

Country: CROATIA

Date of submission: 08. September 2014

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

Background

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

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

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

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum¹, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

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

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

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

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

Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

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

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

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

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

Abbreviations

C&I	Criteria and Indicators processes
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FRA	FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment
GOF	Global Objectives on Forests
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NFP	National Forest Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SFM	Sustainable forest management
UN	United Nations
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

General information

UNFF national focal point

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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, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

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

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

Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007 Republic of Croatia conveyed several Forest Law amendments (2008, 2010, 2012, 2013 and recently last change – 2014). We developed new Forest reproductive material Law (2009 with three minor amendments 2011, 2013 and 2014) and amended Hunting Law twice (2009 and 2014). Consequently, many Regulations and Ordinances related to the Forest Law (Lex Specialis) as supreme act has been changed as well, e.c.:

- Regulation on the procedure and criteria for the leasing of state owned forest land (2014)
- Regulation on the procedure and criteria for the establishment of easements of state owned forest or forest land in order to raise perennial crops (2008)
- Regulation on the procedure and criteria for the establishment of easements of state owned forest or forest land in order to build water, sewer, gas lines or electric lines (2006)
- Regulation on the procedure and criteria for the establishment of easements of state owned forest or forest land for the purpose of conducting tourism activities (2007)
- Ordinance on forest regulating/measurement (2008)
- Ordinance on forest guarding (2011)
- Ordinance on content and conducting method of National forest inventory (2008)
- Ordinance of private forest owners registration/list
- Ordinance on the forest work, minimum technical conditions...
- Ordinance of forest fire protection
- Ordinance on quality and declaration for forest reproductive material
- Ordinance on forest tree's proveniences...

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

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Forest land tenures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

With forementioned amendments to the Forest Law has been enabled and regulated construction on forest land, establishment of the certain tenure rights on forest land for use for infrastructure as well as changes in terms of advisory/extension services to private forest owners.

Regulation on the procedure and criteria for the leasing of state owned forest land precisely define the subject of the lease, in this particular case for state owned forest land not used for forest or forestry purpose planed and described in forest management plan. The lease of this land has been approved untill bringing it to original forest management plan purpose.

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

- ☒ New legislation
- ☒ Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- ☒ Export controls
- ☒ Import controls
- ☒ Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- ☐ None
- ☐ Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

As a Member State of European Union Republic of Croatia was obliged to harmonise its legislation with the European Union Legislation (Acquis Communautaire) covering this area. Therefore we adopted full set of Regulations and other legislative documents concerning the regulation of trading and importing of timber to Community, e.c.:

- Regulation (EZ) No. 2173/2005 – establishment of FLEGT licensing scheme
- Regulation (EZ) No. 1024/2008
- Regulation (EU) 995/2010
- Regulation (EU) No. 995/2010 European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) - defining and establishing the system of Due dilligence with three basic elements of risk management (access to the information, risk assessment and risc mitigation).

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

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

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

Current NFP (National forest policy and strategy) aiming to increase contribution of forest and forest sector to the national economy by sustainable forest management, use and comprehensive protection of entire forest resource and biodiversity.

Have these steps resulted in:

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

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

Republic of Croatia always emphasized importance of increasing and awareness rising of the forests and multifunctional role its playing in todays world. Therefore, at the UNFF5 in May. 2005, we initiaied procedure of declaration year 2011 of "International Year of Forests" which was worldwide very successful especially in awerness raising field. With this gesture we, once again, proved our devotion and respect to all forest ecosystems and emphasized their importance for the survival of the planet Earth.

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

x Yes ☐ No

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

Ministry of Agriculture (currently responsible for the Forest Sector) developed close and comprehensive cooperation to the other Ministries and Agencies from the other sectors closely related to the forest (carbon and climate change, biodiversity, trade, energy...):
 Ministry of nature and environment protection
 Ministry of economy
 Ministry of foreign and European affairs
 Ministry of tourism
 Ministry of regional development and funds of European Union
 State Institute for Nature protection
 Agency for Environment protection

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Ministry of Agriculture is participating/conducting cross-sectoral cooperation with other sectors closely related to the forest (NATURA 2000, UNFCCC, NIR, Kyoto Protocol, LULUCF, Rural development programme, Regional development programme, sustainable production and use/consumption of biomass, energy, products...) through many different activities (e.c. creating and establishing national legislation in this fields and sectors, forest related data collecting, processing and delivering, consultations with stakeholders within the sector as well as outside the sector, participation in forest part negotiations of the relevant fora...)

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Afforestation	Please use data provided in FAO FRA	ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reforestation	Please use data provided in FAO FRA	ha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration		ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

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

There is a option for subsidies for private forest owners by using national financial resources collected thru the payment for Public Benefit Functions of Forests (Forest Ecosystem Services), as well there is an option of financing preparation and implementation

of forest management plans for private forest owners by using EU Rural development programme.

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

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

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

In the process of creating new forest management plans it is obligatory to perform public review of it. This means that final but still not official document (still subject to change) is publically disposed to all the stakeholders, including local population/community, to analyse, review and give their opinions, views and suggestions for changes and improvement. After certain period of time (usually one month) of public disposition all the inputs are collected and carefully considered due to the changes proposed/needed in the FMP. After finishing that phase, document is ready for the official procedure of analysis and adoption.

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

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

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

http://portal.hrsume.hr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117:javni-uvid&catid=40:javni-podaci&Itemid=12

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

- ☐ Completely
- x Partially
- ☐ None
- ☐ Not applicable

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

There are no *indigenous communities* in the Republic of Croatia, only *local communities* and *local people/inhabitants* and/or *private forest owners* (there is cca. 24% of privately owned forest or forest land – the rest is state owned).

Tenure or user rights and obligations of private forest owners are the same as the rights and obligations of the Enterprise managing state owned forests and forest land and they are stated and regulated in Forest Law and depending Regulations and Ordinances. There is also an possibility of having certain tenure or user rights of local authorities and local communities over publicly-owned forests in accordance to the Forest Law. Beside that they are freeley allowed to use forest and forest land in "civilian manner" (walking, studying, recreational purposes, playing, art making, performances...).

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

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

There is no dedicated financial strategies for achievement of SFM in the Republic of Croatia. SFM as such and within basic principle of it is the main goal of management of forests in Croatia already for 260 years. For many years entire forestry system and organization has been developed to achieve and support that goal. We developed a funding mechanism for sustainable forest management in the form of a "green tax", introduced in 1991. The system/mechanism is based on the charging of a fee for the use of Public Benefit Functions of Forests (Forest Ecosystem Services). All persons who conduct economic activity in the Republic of Croatia pay this fee in the amount of 0,07% (2011.) 0.0525% (2012.) 0,0265% (2013. and 2014.) of the total income. The fee is paid on a quarterly basis and in accordance with the final invoice on a special bank account of the state owned company responsible for the management of state-owned forests (Hrvatske šume Ltd.). Collected funds are at disposal to all categories of forest owners/users. Therefore, Hrvatske šume Ltd. must submit an annual report to the Government regarding the total fees charged and the allocation of such funds in the previous year. If a person required to pay the fee fails to calculate or to pay the fee, the Hrvatske šume Ltd. will initiate the compulsory payment pursuant to special regulations.

These strategies take into account:

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

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

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

- ☐ Watershed protection/water supply USD

- ☐ Carbon storage (including REDD+) USD
- ☐ Nature conservation USD
- ☒ Other, please list below: USD

According to the Forest Law Public Benefit Functions of Forests (Forest Ecosystem Services) are:

- protection of soil from water and wind erosion,
- balancing water ratios in the landscape and preventing floods and high water,
- purification of water through percolation into forest soil and the supply of underground streams and water sources with drinking water,
- favourable impact on the climate and agricultural activities,
- purification of polluted air,
- effect on the landscape beauty,
- creation of favourable conditions for human health,
- provision of space for rest and recreation,
- conditioning the development of ecological, hunting and rural tourism
- preservation of the genofond of forest trees and other types of forest biocenosis,
- preservation of biological diversity of the genofond, species, ecosystems and landscapes,
- support of the general and special nature protection of forest landscapes (national parks, etc),
- mitigation of the greenhouse effect by carbon sequestration and oxygen enrichment of the environment,
- general protection and improvement of human environment through the existence of forest landscapes as a biological capital of great value,
- importance for the country defense and the development of local communities

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

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

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

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

There has been no increase of financial resources for the implementation of SFM due to the mayor economic crisis in given period of time. The main public objection to the payment and collection of the fee for Public Benefit Functions of Forests (Forest Ecosystem Services) funds, is that this is actually para-fiscal tax and due to that significant additional burden for already very stressed and fragile national economy.

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

- ☒ Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment
- ☒ Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.
- ☒ Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests

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

According to the Forest Law, Forest Extension Service (FES) has been established with the general purpose of helping and improving private forest owners in conveying sustainable management of their forests and forest land, organising and preparation of private forest owners capabilities of using resources from international funds (mainly EU) dedicated to the forestry.

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

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, please specify with whom:

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

Type of cooperation:

- ☐ North-South
- ☐ South-South
- ☒ Technical
- ☒ Financial
- ☐ Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

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

Republic of Croatia signed a number of international treaties and conventions directly or indirectly related to the forest and/or SFM. Amongst other Croatia is establishing NATURA 2000 ecological network and delivering of comprehensive and valuable forest related data in the context of UNFCCC, Kyoto protocol, LULUCF is also regularly performed. Beside that, Republic of Croatia is from the very beginning part of ICP Forests programme by monitoring and assessing air pollution impact to the forests.

Further proof of our dedication to SFM is receiving and periodically renewing of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certificate for all state owned forests managed by Croatian Forests Ltd. (more than 75% of all forest and forest land - more than 2.000.000 ha).

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

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

Ensuring significant and sufficient amount of financial resources as well as robust, modern and effective legislative/policy framework.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

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

Republic of Croatia conducting Nacional forest resources inventory (CRONFI) as a monitoring and control mechanism of recent conditions and changes of entire state forest landscape by using satellite technology and periodical aerial photos or sample plots/aereas on the ground (quantitative and qualitative indicators). Primary goal of those activities is collecting data for further planing but also for improvement and development of Future Forest Policies.

Croatian Forestry Institute implementing vaste spectrum of activities releted to the conservation of forest trees species gene diversity/genofond by establishing and maintaining Forest Trees Gene Bank (*in situ* and *ex situ*) and Seeds Savings Bank as well as conveying national IPP and ICP activities.

Faculty of Forestry is also conveying many forest related scientific researches including ones related to the SFM, genetic resources, FRM, forest ecosystems, forest soils, remote sensing surveys, forest protection, urban forestry, hunting and especially in the field of forest biomass with the goal of achievieng full use of energetic potential of forest biomass.

From the year 2010 the EFISEE regional office (European Forest Institute South Eastern Europe) has been established and starded with their work in Croatia. The establishment of the office and comencing the work was ans still is financially supported by Croatian Government.

Are these programs directed at:

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

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Croatian Government (Ministry of Agriculture as responsible for Forest sector) is financing or co-financing following scientific and researching activities (2007 – 2014):

- Forest Trees Gene Bank
- Seeds Savings Bank
- ICP Forest
- IPP Forest
- Establishing and equipping of EFISEE office
- Equipping the laboratory for forest biomass

In the period 2007 – 2014 total funding for described forest-related science and research was cca 2,42 mil. USD

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

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

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

As previously mentioned at the UNFF5 session in May 2005, Republic of Croatia proposed/initiated procedure of declaration year 2011 of "International Year of Forests". As one of the major sponsors of the International Year of Forest Croatia organised many activities at national (design and production of wide variety of informational and promotional materials, educational and forest promotional events, on-line quiz for children, best child painting with the theme forest competition and much more...) and international level (organising the exhibition of the best photographs capturing forest and life in the forest, at the margins of UNFF9 session in UNHQ in New York). Also National wide action named "Wood is the first" has been created and continuously conveyed since 2007 thru workshops, public education, informational activities, trainings and even lobbying sessions. The main goals of this actions are rising of awareness of importance and priority of using wood in production, widening of knowledge on wood products but also of having sustainability of forest management, as well as energy consumption rationalisation and discovering of new markets for the products made of wood.

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

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

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

Croatian Forest Law - implementation of pan-European SFM Criteria in national legislation:
- paragraph 7, sub-paragraph 2.
- paragraph 9.

Are these C&I used to:

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

Forest Europe, UNECE/FAO.

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

No.

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

Republic of Croatia started with the implementation of sustainable forest management 260 years ago. For many years now forests in Croatia are valuable but sustainably used national resource, managed economically sustainable, environmentally friendly and socially responsible as well.

Basic forestry principles are:

- Sustainable management with natural structure and biodiversity preservation
- Permanent increasing of stability and quality of economic and common beneficial functions of forests

As a final result of that dedicated work of many generations of forest experts and foresters, today we have more than 95% of forest area in Croatia natural or semi natural forests with extremely wide range of biodiversity recognised also in NATURA 2000 ecological network.

PART II

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

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

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

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

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

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

There are some highly forest covered parts of Croatian national territory. Traditionally, local habitants/communities are strongly oriented towards forest, forest jobs, hunting and related activities, forest based tourism as well as to wood processing industries. Therefore, stability of forest ecosystems in all aspects as well as sustainable management of forests (including hunting and wood processing activities) are essential prerogatives and basic pillars for increasing of employment and consequently improving of livelihoods and other benefits to local communities.

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

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

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

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

The best proof of importance of forests in Croatia regarding provision of habitat and Supportinf of forest ecosystem, species and genetic diversity is the fact that 947 422 ha of total forest aerea is situated within N2K /NATURA 2000 ecological network (pSCI & SPA).

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

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

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

technological and scientific partnerships

Other

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

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

SFM is one of main principles, pillars and goals of negotiating panEuropean forest Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) which is clear case of engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance. Also, accessing to the EU and consequently full harmonisation of national timber and wood trade legislation with it is clear case of developing a global partnership for development (MDG 8) through trade agreements involving forest products.

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

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

MDG5: Improving maternal health

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases