

Country: Nicaragua
Date of submission:

National Report to the Tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This streamlined reporting format is prepared in response to the request made in the Resolution on Forests for People, adopted at the ninth session of the Forum in February 2011¹. Accordingly, the Forum requested the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to ensure simple voluntary national reporting for UNFF 10 focused on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (hereinafter referred to as the forest instrument)² and a balanced reporting of all its four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs).

The streamlined reporting format is the result of consultations with the members of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting. In addition, UNFFS and FAO consulted extensively with government representatives and international experts on this reporting format and its content. These consultations were conducted through five regional capacity-building workshops³ with the participation of UNFF and FRA national focal points. A total of 136 national and international experts from 78 countries and up to five international organizations participated in the workshops. The workshops also benefitted from the four on-going FAO pilot projects in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines on the implementation of the forest instrument.

The reporting format is intended to complement ongoing reporting by other processes and focuses on identifying critical gaps in international and national reporting, and on issues that are not sufficiently covered by other reporting processes such as forest financing and forest contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This will help to better measure the progress achieved across the full scope of the forest instrument and its GOFs.

The streamlined reporting format is prepared in a way that reduces the burden of multiple reporting exercises by countries. In this regard, the reporting format takes into account quantitative and qualitative information already submitted by countries to the FAO *Forest Resource Assessment* (FRA) 2005 and 2010.

¹ United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the ninth session (1 May 2009 and 24 January to 4 February 2011_E/2011/42_E/CN.18/2011/20, Page 8)

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N11/261/57/PDF/N1126157.pdf?OpenElement>

² United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the seventh session (24 February 2006 and 16-27 April 2007)_E/2007/42, E/CN.18/2007/8

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/349/31/PDF/N0734931.pdf?OpenElement>

³ The workshops held in Bangkok, Thailand (10-12 October 2011), Nairobi, Kenya (13-15 December 2011), Accra, Ghana (6-8 February 2012), Beirut, Lebanon (11-13 April 2012) and Santiago, Chile (18-20 April 2012) were jointly organized by UNFFS and FAO.

GUIDANCE FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS

This streamlined reporting format is made up of three parts:

- I. The forest instrument
- II. The four Global Objectives on Forests
- III. The contribution of forests to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

The forest instrument covers a broad spectrum of issues beyond forests. Its implementation requires close cooperation between different authorities. Consequently, the preparation of national reports may require a cooperative exercise among institutions and ministries such as ministries of environment, economic development, finance, agriculture, health and statistics, and in particular with national focal points for FRA, the NFP Facility, the ITTO C&I process and the Rio Processes, where applicable.

For reporting, please note the following:

- The fields with FRA indicators are highlighted in grey. This data will be derived by UNFFS from the FRA database;
- If information for a specific question does not exist, please enter NA (not available) or NR (not relevant) but do not leave the fields blank - all the responses to the questions contained in this reporting format are important for the Forum to analyze the progress, to identify the gaps and needs in implementing the forest instrument, including data gaps, and in finding ways and means to address them;
- Some of the questions include descriptive parts. We encourage countries to fill in these parts and provide context and background information in addition to the requested figures and the “yes” and “no” answers. At the same time, the responses should be limited [maximum 250] to keep the analytical efforts within reasonable bounds;
- The national report should be submitted in English, French or Spanish. To facilitate exchange of experience, countries are also encouraged to submit, where relevant, a translation of their summary report in English.
- The national reports should be submitted to UNFFS by 30 September 2012. Submission of the reports ahead of this deadline is encouraged, as this will facilitate the preparation of analyses and syntheses to be made available to the UNFF10;
- Member States are kindly requested to submit the original signed copy of the national report with an official letter from their respective institution/ministry, via mail or email to the address below. Electronic copies should be available in word processing software, and the scanned copy of the official letter, as well as any graphic elements, should be provided in separate files.

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Abbreviations in the questionnaire/template:

B.Sc.: Bachelor of Science degree
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
M.Sc.: Masters of Science degree
NA: Not available
NFP: National forest programme
ODA: Official development assistance
SIDS: Small Island Developing States
SFM: Sustainable forest management
UN: United Nations

PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)⁴

Thematic Clusters of the Forest Instrument	<p>The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference⁵:</p> <p>1A: Strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management 1B: Financing sustainable forest management 1C: Capacity building and technology transfer 1D: Stakeholder participation 1E: Enhanced international cooperation</p> <p>2A: Forest law enforcement and governance 2B: International Trade in forest products 2C: Protection of forests 2D: Science and research 2E: Public awareness and education 2F: Private sector and industry 2G: Indigenous and local communities 2H: Monitoring, assessment and reporting</p> <p>Data provided on thematic clusters of the forest instrument will also be used for assessing progress toward its Global Objectives on Forests (Qs 33-49).</p>
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1A: Strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management		
1. Existence of Forest policy statement with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (FRA -T14 Policy and legal framework)		
2. Existence of national forest programme (nfp); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (FRA -T14 Policy and legal framework)		
3. Do you have inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management?	Yes x	No
If yes, which sectors are actively involved:		
Agriculture	x	
Climate Change	x	
Energy		x
Tourism	x	
Water	x	
Other:		
Please describe the inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation (maximum 250 words).		
The principal mechanism that brings the productive sector (agriculture, livestock, forestry, water and climate change as a cross-cutting theme) together is the PRORURAL Incluyente (Plan Sectorial de Desarrollo Rural) that includes three national programmes: The National Forest Programme, the National Food Programme and the National Programme on Rural		

⁴ <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/469/65/PDF/N0746965.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵ E.CN.18/2009/2, pp 4-5 (<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/240/37/PDF/N0924037.pdf?OpenElement>)

<p>Agroindustry. PRORURAL Incluyente does not include the sectors of tourism and energy – however, according to the need for intersectorial actions, these sectors can be invited to participate in the meetings and negotiations.</p> <p>Another important mechanism at the national level is the Production and Competitiveness Cabinet that consists of all the institutions of the government and makes decisions related to the roles of the different actors, taking into account the local stakeholders.</p>		
4. Are your national forest programmes and relevant policies and strategies contributing to poverty eradication?	Yes x	No
<p>If yes, please specify :</p> <p>The ultimate aim of the National Forest Programme (NFP) is to contribute to the improvement of the life quality of communities. The NFP includes community forestry as one of its strategic lines, and community forestry is also one of the institutional priorities of INAFOR (Instituto Nacional Forestal). The objective of community forestry is to promote the sustainable management of forest resources and provide socioeconomic benefits for communities, especially in the Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua.</p> <p>The NFP together with the Forest Strategy of the Northern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) supports and capacitates the communities, providing them with technical assistance and creating them better living conditions. The aim is that the communities are able use their forests in a sustainable way, something that can contribute to creating income and employment opportunities. Combined, these interventions and strategies contribute to the eradication of poverty.</p> <p>Also the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS) has developed a Regional Forest Strategy; however, it is not yet being implemented.</p> <p>The National Policy on Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector recognizes that the protection of environment, biodiversity and natural resources contributes directly and indirectly to the improvement of quality of life, poverty reduction and the promotion of food security.</p>		
National forest programs have been revised to include specific measures and resources for eradicating poverty.		x
National poverty eradication plans and strategies or equivalent have been revised to incorporate sustainable forest management.	x	
<p>Please describe specific actions or measures taken to eradicate poverty and their effects (maximum 250 words).</p> <p>The PRORURAL Incluyente is an integral part of the National Human Development Plan (PNDH) of Nicaragua. It contributes to poverty reduction, promotion of food security and reduction of social, ecological and economic vulnerability through its three national programmes. The PRORURAL Incluyente focuses on farm workers, small and medium producers, indigenous communities and afro-descendent people, something that supports the actions to combat rural poverty.</p> <p>In accordance with the the National Forest Programme, 5 community forestry projects were initiated in Nicaragua (2 in the RAAN, 2 in the RAAS and 1 in Nueva Segovia). These projects contribute to the poverty eradication of indigenous communities.</p> <p>The Productive Alimentary Project (PPA) aims at restoring and promoting the productive capacity of especially the poorest and most de-capitalized families through its Productive Parcel (Bono Productivo) mechanism. The programme has at its first stage benefitted more than 85,000 poor families. The National Programme on Rural Agroindustry, on the other hand, has benefitted 29,593 families with its actions aimed at improving food security.</p> <p>The PRORURAL underwent its first mid-term review in the end of 2008. As a result of the evaluation, the three national programmes were integrated in the mechanism and actions that contribute to poverty eradication were given even more</p>		

emphasis.		
5. Has the forest instrument been translated into your country's official/local language(s)?	Yes	No
	x	
Please list the language(s) into which the forest instrument has been translated.		
Spanish. Moreover, a brochure in Miskito (a native language spoken mostly in the RAAN) has been published.		
1B: Financing sustainable forest management: Assessment of this thematic cluster will be conducted on the basis of data provided under Global Objective on Forests 4 (Q. 43-49).		
1C: Capacity building and technology transfer		
6. Total number of persons employed in forestry (1,000 persons-years); data will be derived by UNFFS from the FRA database (T13 - Employment).		
7. Total number of staff working in public forest institutions; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 15 - Institutional framework).		
Does your country have adequate capacity and technology to implement sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
		x
If no, please describe the main challenges, including institutional and technology priority needs and know-how areas of particular concern (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Human capacity: INAFOR, in order to comply with the national legislative framework regulating the forest sector, has established the Forest Regency (Regencia Forestal), which facilitates the monitoring and evaluation of the elaboration and implementation of forest management plans. With regard to forest protection, capacity-building efforts have been successful and patrols to control and prevent forest fires have been established in the key areas – the RAAN, León and Nueva Segovia.</p> <p>Technological capacity: The technological level of forest industry is not very advanced. More than 90 % of the industry consists of small enterprises of first processing that are still at a basic technological level. In Nicaragua, there is no technology that would substantially reduce the costs related to forest harvesting, and wood extraction methods are still very traditional. One of the most important factors limiting the development of the forest industry is the lack funding to modernize the sector. Also the Technical Forest Institute (INTECFOR) has the capacity required for technology application and transfer, but there are no economic resources to develop this capacity.</p>		
8. Is your country engaged in SFM-related technology transfer?	Yes	No
	x	
If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of SFM technology?		
Donor country		x
Recipient country	x	
Describe the nature, source and target of technology transfer (maximum 250 words).		
<p>INAFOR that is the government institute responsible for the forest sector has a very limited amount of financial resources available. Thus, technical cooperation with different donor countries contributing to the capacity building and strengthening and/or technology transfer for sustainable forest management is important for Nicaragua. For instance, the cooperation between Chile and Nicaragua has provided technical assistance. Moreover, in the case of nurseries, there is plenty of experience and technology available. Even though the newest technology is not necessarily accessible, it is sufficiently advanced to promote development to an acceptable extent.</p>		

9. Are there any incentives for promoting improved technologies for SFM?	Yes	No
	x	
If yes, please check where applicable:		
Low-interest loans	x	
Tax breaks	x	
Subsidies		x
Participation in SFM best practice certification programmes that improve access to markets		x
Others; please specify (maximum 250):		
<p>The Banco Produzcamos has the most preferential rates for the forest sector; however, the low-interest loans they offer have not been very accessible. The loans are aimed at medium-sized enterprises, and also some associations of communities have applied for the credit.</p> <p>The National Forest Development Fund (FONADEFO) has established components to finance new technology, technological innovations and infrastructure for technological innovations, but no projects have so far been financed through this mechanism. FONADEFO finances project proposals and project components that are compatible with its mandate, and there are different incentive modules. Through one of the components, plant material or necessary tools can be provided to farmers. Under another module, the farmers are provided with monetary incentives. It is also possible to request technical assistance or support for capacity-building. The forestry component of FONADEFO comprises for instance the establishment of plantations, purchase of plants, elaboration of management plans, forest management and soil and water conservation. Moreover, FONADEFO also provides financing for instance through its components of food and nutritional security and productive infrastructure.</p> <p>The Law 462 on Conservation, Promotion and Sustainable Development of the Forest Sector establishes tax exemptions for the properties that establish plantations and carry out forest management activities, as well as for the enterprises of second and third transformation that import machinery and equipment to improve their technological level. Moreover, there are income tax exemptions of 50 % to 100 % for the establishment and promotion of reforestation activities.</p>		
1D: Stakeholder participation		
10. Does your country have programmes for involving stakeholders in SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation? If yes, please indicate the levels:	Yes	No
	x	
National	x	
Sub-national	x	
Local	x	
Describe the processes of public participation in SFM, indicating existing mechanisms and stakeholders involved (maximum 250 words).		
<p>The main consultation and agreement mechanism is the Forest Governance (Gobernanza Forestal, GOFO) that extends through the different levels of governance and is also accountable for the National Forest Programme. At the national level, the decision-making takes place in the CONAFOR (National Forest Commission), which is a public-private consultation mechanism. At the local and municipal levels there are COMUFORs (Municipal Forest Commissions) and at the departmental level CODEFORs (Departmental Forest Commissions). In the case of the autonomous regions of the RAAN and the RAAS, the participation and decision-making processes take place in CCFs (Consultative Forestry Councils) and COREFORs (Regional Forest Commissions).</p> <p>The decisions related to all forest and environmental related activities at the different levels are made in these forest governance mechanisms, and there are various actors participating in the process, including e.g. government institutions, forest owners and the industrial sector. For instance the Forest Policy of Nicaragua was consulted with more than 3,000 actors.</p>		
1E: Enhanced international cooperation		

11. Is your country engaged in international cooperation in sustainable forest management? If yes, please specify the type of the cooperation:	Yes	No
	x	
North-South	x	
South-South	x	
Triangular	x	
Others:		
Please give examples, describing the main objectives and elements of the cooperation (maximum 250 words).		
<p>The forest sector receives support from the Common Fund (Fondo Común) that is financed by different donors, including for instance Sweden, Spain and Finland. Moreover, Nicaragua has cooperation with e.g. GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) related to governance, and with FAO and the Fund of UNDP on issues related to forestry and environment. As an example of triangular cooperation, Nicaragua has received technical assistance from Chile.</p> <p>The Common Fund has provided support at the regional level in accordance with the strategic lines of the forest sector of Nicaragua, something that has strengthened forest governance and management and promoted reforestation activities.</p> <p>Moreover, Nicaragua has cooperated with JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and Austria as well as with CATIE. There has also been south-south cooperation related to the development of community forestry.</p>		
12. In which areas would your country like to see more international cooperation:		
Forests and climate change		x
Forest biodiversity		x
Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests		x
Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods		x
Forest degradation and rehabilitation		x
Others; please list:		
Community forestry, sustainable forest management, forest governance		
2A: Forest law enforcement and governance		
Existence of law (Act or Code) on forests with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 - Policy and legal framework).		
13. Since the adoption of the forest instrument in 2007, have steps been taken to strengthen forest-related legislation, law enforcement and governance in support of sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	x	
14. Is your country participating in international agreements/partnerships to address illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources?	Yes	No
	x	
If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of capacity building to address forest-related illegal practices?		
Donor country	N/A	
Recipient country	N/A	
Describe the recent significant steps taken to enhance forest law enforcement and governance in your country (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Since 2007, Nicaragua has taken important steps related to forest law enforcement and governance. The forest policy was revised in 2007-2008, and also several institutional mechanisms and instruments have been modernized. INAFOR has updated its administrative regulations related to forest management, and currently the technical norms and standards are being revised. Moreover, regional governments have created legal instruments to regulate the sector. Related to the legal framework, there have been training and capacity-building sessions on the dissemination of the law. Moreover, for instance a firewood strategy and forest incentive mechanisms have been established.</p>		

In order to improve forest legislation, INAFOR would be willing to initiate a reform or update of the law 462, in particular to revise the article on forest incentives.

There are certain regulatory mechanisms in place to control the illegal traffic of forest products. Research and capacity-building to address the issue have been carried out, and also inter-institutional alliances have been established. Moreover, there are checkpoints along the major roads used for illegal trafficking. These efforts have reduced illegal practices in the forest sector in Nicaragua. It would be useful to establish an information system to control trade at least at the regional level, as this would permit the exchange of information between the countries to address illegal practices – however, such system does not yet exist.

Nicaragua participates in the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) mechanism, which has an important role in conserving the species included in the convention.

2B: International trade in forest products

15. Is your country involved in international forest products trade? If yes, please provide estimated market value (US\$ 1000):	Yes		No	
	x			
	Import		Export	
	2007	2011	2007	2011
Timber products	8,910,000	10,790,000	8,070,000	11,770,000
Fuelwood	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
16. Does your country trade in non-wood forest products? If yes, please list the most important and provide estimated market value:	Yes		No	
	X			
	Import		Export	
	2007	2011	2007	2011
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Describe the recent significant steps taken to enhance international trade in forest products in your country (maximum 250 words).

One of the five subprograms of the NFP is focused on industry and the trade of forest products. The objective of this subprogram is to increase the financial volume of the exportations of forest products. Moreover, the subprogram aims at promoting improved technology and the quality of the wood products, something that would contribute to international trade and increase the value of the products.

The efforts to boost international trade of forest products have been rather successful. For instance, the value of the exportations of sawn wood has grown steadily since 2007. The value of exported sawn wood was USD 336,151 in 2007, USD 633,259 in 2008, USD 961,267 in 2009, USD 3,037,272 in 2010 and in 2011 USD 6,415,046. Also the value of processed wood has increased – in 2007 the total value of exported processed wood was USD 2,413,991, and after a decrease in 2008 and 2009, it reached USD 3,847,431 in 2010 and USD 5,214,251 in 2011.

Also the value of exported wood products has increased slightly. In 2007, the total value of exportations of wood products was USD 3,758,423. In 2008 and 2009 exportations decreased, but reached USD 4,447,170 in 2010 and USD 4,512,823 in 2011. The exportations of paper and carton products totaled USD 1,680,382 in 2007, peaked in 2008 (USD 3,145,748) and were USD 1,944,134 in 2011 (The Export Statistics Center, CETREX).

2C: Protection of forests

17. Forest area (1000 hectares) conservation of biodiversity; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 3- Forest designation and management).

Forest area (1000 hectares) within protective areas; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 3- Forest designation and management).

Describe any significant actions related to protection of forests since 2007 (maximum 250 words).

Nicaragua has succeeded in its efforts to significantly reduce forest fires. In 2007, there were 1,357 forest fires in the country, affecting a total area of 19,484 hectares. In 2012, in the end of the forest fire season, the number of forest fires was 46, with an affected area of 2,225 hectares. This means that the area affected by forest fires reduced by 89 % in the period 2007-2012. In the protected areas, there was a reduction of 70 % in the number of fires. INAFOR has capacitated voluntary communal and rural promoters in forest fire control and prevention.

In 2007 Nicaragua established a model to prevent and control forest fires in the RAAN. This system is replicable in other districts with forest cover, such as in the Segovias and the western regions of the country.

Currently all the projects managed by MARENA (Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources) include components of forest protection and environmental education, both in protected and unprotected areas. MARENA is co-managing protected areas with local communities in the autonomous regions of RAAN and RAAS, something that allows voluntary protection of the forests. This is essential, since a lot of land in the protected areas is under private property.

Nicaragua has also managed to substantially reduce plague incidents in the coniferous forests. INAFOR has established a convention with the National Agricultural University (UNA) in order to develop and carry out investigations that permit better decision-making in the field.

2D: Science and research

18. How much funding (US\$ 1000) was designated for forest-related research?	2007	2011
	N/A	N/A
19. Please specify the sources of financing:	2007	2011
Public sector	N/A	N/A
Private industry	N/A	N/A
Bilateral cooperation	N/A	N/A
Multilateral cooperation	N/A	N/A

Others; please describe (maximum 250 words).

There has been a drastic reduction in the funding for research in the National Agricultural University (UNA) after 2010, when the cooperation with Sweden finished. INTECFOR is not currently carrying out research as an institute.

20. Does your country have an institute(s) promoting the development and application of scientific and technological innovations for SFM?	Yes	No
		x
If yes, do they have extension programs for promoting the use of these scientific and technological innovations directed at forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders?	Yes	No
	N/A	N/A
How many persons from the following groups were reached by these extension programs?	2007	2011
Forest owners	N/A	N/A
Local communities	N/A	N/A
Private sector	N/A	N/A
Indigenous communities	N/A	N/A

2E: Public awareness and education

21. Graduation of students in forest-related education: Data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 16- Education and research).		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with B.Sc. degree or equivalent		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with a technician certificate/diploma		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent who are women		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with B.Sc. degree or equivalent who are women		
Percentage of students in forest-related education that graduated with a technician certificate/diploma who are women		
22. Did your country organize specific events and activities in support of the International Year of Forests?	Yes	No
	x	

If yes, please describe them (maximum 250 words).

The most important event organized in support of the International Year of Forests was the VII Central American Congress on Forests that took place in Nicaragua between June 29 and July 1, 2011. The general objective of the congress was to highlight the strategic importance of forest ecosystems for biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic and cultural development of the Central American region. Moreover, the reforestation campaign launched in 2007 was continued in 2012, and activities related to capacity and awareness-building were implemented.

The livestock sector has started to establish and promote silvopastoral systems, something that allows the shift from extensive to intensive livestock farming. This also strengthens the link between the livestock and forest sectors. In 2012, a fair to improve the knowledge on the livestock sector was organized, presenting the success stories and experience related to the cooperation between the two sectors.

The National Agricultural University (UNA) organized diverse activities to support the World Environment Day. Moreover, the UNA also participated in activities related to the role of forests in combating climate change, forests and governance and forest education in support of the International Year of Forests.

23. Has your country implemented actions to increase public awareness of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management?	x	
If yes, which of the following approaches have been utilized?		
Published materials, such as brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc.		x
Meetings with the general public to inform them of the benefits provided by forests to society		x
Meetings with private and public sector stakeholders to inform them of the benefits of sustainable forest management		x

Other; please describe (maximum 100 words).

There are several lines of work related to awareness-building. For instance the national reforestation campaign includes an awareness-building component, and also in the context of forest protection there are participative and disseminative activities. The material used includes for instance radio bulletins, posters, leaflets and training sessions.

INAFOR has organized capacity and awareness-building sessions that aim at improving the knowledge on sustainable forest management. Different approaches are used at different level. In the summer 2012, INAFOR developed a bulletin that is circulated in the communities in the whole country through loudspeakers.

2F: Private sector and industry⁶

24. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist that engage the private sector and industry?	Yes	No
	x	
25. Have you established or strengthened public-private partnerships to advance sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	x	

If yes, please describe (maximum 250 words).

N/A

Describe these mechanisms and their functions. What specific role do the private sector and industry play in promoting and supporting the forest instrument and sustainable forest management? (maximum 250 words)

The Law 462 recognizes the National Forest Commission CONAFOR as the highest structure for consultation and decision-

⁶ In addition, assessment of this thematic cluster will be conducted on the basis of data provided under question 23 (thematic cluster 2B)

<p>making related to forest sector at the national level. Different actors of the forestry production chain participate in CONAFOR. The Law 462 also identifies the CODEFOR, COMUFOR and COREFOR as the consultative and coordination bodies at the territorial level for the forest and environmental sector. In the autonomous regions of the RAAN and RAAS, both the public sector and the private sector, including the industry and indigenous communities, participate in the COREFOR and CCF.</p> <p>Another consultative and decision-making mechanism is the forestry roundtable of the PRORURAL Includente that brings together different actors and promotes cooperation on the prioritized actions within the forest sector. Moreover, bilateral meetings between the government and the actors of the productive chain serve as an important cooperation and consultation mechanism.</p>		
2G: Indigenous and local communities		
26. Are tenure and user rights of local communities and indigenous peoples over publicly-owned forests recognized by law?	Yes	No
	x	
<p>Describe how they are recognized and practiced (maximum 250 words).</p> <p>Land tenure is recognized by the law 28 (the Statute of Autonomy of the Atlantic Coast Regions of Nicaragua) and the law 445 (System Law of Communal Property of Indigenous Peoples and Ethnic Communities of the Autonomous Regions of Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast and the Bocay, Coco, Indio and Maíz rivers).</p> <p>In the RAAN, there are 17 indigenous territories that have been demarcated and titled. Indigenous territories are recognized for their extensive natural resources – especially forests – that contribute to the accomplishment of the commitments Nicaragua has made to the United Nations system and to the global system that recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples.</p> <p>At the level of indigenous communities, the laws are put into practice through internal structures of the communities, especially when it comes to the use of natural resources. An example of this is the approval of sustainable forest management plans as a tool of use and harvesting of natural resources in indigenous areas. If a community does not authorize the implementation of a project, it will not be carried out.</p>		
27. Are local communities and indigenous peoples benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests??	Yes	No
	x	
<p>Describe how this is functioning (maximum 250 words).</p> <p>The article 49 of the law 462 establishes the following concepts: payments for the right to use forest resources; fines; rights of the different actors; and the auctions for confiscation. Of these payments, 25 % are given to the communities on whose territory the natural resources in question are located. The community leaders are responsible for redistributing these payments within the communities.</p> <p>The government has established the mechanism of community forestry that has potential to generate benefits for the communities. Communities are responsible for their respective resources and the distribution of benefits. Usually the projects implemented contribute to the strengthening of infrastructure and the establishment of agricultural plantations within the communities. In the RAAN, the formation of community forestry enterprises has had a significant social impact, contributing to the promotion of economic and social development of indigenous communities.</p> <p>In the case of protected areas, there have been pilot projects that have demonstrated promising results and active stakeholder participation. For instance, in the natural reserve of Volcano Masaya, the park is managed by MARENA but communities are actively involved in the activities. With the support of INTUR (Nicaraguan Tourism Institute) and MARENA, local communities have established community tourism activities that can create benefits for the communities and improve their life quality.</p>		
28. Are traditional forest-related knowledge and practices used in forest management, planning and implementation?	Yes	No
	x	
<p>Explain how they are used and by whom (maximum 250).</p>		

⁷ Benefit-sharing policies for management of forest resources vary among countries. In national policy regimes that require permits from a national forest authority, benefits can include payments for protecting, regenerating and planting forests; payments for ecosystem services; harvesting of non-timber forest products, dry timber and dead trees; and selective harvesting of timber, among others.

<p>The use of traditional knowledge has an important role in climate change adaptation, and it is taken in account when developing climate change strategies. Traditional knowledge related to forests is also used when designing activities that contribute to regional development as well as in developing plans at the community and regional levels. There are sessions aimed at changing experiences and information between communities and regions. However, the traditional cultural knowledge is not always well accentuated, and it can be challenging to transmit this information to the next generations.</p> <p>Forests have important cultural and socio-economic values for communities, and thus it is important to take traditional knowledge into account when designing forest management schemes. Forests represent a source of employment and livelihoods, as well as for instance of traditional medicinal plants, for the communities. It would be important to involve more territorial and communal authorities at the different levels of governance in order to ensure that role of traditional knowledge in sustainable forest management and the rights of communities are taken into account, as this would allow the communities to manage, use and make decisions related to their forest resources in a sustainable way.</p>		
29. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist for the engagement of the following?	Yes	No
	x	
Indigenous peoples (where applicable)	x	
Local communities	x	
<p>Describe these mechanisms and their functions. What specific role do indigenous peoples and/or local communities play in achieving sustainable forest management? (maximum 250 words)</p> <p>In addition to the mechanisms established by the Law 462, there are additional mechanisms at the community level that actively involve communities and local governments in planning, approving and implementing projects.</p> <p>The indigenous communities in the autonomous regions have participated in the elaboration of the climate change and forest development strategies. These strategies also contribute to ensuring that communities are involved in the development of REDD+ mechanism in Nicaragua as well as in the strengthening of capacities related to forestry and climate change.</p> <p>MARENA has introduced collaborative management as a new working model in the protected areas. The ultimate aim is to manage all the protected areas in RAAN and RAAS in cooperation with the local communities. Also the management and operational plans are developed together with the communities.</p> <p>Community forestry has an important role in the sustainable management of forests. There are regional, national and international capacity-building sessions for communities. The community forestry strategy is closely linked to the climate change strategy that also includes capacity-building and training for communities. INAFOR has been actively working on community forestry and the involvement of communities in the forestry activities, and for instance 14 community forestry enterprises have been established. There are also women working in these enterprises – however, there are still administrative challenges.</p>		
30. Are training and extension programmes being implemented that are directed at local communities and indigenous peoples in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests?	Yes	No
	x	
If yes, how many persons from the following communities were the beneficiaries?	2007	2011
Indigenous	N/A	N/A
Local	N/A	N/A
Part II: The Global Objectives on Forests		
Global Objective 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;		

Extent of the country's forests and other wooded lands (1000 ha.); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.1 - Extent of forest and other wooded land)	2005	2010
Extent of the country's forests under public/private ownership (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.2 - Forest ownership and management rights).	2005	2010
Extent of the country's forests under private ownership (1000 ha)		
Extent of privately-owned forests according to the following categories (1000 ha)		
Individual		
Business entities and institutions		
Local, indigenous and tribal communities		
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 1 (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Reforestation activities have been developed and promoted by INAFOR in a consecutive and planned manner since 2006, with an objective to restore the forest cover that has been lost due to e.g. deforestation and land use change. In 2007, the National Reforestation Crusade was launched, and as a result 82,560 hectares were reforested between 2007 and 2011. A wide range of actors from both public and private sectors has participated in the reforestation activities.</p> <p>FONADEFO has provided payments for reforestation activities for a group of producers. The establishment of the plantations was financed, and when the plantations were successfully registered, the producers received a payment.</p> <p>In relation to forest fire prevention and control, between 2007 and 2011, 739 community patrols were established and equipped. Moreover, 2,146 community leaders and technicians were capacitated in coordination with the trainers of the Civil Defense, and 8 watchtowers were built. Moreover, awareness-building on forest fire control and prevention has been taking place. The combination of these efforts has significantly contributed to the reduction of forest fires.</p> <p>Forest inventory has an important role in analyzing how successful forest protection and conservation activities are.</p>		
Global Objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people		
Data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management).	2005	2010
Extent of forest designated and managed for production (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for protection (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for conservation (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for social services (1000 ha)		
Data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.11 - Forest Wood removals and value of removals).	2005	2010
Total volume of industrial roundwood removal (1000 m ³)		
Total value of industrial roundwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total volume of fuelwood removal (1000 m ³)		
Total value of fuelwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total value of non-wood forest products (NWFP) (US\$1000)		
31. Has your country established a mechanism(s) for payment of ecosystem services?	Yes	No
	x	
If yes, what is the estimated value of the payment of ecosystem services (US\$ 1,000)?	2005	2011
	N/A	N/A
Please describe how the mechanism(s) function (maximum 250 words).		
<p>In Nicaragua, the law only establishes payments for environmental services related to water resources. These are subject to the specific regulations defined by the National Water Authority (ANA). 6 pilot projects on payments for these services at the local level have been implemented. Of these pilot projects, the project implemented in the sub-basin of Gil Gonzales in Belen, Rivas</p>		

has been the most successful.		
<p>FONADEFO has established projects and programmes related to payments for water services. Producers have been provided with incentives for instance for protecting recharge zones. Moreover, FONADEFO grants technical support and necessary tools and instruments. In the department of Rivas, a mechanism to provide payments for the restoration and conservation of water resources has been introduced. In addition, in Río San Juan incentives are offered for the protection and sustainable management of basins and micro-basins, and in the same region FONADEFO has also provided payments for establishing agroforestry systems. There are also projects related to the protection of water resources, integrated productive systems, plant nurseries, reduction of vulnerability and micro-basins in 8 municipalities.</p>		
32. What is the number of visitors to national parks and other protected areas in your country?	2005	2011
	N/A	N/A
33. What is the area of urban parks in your country (1000 ha)?	N/A	N/A
34. What is the estimated number of visitors to urban parks in your country?	N/A	N/A
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 2 (maximum 250 words).		
<p>Different instruments and initiatives that contribute to the enhancement of social, economic and environmental benefits of the forests have been developed. These include for instance i) the National Forest Programme that forms a part of the PRORURAL Includente and aims at creating socio-economic benefits and improving life quality, ii) the strategy on avoided deforestation (ENDE-REDD+) that aims at reversing the leading causes of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into consideration the rights of native peoples and the Nicaraguan people in general, to enjoy natural resources in a rationed and sustainable way, iii) FONADEFO that focuses on providing partial funding for forest projects that promote sustainable forest management, to support economic development and conservation of natural resources and to mobilize payments for environmental services in Nicaragua, iv) a new initiative that improves the access of the forest sector to credit through a public bank (Banco Produzcamos), something that allows to incentivize small and medium forest producers for reforestation, community forestry and plantation management activities, v) the regional forest strategies of the RAAN and the RAAS that aim at sustainable forest management, taking into account the participation of indigenous communities through community forestry.</p> <p>INAFOR has established several community forestry projects, with the aim to provide socio-economic benefits for communities in an environmentally sustainable manner. The projects have contributed e.g. to the strengthening of the infrastructure of the communities. Moreover, community forestry enterprises have been established, something that has provided significant socio-economic benefits for indigenous communities, contributing to their economic and social development.</p>		
Global Objective 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;		
Data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management).	2005	2010
Extent of forest designated and managed for sustainable forest management (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest with management plans (1000 ha)		
35. Does your country have forests under internationally recognized certification schemes?	Yes	No
	X	
If yes, please specify:	Certification Scheme	Area
Nicaragua has forests under the FSC, which is the only internationally recognized certification scheme currently in use in Nicaragua. According to the National Forest Programme, Nicaragua adopted forest certification in 1996 as a commercial strategy for private enterprises; however, the certification process has advanced slowly. It is estimated that there are approximately 250,000 hectares of natural forests with certification potential in Nicaragua.	FSC	34,834 ha
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 3 (maximum 250 words).		
One of the priorities that MARENA has as a ministry is the rehabilitation of protected areas, and it does not directly aim at		

increasing the total coverage of these areas. MARENA emphasizes natural regeneration, which is included as a component in the management of all protected areas. The process has been rather efficient and participative, and a lot of work has been carried out in relation to the promotion of good environmental practices.

One of the institutional priorities of INAFOR is sustainable management of forests through forest management plans. INAFOR has promoted the preparation of plans especially in the RAAN, the RAAS, Nueva Segovia, San Francisco Libre and Rivas, and currently there are 5 sustainable forest management plans formulated and approved, covering in total 6,669,000 hectares of forests. After preparing the plans, a project portfolio was developed for each territory in order to enhance sustainability and to ensure that the implementation of the plans continues. The sustainable forest management plans promote appropriate land use and organized management of forest resources, taking into account the specific potential of each area. All the plans include a sustainable forest management and use proposal, including maps of the current situation and the potential of forests in the area, and water basins.

Global Objective 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

36. Does your country have a government budget specific for forests?	Yes	No
	x	
37. What is the total amount of funding in forest management, administration, research and human resource development (US\$ 1,000)?	2007	2011
	4,786,900 USD (88,727,956 NIO) – budget of INAFOR	3,663,300 USD (82,654,809 NIO) – budget of INAFOR
38. If the funding for forests is spread among other sectors, please specify the main contributors:		
Agriculture	N/R	
Energy	N/R	
Water	N/R	
Climate change	N/R	
Nature conservation	N/R	
Others; please specify: N/R		
Has the country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM since 2007? If yes, please specify sources:	Yes	No
	N/A	N/A
Domestic public funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
	N/A	N/A
Domestic private sector funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
	N/A	N/A
External private sector funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
	N/A	N/A
If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds (maximum 250 words). N/A		
39. Does your country have a National Forests Fund?	Yes	No
	x	
40. Is your country a donor or recipient of ODA for forestry?	Donor	Recipient
	N/A	N/A
41. If yes, what has been the net ODA received/donated for forestry (US 1000)?	Donor	Recipient
	2007	2010
	2007	2011

	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Please use this space to describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 4 (maximum 250 words).				
<p>The budget of INAFOR has not shown a tendency to increase. The budget consists of the resources of Treasury, the donations of the Common Fund and the loans provided by the World Bank. The combined share of the Common Fund and the World Bank represents more than 50 % of the INAFOR's budget; thus, external sources of funding are of a great importance for the forest sector in Nicaragua. However, the budget allocations needed for operational and personnel costs are financed with the funds of Treasury, whereas the external funding is directed towards programme and project planning and implementation that contribute to the achievement of objectives and indicators of INAFOR.</p> <p>The funds of PRORURAL through the Common Fund have provided additional resources for the forest sector in Nicaragua. For instance in 2011 INAFOR received an additional 450,000 USD (10,300,00 NIO) from the Common Fund as a result of a budget reform. There is also bilateral support directed to the sector. Moreover, forest sector is now included in the credit programs of Banco Produzcamos, something that provides additional resources for the establishment and management of forest plantations, SFM and community forestry up to USD 1,750,000.</p>				

PART III: Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	
<p>Forests can make significant contributions to poverty reduction, improved health, education and gender equity. Sustainable forest management aims to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the evidence of this contribution and greater recognition of the value of sustainably managed forests are difficult to gather.</p> <p>Currently the only forest-related official MDG indicator that provides information on the proportion of land area covered by forest is Indicator 7.1 under Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. This indicator, however, neither reflects the full range of benefits and services including socio-economic benefits of forests to society, nor the contributions of forests to the achievement of other MDGs. Establishing the direct and indirect links between forests and MDGs is pivotal to ensure that concrete efforts are being taken to reverse the loss of forest cover and to prevent forest degradation while maximizing the benefits of forests for achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>The aim of this part of the reporting format is to explore the existing data, evidence basis and cases demonstrating the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to MDGs, at the same time identifying gaps in the monitoring systems and lack of adequate indicators.</p>	
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	
Please indicate the most forest relevant MDGs in your country	
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:	
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	x
Please list the indicators.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of qq of seeds provided according to the source 2. Number of forest-owning families, according to the level of increase of their income from forest-related activities, according to harvesting mechanism 3. Number of families with forest management plans 	

4. The national forest programmes aiming at sustainable forest management are incorporated in the National Plan on Human Development (NPHD – poverty reduction strategy)		
Indicators of NFP and the National Monitoring System of NLBI		
Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).		
<p>The forest sector is directly linked to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, and the national forest policy of Nicaragua takes into consideration that “the sustainable management of environment and natural resources, especially the forest ecosystems of Nicaragua, has an integral role in combating poverty, and it is one of the key factors in ensuring food security and sovereignty of the nation”.</p> <p>All the actions taken to protect forests contribute to the poverty eradication, as the majority of the population who suffer from poverty depend on forests for their livelihoods and food. However, there is a lack of recognition of the services that forests provide to the society, and thus there are not sufficiently incentives available, something that reduces the contribution of the forests to poverty eradication. For instance, the income that indigenous communities have received from managing their forests in a sustainable way has been limited to the sales of their wood.</p>		
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education:		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?		x
Please list the indicators. N/A		
Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words). N/R		
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women:		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	x	
Please list the indicators.		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The level of participation of the female forest-owners: a) they participate in the forest management and conservation activities; b) they make decisions related to the use of forest resources; c) they participate in benefit-sharing 2. The number of associations of male and female producers established or consolidated. The number of women who are members of these associations, according to the level of their participation: a) they are members; b) they hold positions in the board of directors; c) they make decisions 3. The number of professionals and technicians, according to sex, who have improved their expertise 4. The number of men and women who have improved their knowledge of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and produce products of better quality 		
Indicators of NFP		
Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).		
<p>Women are involved especially in the management of sub-products of forests (artisan). The women of indigenous communities also have extensive experience and knowledge on the management of traditional medicine plants. INAFOR promotes the exchange of experience between different indigenous communities in order to improve knowledge and impulse diversification of artisanal products. INAFOR has as an objective that 10 to 15 % of all beneficiaries were women.</p> <p>MARENA has established a cooperative of women and is supporting the creation of 5 more cooperatives consisting of women</p>		

and men in Estero Real. The participants are given two hectares of mangrove forests that they are managing in a sustainable way. Moreover, they have a licence to export their products.		
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country? If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	Yes	No
	x	
Please list the indicators. N/A		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). The efforts to control and prevent forest fires have reduced the amount of smoke, something that has contributed to health, and there are less diseases and respiratory problems. Moreover, the increased amount of food and improved access to water contribute to the health of children and reduce their mortality. Moreover, forests are also a source of traditional medicines. However, there are no indicators to measure the contribution of forests to this objective.		
Goal 5: Improve maternal health		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country? If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	Yes	No
		x
Please list the indicators. N/A		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). N/R		
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country? If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	Yes	No
		X
Please list the indicators. N/A		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). N/R		
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country? If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	Yes	No
	x	
Please list the indicators. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The number of environmental assessments performed when elaborating forest management plans. 2. Number of illegal actions in the forest sector. The tendency of illegal logging in the forests. 3. The tendency of the annual deforestation rate. 4. % of increase of the forest cover. 5. % of germinated seeds, according to their source (public, private). 6. The increase of the percentage of forests under sustainable forest management in relation to the productive forests. 7. The amount of hectares of certified forests, according to forest type and the legal status of their owners. 8. Indicators of NFP and the National Monitoring System of NLBI		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		

In the protected areas, MARENA is responsible for the sustainable management of environment, the habitats of endangered species and biodiversity. An example of such areas is Bosawas that has been declared as a Biosphere Reserve.

As mandated by the law 462, logging of production forests is limited in the protected areas and in the areas that are fragile due to their topographic features, as well as in areas that are close to water basins or watersheds and thus have an essential role in the protection of water resources.

Moreover, forests also contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nicaragua is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and forests can significantly support the adaptation process.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?		x
Please list the indicators. N/A		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). N/R		
Please provide a short description of case studies and success stories on data collection on the contribution of forests to achieve MDGs that could serve as examples of good practice for other countries (maximum 250 words). Case studies on the contribution of forests to the achievement of the MDGs have not been carried out. The importance of forests in this context is recognized, but the lack of indicators makes it difficult to evaluate the contribution.		