

Country: Nepal

Date of submission: 30 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National forest Programme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Forest Policy

1. The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007

It, under the chapter of Liabilities, Directive Principles and Policies of the State stipulates various liabilities, principles and policies, which are fundamental to the governance of the state. Article 35(4) of this chapter requires the state to pursue the policy of mobilizing the nation's natural resources and heritage in a useful and profitable manner suitable to the national welfare. Similarly, Article 35(5) of the same chapter also proclaims: 'The state shall give priority to the protection of the environment and also to the prevention of its further damage due to physical development activities by increasing the awareness of the general public about environmental cleanliness, and the state shall also make arrangements for the special protection of rare wildlife, the forests and the vegetation' (GoN, 2007).

2. Forest for Prosperity, Vision of Forestry sector of Nepal:

Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation set its long term vision "Forest for Prosperity" based on four pillars (a) Conservation and sustainable management of forest (b) Sustainable use, commercialization and marketing (c) Participatory forest management and (d) Enabling environment and good governance. Now, Nepal is in process of crafting the new forestry sector Policy and strategy.

3. National Wetland Policy, 2013:

The Policy provides explicit option to manage wetlands of Nepal. The longterm vision of this policy is healthy wetlands for sustainable development and environmental balance.

Forest legislation

1. Amendment on Forest Rule 1993:

The forest rule, 1993 was amended to set new royalty rate of forest products. The grading system to assure quality of timber is introduced in this amendment.

2. Kanchanjangha conservation area management Rule, 2007:

This Rule gives authority to local people for conservation area management. Based on this rule the Kanchanjangha conservation area has been handed over to local community for conservation and management. This is the first conservation area handed over to local community for its management.

National Forest Program

1. The iconic programme named as “President Chure Tarai Madhes Conservation Programme” (Rastrapati Chure Karyakram) – which has now been transformed and revitalised into a national Board named “President Chure Tarai Madhes Conservation and Development Board”. This Board is aiming at protecting forest areas from deforestation and forest degradation along the Chure hill range which links mountain ecosystems and Tarai ecosystems.

2. Decade of conservation and forest development: Government of Nepal has 2014-2023 as a Decade of conservation and forest development "FOREST DECADE" with different programs of conservation and forest development. The aim of forest decade celebration is enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. The focus program components include conservation of existing forest and biodiversity, sustainable forest management and restoration of the degraded forest lands through massive plantation. Private land, urban area and other institutional areas are the focus of plantation.

Other actions

1. Periodic Plan, 11th (2008-10), 12th (2011-13), and 13th (2014-16)
2. Guidelines on leasing out the forests to the commercial purposes, 2011
3. Guidelines on private forests, 2011
4. Forest Fire Management Strategy, 2011
5. Forest Encroachment Control Strategy, 2011
6. Community Forestry Margadarsan (Directives), 2008 and its amendment, 2014.
7. Forest security Plan, 2013
8. Plant resources research guideline, 2013
9. Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion Strategy (GESI) – 2008
10. Collaborative Forest Management Directives, 2011
11. REDD Readiness Preparation Plan (RPP), 2010

Moreover, there are significant actions related to protection of forests since 2007. In addition, twenty three percent forest area of the country has been set aside as protected areas. The government has already initiated a number of community-based forest management programmes. For instance, community forests, leasehold forests, collaborative forests and buffer zone community forests are based on the principles of sustainable forest management with active participation of the local communities.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

1. Forestry sector's vision 'Forestry for Prosperity' has been able to draw the attention of Nepal Government and vision set by the Ministry of Forests and soil conservation has been able to push the government to put the forestry as a priority development sector of Nepal. This vision is the basis for new forest policy and strategy development.
2. The Forest Encroachment Control Strategy 2011 and Forest Security Plan 2013 are under enforcement aiming stopping forest destruction and encroachment, updating statistics including mapping of the encroached area, collection of records, and evaluation.

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:

New legislation: Bill prepared to submit to parliament

1. CITES enforcement
2. Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources
3. Amendment of Forest Act 2049
4. Wetland act

Improved enforcement of existing legislation and Export control

5. National Tiger conservation committee chaired by Rt. Hon' Prime Minister
6. National wildlife crime control co-ordination committee
7. Wildlife crime control Bureau at central and district level
8. Forest Security Plan 2070, National and Regional co-ordination committee
9. Forest encroachment control, National co-ordination committee
10. Wildlife crime controlling unit

Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

11. Memorandum of Understanding with china
12. Regular cross boarder meeting with India

Others

13. South Asia wildlife Enforcement Network

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

1. The South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network (SAWEN) a regional network of eight countries of south Asia; Afganistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Maidives, Nepal and Pakistan has been formally launched at an inter-governmental meeting hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, thereby opening a new chapter in regional cooperation in South Asia for strengthening wildlife law enforcement. It was agreed to base the SAWEN Secretariat in Nepal and located at department of national parks and wildlife conservation. <http://www.sawen.org/>
2. Various cell or unit developed under various organizations like Nepal Police, National Intelligence department, department of forests and department of National Parks and

wildlife reserves worked actively to abate forest and wildlife crimes in Nepal. Wildlife crime Pillor III under the central Investigation Bureau of Nepal police has been working remarkably for curbing illegal wildlife trade in Nepal.

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:

1. Sustainable forest management is one pillar of the long term vision Forest for Prosperity. Scientific forest management has been initiated under collaborative forest management regime.
2. The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation has established a three-tiered institutional mechanism for implementing REDD plus, consisting of the REDD plus Apex body chaired by Minister; the REDD Working Group at the operational level and the REDD-Forestry and Climate Change Cell as the coordinating entity. Besides these mechanisms, a stakeholder forum has been established to engage a wide range of stakeholders in the entire REDD plus process.
3. A national study is under way to evaluate the contribution of forestry sector in National GDP. Policy level discussion is also underway about payment for environmental services.

Have these steps resulted in:

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

1. Increased peoples participation in Sustainable Forest management
2. New job creation through Sustainable Forest management
3. Increased supply of forest products

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

1. Collaborative Forest Management Directives - 2011

The directive defines clear procedure to allocate forests for collaborative forest management so as to enhance the productivity of forests. The guideline owes the forest management along with the active participation of local people.

2. National REDD strategy

The vision for Nepal's REDD strategy is that by 2013 and beyond, our greenhouse gas emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation will be significantly reduced by forest conservation and enhancement, by addressing the livelihoods concerns of poor and socially marginalized forest dependent people, and by establishing effective policy, regulatory and institutional structures for sustainable development of Nepal's forests under the forthcoming new constitutional framework.

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

☒ Yes ☐ No

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

Co-ordinating Institutions

1. National Planning commission
2. Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
3. Ministry of Agricultural Development
4. Nepal Army

The ministry, has been taking measures of inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation since a long time with a number of ministries and department of Nepal government. For instance, the Ministry of Environment Science and Technology is the focal ministry for climate change issues while the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation provides the overall national leadership on forest-related climate change issues such as REDD plus. Further, mechanism also exists for cross sectoral cooperation among various institutions which are related to sustainable forest management. At central level, National Planning Commission which is headed by the prime-minister coordinates the activities of the ministries which are associated with forest management and climate change issues. In addition, there are many thematic committees such as environment committee under parliament, which oversees the activities of the various ministries working in the field of natural resources such as Forests, Urban development and environment. Nepal Army is employed for the protection of National Parks and wildlife reserves.

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

1. Cross-sectoral cooperation between Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Environment Science and Technology has been strongly made while implementing national adaptation program of action (NAPA) to climate change in Nepal. The NAPA profiles – (1) Promoting community-based adaptation through integrated management of agriculture, water, forests and biodiversity, (5) Forest and ecosystem management in supporting climate-led adaptation innovations and (7) Ecosystem management for climate adaptation – have

been well coordinated with all ministries and collectively planned for their effective implementation.

2. Similar has been made between Ministry of Agriculture Development and Ministry of Forests in securing the food and livelihood for/of poor people through leasehold forestry program in Nepal.

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):

The Thirteenth Plan (2014 – 2016) formulated by National Planning Commission in the assistance with Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation contains time-bound and quantified targets related to forestry development in general. Some target set on the plan are as follows:

1. It has envisioned that 40% of total land mass of Nepal will be set aside for forests in Nepal by 2016.
2. Thirty thousand ha of encroached forest area will be evacuated and rehabilitated. All types of forests and its resources of Nepal will be assessed, inventoried and mapped.
3. Scientific Forest Management will be employed in 75000 ha of forests.
4. Additional 1500 new users group will be formed and to handover the forest area for participatory forest management.
5. A total of 40300 thousand seedling will be produced and 4650 ha area will be planted within three year period.
6. Integrated watershed management plan will be implemented for Koshi, Gandaki and Karnalai watersheds. Implementation model of Public – Community – Private will be ensured and accentuated along with an increase in investment from private sector in forest based industries/enterprises.

Also, the vision "Forestry for Prosperity" also sets an employment target of 4 million green jobs by 2030.

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	20,011	Ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reforestation	15,788	Ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restoration (Community Forests)	252,180	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:

1. Handover management and use rights to local community in the name of community forest user group, collaborative forest groups and leasehold forest user groups.
2. Massive plantation inside and outside forest areas.
3. Subsidies for private land owner for plantation on their own land.
4. Youth mobilization on forest conservation and development.
5. Enhancement of gender and social aspect of forestry

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

1. Forest security Plan; It is aimed at conservation and protection of forest and wildlife through action of patrolling and effective co-ordination among forestry stakeholders. It seeks more responsive forest user group to effectively tackle forests and wildlife crimes.
2. Fire control strategy; It aims to reduce forest fire incidents through community based forest managements.
3. Youth mobilization; It aims to develop 3000 forest volunteers in next 10 year periods.

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

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

Nepal government specially believes in having a round table decision making process in forestry planning and development; and has foresaw several mechanisms to achieve the goal of bring the multi-stakeholder on board to facilitate the process of policy formulation, planning and implementation of programs.

1. Programs and Projects Steering committee;
2. Forestry sector co-ordination committee
3. District forest sector co-ordination committee; at the district level, the district forestry sector coordination committee has been in practice to take all forestry related decisions of all types of forests and their management modalities.
4. Forest user groups;
 - Community Forestry program has been implemented since 30 years at local level, where a chunk of forests are handed over to the local community for its best management as well as wise use of resources.
 - Leasehold forestry program has been implemented since 14 years, where the ultra-poor segment of community are offered to hold a small parcel of forest land so as to make them able to wise use of area to meet their basic daily needs.
 - Collaborative Forestry program has been implemented since 10 years to increase access to forest products, where scientific management of forests has been initiated jointly with the local user groups, special to enhance the productivity of forests balancing its ecosystem health and biodiversity.
5. The concept of council in protecting and managing the forests has also recently been initiated for several districts of Nepal where local people are actively involved in protecting the forests and wild animals so as to maintain its biodiversity along with wise

use of forests and its resources.

These all modalities of forest management as well as the mechanisms are principally and practically based on the multi-stakeholders' engagement in forestry policy formulation, planning and implementation of development program in the country.

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

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

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

Community based forest management practice is strengthened through community participation. In district, District Forest Sector Coordination Committee (DFSCC) is functioning to develop and monitor the forestry sector plan. The DFSCC is comprised of government agencies, political representatives, and other forestry related institutions. About 30% forest areas is under community based forest management regime in which the users' committee hold the absolute usufruct right and management authority, Community forestry being the biggest. The local users' committees are responsible to develop and implement the operational management plan with technical input from government agencies. The forests are managed under the principle of sustainable forest management.

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

- ☐ Completely
☒ Partially
☐ None
☐ Not applicable

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

Under community based management regimes that includes community forestry, leasehold forestry, collaborative forestry, and buffer zone community forestry, local community and indigenous people have enormous right over the goods and/or services (benefits) derived from the forests and it has been legally abided based on the operational plans of the managed forests. However, sharing of benefits vary across the management regime. For example, under community forestry regime entire benefits goes to community. On the other hand, in collaborative forest management regime benefits are shared at equal between the government and local community. However, pro-poor leasehold forestry provides all the benefits out of forests to the poor people within the group as well as they have heavily been supported with cash and kind in order to improve their livelihoods.

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:

NA

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):

In Nepal, forestry sector receives government budget on regular basis. In 2007, total amount of fund allocated in forest management, administration, research and human resource development was US\$ 26.025 million while in 2011 allocated budget was US\$ 59.397 million, which rises to US\$ 101.89 in 2014.

Since 2007, there is a significant increase in the forestry sector budget for the implementation of SFM. The main source of funds includes domestic public fund, ODA and community based forest user groups' fund (including various community based forest management system viz. community forest user group, buffer zone community forest, collaborative forest management group, leasehold forest user group). Domestic public funding in 2007 was US\$ 23.24 million and was US\$ 49.20 million in 2011 and US\$ 76.67 million in 2014. Nepal is basically a recipient of ODA. Net ODA received for forestry sector was US\$ 9.5 million for 2011 and US\$ 25.21 for 2014.

Approximately US\$ 20 million fund has been utilized by different forest user groups mainly for sustainable forest management, community development and poverty reduction activities. The source of this fund is basically sale of forest products within and outside the user groups.

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 NA
☐ Nature conservation USD
☐ Other, please list below: USD

NA

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

NA

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 23.24 m	USD 42.28
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding	USD	USD
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD	USD 7.80
<input type="checkbox"/> External private funding	USD	USD

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

NA

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:

A task force has submitted report to the ministry how role of private sector can be increased. Based on this new program has been introduced since this fiscal year.

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:

1. Forest and wildlife crime control

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

Government of Nepal has been receiving financial and technical supports on forest management from various bilateral and multilateral donor agencies. International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and Government of Finland have been supporting leasehold forestry programme until this year.

Multi-stakeholder forestry programme, which is jointly supported by DFID, SDC and Finland has been witnessed with huge contribution to forest management and livelihood improvement of local communities.

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

1. High dependency on forests and forest products (timber, firewood, and other NTFPs)
2. Illegal harvest of forest products
3. Unsustainable Harvesting Practices
4. Forest fire
5. Encroachment
6. Overgrazing
7. Infrastructure development
8. Resettlement
9. Expansion of invasive species

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:

Department of Forest Research and Survey is the sole mandated governmental institution in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM. It has also soil and seed laboratories. It has been involved in developing and demonstrating the appropriate technologies related to natural and man made forest management, determining forest growth to maximise forest productivity, identifying suitable

tree species for varying site conditions and developing their nursery and silvicultural technologies. Research is also conducted in the field of agroforestry and fodder production, tree improvement, socio-economic studies, utilization of forest products such as bamboo and rattan, and preparation of simple volume and biomass tables for different forest species.

However, it has largely been contributed in generating valuable statistics and information necessary to plan overall forestry development at national, regional and district levels.

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):

The RED BOOK published by Ministry of Finance shows the total budget allocated for scientific and technical innovation in the program name forestry research and survey project. There is sufficient increment in the annual budget. The total budget allocate in 2014 is US\$ 0.54 million.

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):

The government of Nepal has been celebrating the International Day of Forest with various forest conservation and management activities. These activities designed and implemented both at center and local level.

Several activities focusing towards in increasing public awareness were also planned along with other international days such world environment day, wetland day, biodiversity day, Tiger day, Rhino day, Mountain day and so on.

Also, other activities such as radio and television programs have continuously been launched to increase public awareness. Government has been carrying out weekly TV program through various TV channels.

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

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

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

Concerning the harvested timber from the forests sold into the national market, Nepal, until today, has not used any sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM. This is mainly due to the fact that Nepal's forestry has not been commercially managed yet; and has not been able to explore the international timber market. Nepal's forestry has still been governed by the principle of conservation forestry.

Currently Nepal has developed sustainable forest management criteria and indicator according to own country situation and are in the phase of testing.

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:

NA

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

Yes. Almost all policy documents has originally be written in Nepali and translated it to English or it has been written in English and translated it to Nepali.

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:

Global objective -1:

Government has been implementing various forest related programs to reverse the loss of forest cover in the country. Approximately 23% of the country's land mass has been gazzeted as a protected area. In addition, community based forest management system is taking momentum to halt the degradation of forest. Government has given priority to the plantation and natural regeneration for the restoration of degraded forest

Global objective – 2:

Government has been putting utmost effort to make forest depedent community able to receive the benefits from enhanced social, economic and environmental services derived from the forests.

Global objective – 3:

Government is putting its efforts to conserve and protected forests area. Area under strict protection has significantly increased over the span of five years. Also, protection forests have been established across the country, which are basically managed with participation of local communities.

Global objective – 4:

In 2013, NRs 1,038 million (US\$ 11.7 million) has been collected as Community Forest User Group (CFUG) fund in 43 districts by selling timber and other forest products. This fund is allocated in Sustainable Forest Management and Social Development Activities (Source: DoF, 2013). Please refer also the question – 9.

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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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):

Eliminating poverty and sustaining development are highest priorities under Millennium Development Goals. Not only for food security, forest resources are important tools for addressing poverty issues for marginalized and forest dependent communities. Income from forests and from trees on farms has been making a significant contribution to rural households. Hundreds of species are used as non-timber forest product and have great social and economic value for the many households. In some community, forest resources provide up to 50 percent of the total income. The use of non-timber forest products however, varies from one community to other community depending on the heterogeneity and traditional practices by the ethnic group. A recent study in Bardia district alone indicated that non timber forest products have been significantly contributing to the livelihood of Tharu community. Despite the fact many forest tree species have been used by various community for income generation thereby reducing poverty, the community are not able to receive the potential value of the products owing to the absence competitive market opportunities.

Indicators explaining MDG – 1 in Nepal:

- 64% of population use fuel wood for cooking
- public forest supplies 89 percent of the fuel wood consumption
- Contribution of forest related incomes on livelihoods of people – significant
- Dependency on forest products – significant
- Employment generated in forest based enterprises – low

The community forestry directives of Nepal indicate that 35 percentage of total budget of community forest user group should be spend for poverty alleviation which is directly linked to poverty reduction and helped to contribute to the first millennium development goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in the rural areas of Nepal.

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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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):

Forest plays crucial role in climate change mitigation and adaption. The appropriate use of forest resources provides flexibility with respect to forest management and helps to reduce the risks associated with climate change. Also, forest genetic diversity plays a critical role in survival of population in rapidly change climate.

Nepal has designated 20 protected areas and 12 buffer zones cover approximately 23% of land mass of the country. These include national parks, wildlife reserves, buffer zones, and conservation areas. The country has also committed to increase its forest area. The current forest coverage including shrubs and bushes is of 39.6%; and the government has planned to increase this figure up to 40%. To achieve this target, the government has already initiated a number of community-based forest conservation programs. For instance, private forests, community forests, leasehold forests and collaborative forests are based on the principles of sustainable forest management with the genuine participation of the local communities residing near or around forest areas. Twenty two percent of Nepal's forest area has been handed over as community forests. Up until 2013, more than 18,000 forest patches have been handed over to communities.

The indicators explaining MDG - 7:

- Carbon emission per capita – resonably high
- Per capita fuel wood consumption – significant
- Area of afforestation and reforestation – resonably high
- Proportion of land are covered by forest – significant
- Area of forest managed by community forestry – significant

Denuded forested areas have regenerated, the condition of the forest has improved, and the level of forest extraction is decided by the users themselves. Income from the sale of forest products is used in community development, and forest management activities are based on the decisions of the users themselves. Enhancing greenery and improving the condition of forest has directly contributed to the seventh millennium development goal of ensuring environmental sustainability.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Several international agencies / governments (viz., IDA/WB, ADB, UNDP (GEF), FINNIDA, FAO, SWISS, DFID) have been supporting in SFM in Nepal as development partners. Therefore, the SFM has been contributing the MDG 8 to some extent in Nepal.

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):

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations are compatible with the Poverty Reduction Strategy and Periodic Plan of Nepal. Analysis of the achievements and the challenges of community forestry and other forestry program indicate that some strategic reforms are needed in three thematic areas namely governance, livelihood and sustainable forest management to contribute more in MDGs. Implementation of these strategic reforms on these three themes will directly contribute to the attainment of five MDGs (goals 1,2,3,7 and 8) and indirectly contribute to the attainment of goals 4, 5 and 6 (Kanel, 2005). Now the strategic reform is in progress.

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

In Participatory forest management users are also spending their income and getting assistance in conducting non-formal education at the CFUG level. The literacy level of women and other disadvantaged groups is also expanding with these programmes. Therefore, the Forestry programme has contributed to meeting the second MDG i.e. achieving universal primary education in the rural areas. However, more needs to be done in attaining these goals.

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

Forest related policies has clearly provisioned gender equality in forest management and decision making process. A quick glance at the national level CFUG database at 2005, shows that about 24 percent of CFUG committee members are women. Moreover, there are

more than 600 CFUGs whose committee members are only women.

Community forestry implementation guidelines, 2009 has clearly sought 50 per cent of women's participation in the executive committee to make every decision. Like, community forestry guideline, other forest related rules and guidelines have strickly provisined strong women's participation in decision making and implementation body. However, their proportion varies from one to another so far.

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

NA

MDG5: Improving maternal health

NA

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

NA