four SADC pilot countries participating in this project.

This project will contribute to enabling the SADC countries and the region to make the technical and institutional preparations for participating in a REDD+ mechanism and in the medium term receiving compensation payments for reducing emissions, and/or preserving and extending carbon sinks in tropical and subtropical forests.

Botswana is also working in collaboration with the Japanese Government through (JICA) on a project on Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System for the Promotion of Sustainable Natural Resources Management. The project will assist in:

- ✓ Establishment of national forest monitoring system
- ✓ Establishment of methodology for national forest inventory
- ✓ Production of a nation wide forest distribution map
- ✓ Development of a national forest monitoring plan
- ✓ Capacity building in forest inventory and spatial technology

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- ☐ 2-5 years
- ✓ ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ 10-20 years
- ☐ Other (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

These strategies take into account:

- ✓ ☐ Domestic public-funding sources
- ☐ Domestic private investment
- ☐ ODA (including REDD+)
- ☐ Foreign investment

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

The Governments of the United States of America and Republic of Botswana established a special fund known as the Tropical Forest Conservation Fund (TFCF) to promote activities designed to conserve, maintain and restore the forests of Botswana including the world famous areas such as the Okavango Delta and the Chobe National Park region in accordance with the terms of the Tropical Forest Conservation Agreement (TFCA), the Forest Act and the Forest Policy. The three priority areas supported by the Fund include Forest resource management, Forest resource management in Forest Reserves and Community Based Natural Resources management (CBNRM) for forest appreciation and conservation. The fund is accessible to NGOs, forestry conservation and indigenous people

organisations of or active in development,, other appropriate local or regional entities active in the country. Weblink is [www.forestconservation.co.bw](http://www.forestconservation.co.bw)

**12. Has your country established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services provided by forests?**

☐ Yes ☒ **No**

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

☐ Watershed protection/water supply USD **NA**

☐ Carbon storage (including REDD+) USD **NA**

☐ Nature conservation USD **NA**

☐ Other

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

**NA**

**13. Since 2007, what steps has your country taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?**

- ☒ ☐ Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- ☐ Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- ☐ Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☐ Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)
- ☐ Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services related to SFM
- ☐ Other;

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

The Forest Policy recognises the private sector as an engine for economic growth and a role player and partner in the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources. Privately owned land constitute 5% of the total land area, and all private land owners were encouraged to manage vegetation resources within private estates in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development as part of the national forest estate.

**14. Is your country engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?**

☒ **Yes** ☐ No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

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

Type of cooperation:

North-South

☒ South-South

- ☐ Triangular
- ☐ Technical
- ☐ Financial
- ☐ Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- ☒ Forests and climate change
- ☐ Forest biodiversity
- ☐ Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- ☐ Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- ☐ Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- ☐ Scientific cooperation
  - ☒ Forest monitoring/data collection
  - ☒ Technology transfer
- ☐ Other

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

The Government of Botswana working in partnership with the German Government through GIZ on a SADC REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of Forest Carbon project to verify the methodology for estimating forest carbon emissions for purposes of carbon trading in preparation to implement the Reduced Emissions Deforestation and Degradation ( REDD) programme.

Botswana is also working in collaboration with the Japanese Government through on a project on Enhancing National Forest Monitoring System for the Promotion of Sustainable Natural Resources Management. The project will assist in:

- ☒ Establishment of national forest monitoring system
- ☒ Establishment of methodology for national forest inventory
- ☒ Production of a nation wide forest distribution map
- ☒ Development of a national forest monitoring plan
- ☒ Capacity building in forest inventory and spatial technology

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

- ☐ Forest inventory systems
- ☐ Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- ☐ Fuel-wood production
- ☐ Wood processing technology
- ☐ Waste reduction and recycling
- ☒ ☐ Other

Are these programs directed at:

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

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

The Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism hosts the National Climate Change Authority in the Department of Meteorological Services (DMS). DMS serves as an institution specialising in Climate change issues to promote the sharing of climate change and climate related information among the general public and other relevant stakeholders. Its role is to enhance effective advocacy and disseminate information about climate change and to influence stakeholder participation in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The DMS coordinates climate change issues through: (1) Awareness raising and Education through community mobilization and engagement and dissemination of information on climate change (2) Policy dialogue through networking, advocacy and capacity building (3) Research and archiving to source and make available climate change research papers, reports, documents and other materials on climate change and related topics.

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

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

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

The National Tree Planting Day event, which is commemorated in November each year, was celebrated in November 2013 under the theme "Forests for People: A key to poverty eradication." This theme was to recognize and create public awareness on the extent to which forests and trees contribute to poverty reduction, food security and national development. During the National tree planting celebration, 90 000 tree seedlings were planted and 17 200 were also distributed to members of the community for around the home tree planting.

The Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism has in March 2014, declared three flora species namely, *Sclerocarya birrea sub. species caffra*, *Harpagophytum procumbens* and *Eragrostis pallens* as National Tree, National Flower and National Grass respectively. This was in recognition of the significance and value of these species in the lives of Botswana regarding their cultural, historical, ecological and socio-economic importance. Creating public awareness in support of these national symbols was done through published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio, published materials such as brochures and posters.

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

NA

## **PART II: Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

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

### **18. Have forests/SFM contributed to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?**

**Yes** ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

If Yes, please specify how:

- ✓ By improving livelihoods
- ✓ By supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter
- ✓ By providing food and contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems
- ✓ By providing employment, including employment in informal economy

☐ Other

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

Botswana's goal is to surpass the Millennium Development Goal target of reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015. The country has therefore taken a bold step to shift from poverty reduction to poverty eradication. This has prompted the government to come up with a Poverty Eradication Programme which is aimed at improving the livelihoods of Botswana by addressing all aspects of poverty including among other things the policy environment, the institutional framework and the sustainable economic empowerment projects.

### **19. Have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?**

✓ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

If Yes, please specify how:

- ✓ By providing habitat
- ✓ By supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity
- ✓ By stabilizing soils and slopes
- ✓ By safeguarding water resources
- ✓ By sequestering carbon
- ✓ By providing timber, energy and other products

☐ Other

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

Forests in Botswana like in many parts of the world, sustain the health of the environment by mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, controlling erosion, protecting soils, sustaining and enhancing land productivity, and providing low cost energy source. The forests and trees in Botswana contribute to national development, poverty reduction and food security to vulnerable populations. Most people rely on forest resources for their livelihoods through using trees in their vicinity or to generate food and cash. Many depend on fuel wood to meet as much

as 90% of energy requirements. For people living in poverty, forest and tree resources not only provide food, fuel for cooking and heating, medicine, shelter and clothing, but they also function as safety nets in crises or emergencies as for example, when crops fail owing to prolonged drought or when heads of households can no longer engage in productive activities because of HIV and AIDS or other diseases.

**20. Have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

If Yes, please specify how:

- ✓ By engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance
  - ☐ Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)
  - ☐ By fostering partnerships with the private sector
  - ☐ By attracting foreign investment in the forest sector
- ✓ By fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation
  - ☐ By fostering north-south, south-south and triangular technical, technological and scientific partnerships
  - ☐ Other

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

The forestry sector is a beneficiary of several regional and multilateral economic cooperation agreements. These agreements help improve the forest sector and overall economic development. Synopses of key agreements include the Australian Government support on fire management and staff training in natural resources management, the Japanese (JICA) Government support on capacity building in Forest Resource inventory, the UNEP project on combating desertification and the IUCN project on poverty reduction and restoration of ecosystem services in dry land areas of Botswana, and the German assistance to Botswana on building capacity for designing and implementing national forest carbon accounting, including baseline and reference emission levels and, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems.

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

☐ Yes ☐ No

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

NO

**MDG2: Achieving universal primary education**

NO

**MDG3: Promote gender equality and empower women**

The National Gender Policy Framework outlined poverty alleviation and economic empowerment as issues affecting women. There are a number of programmes in the country that are gender sensitive which are being funded by various agencies. The CBNRM programmes help to empower women and improve their access to environmental derived benefits including forests. The establishment of income generating projects such as communality woodlots, and backyard tree nurseries and commercialization of non-wood forest products forms one of the important socio economic activities empowering women. The adoption of activities such as establishing community woodlots close to the community has the potential of reducing time taken by women

to collect fuel wood and therefore gives them time to engage in other productive activities that can improve gender empowerment.

**MDG4: Reducing child mortality**

NO

**MDG5: Improving maternal health**

NO

**MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDSs, malaria and other diseases**

NO