



Country:	THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
Date of submission:	27 September 2019

Format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions¹

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and builds on the format previously used for reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session. It is largely narrative, reflecting the qualitative nature of many of the targets.

2. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or that is not in other international databases is requested. The information submitted will be supplemented with quantitative data, among other things, from the following international data providers:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment/collaborative forest resources questionnaires, Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

(b) Reports on the state of the world’s forests, produced every two years by FAO;

(c) Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Other data sources, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

3. Members are kindly requested:

(a) To submit their completed national reports electronically (in Microsoft Word format) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org by mid-November 2019, bearing in mind that early submissions will greatly facilitate the secretariat’s preparation of the report on progress towards the goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 [title and focus to be determined] to be presented to the Forum in 2021 [to be confirmed];

(b) To submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official signed letter conveying their submission from the respective ministry, or a note verbale from their permanent mission to the United Nations in New York;

Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org by 15 November 2019.

¹ Detailed guidelines will be prepared and discussed and will, among other things, state the purpose of reporting and how the data will be used. References to voluntary national contributions will be harmonized with the process to be put in place for announcing voluntary national contributions.

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, to consult experts from relevant national ministries, such as those of the environment, economic development, finance and agriculture, in completing the reporting format and to consult the national focal points for the forest resources assessments, the Rio Conventions secretariats, other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Members may also wish to consult stakeholders when preparing their report.

4. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
5. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
6. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

General information

National focal point

Name:	NKOSINATHI BRITWELL JELE
Title:	MR
Address:	P.O. Box 4998 Manzini, Eswatini
Organization:	Ministry of tourism and Environmental Affairs
Telephone:	+268 24046420
Email:	Jelebritewell22@gmail.com

Person to contact concerning the national report, if someone other than the national focal point

Name:	Zachariah Dlamini
Title:	Acting- Senior Forestry Officer
Address:	P.O.Box 4998 , Manzini, Eswatini
Organization:	Ministry Of Tourism and Environmental Affairs
Telephone:	+268 24046420
Email:	dlaminizachariah@gmail.com

Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report

Institution(s):	The Department of Forestry
Address:	P.O.Box 2652 ,Mbabane
Email:	dlaminizachariah@gmail.com

Global forest goal 1 and associated targets²

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide³.
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015,⁴ what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

- (i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

- THE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY THAT REQUIRE TO BE REVIEWED , ALSO THE COUNTRY IS WORKING WITH THE FLORA PROTECTION ACT OF 2001, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ESCALATION OF DEFORESTATION IN THE COUNTRY. THE ENVIRONMENTAL BILL, CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002.
- FORESTS IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS MADE A DRASTIC INCREASE OF 0.3% FROM THE DATE OF 2015. IN THIS REGARD DEFORESTATION HAS DROPPED BY 1%. THIS HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED BY PRIVATE COMPANIES AND CIVIL SOCIETIES BY EMBARKING ON MAKING ESWATINI GREEN.

Description of actions:

The overall synergies of the National Forest Policy relates in particular to two other Policies, namely the National Land Policy (draft), and the National Environmental Policy (draft), both of which have a higher place in the hierarchy of National Policies. With respect to classification, adoption of the FAO Vegetation Classification System as the basis for improving the vegetation classification system for Eswatini should be considered. Higher level definition should take the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) vegetation classification scheme into account, and lower level definition the various local systems already applied in Eswatini. In addition, the system of Agro-ecological Zoning (AEZ) as established in Swaziland should be incorporated. This is also reflected by the changed approach of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) towards forestry development as expressed by the objectives, guiding principles and forest management arrangements of the SADC Forest Protocol. The policy objectives of the National Forest Policy relate to objectives as defined for other national policies and strategies, in particular the National Development Strategy, the National Land Policy (draft), the National Environmental Policy (draft) and the National Biodiversity Strategy (draft).

² Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

³ Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

⁴ Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

The Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (The department of Forestry) key stakeholders involved in its implementation and monitoring are; the MoTEA (ENTC; ETA), UNESWA, NGOs, MoA, MoTAD, MoNRE, Big Game Parks (BGP), Chiefs, Private farm owners, Land Management Board, Rancher's association, ERA and Community members.

- Imposing fines to those that are found guilty.

-Protecting the environment and reduction of deforestation in the country.

-Afforestation programme every year where a total number of 200 000 trees will be planted.

Description of actions: The Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Tourism and environmental will be planting at least 1million trees in a period of 4 years beginning this year of 2019. To establish a framework for efficient, profitable and sustainable management and utilisation of all forests of Eswatini for the benefit of the entire society. To increase the role of forestry in environmental protection, conservation of plant and animal genetic resources and rehabilitation of degraded land.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

The Department of Forestry has been trying to apply for GEF Funds in order to have a proper forest inventory in the Country of Eswatini.The government has been doing these surveys with its funds but were not fully completed. The Ministry will be available for Co-Funding with partners that can assist.

-Promote voluntary contribution to all forestry activities.

- Allocate financial support from the governmental budget for applied the interventions related to forest development.

-Enhanced the NGOs and municipalities contribution.

Description of actions: The head of Forestry Department with his management team (head of Inventory unit) will finalise activities to be carried out and their financial obligations. This planning is subject to financial partners approval which will also help work as a guide on progress and performance since work schedule would be fixed with start dates and end dates for each activity and within its budget. this aim, the implementing partners shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports.

- a) Monthly action plans

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions: The Department of Forestry in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture(land Use department) is conducting a survey on fact finding and inventory based on the dongas and land degraded areas in the country.

Description of actions: The Department of Forestry has a task to overcome this problem by promoting tree planting in degraded areas. Currently the Department has 6 nurseries within 3 regions. In order to fulfill the objective of the project the Department of Forestry require 3 additional nurseries which will focus on the propagation and replanting of indigenous species in the low veld of the country.

Currently the Department of Forestry in Eswatini is working with the communities to minimize the serious problem of Environmental land degradation and deforestation of her indigenous forests and woodlands which leads to scarcity of forest products and loss of valuable plant species and declining of soil fertility. It has been seen that trees can be used to minimize the problem of degradation and also improve soil fertility by restoring essential minerals required for plant growth thus improving crop yields.

(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

The above mentioned issues have assisted the implementation on increasing the forest cover by 3% by the year 2030.

(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

Currently challenges to achieve goal 1 is illegally harvesting of indigenous flora. We don't have the current data of the deforested flora in the country. We still need to have the current and proper forest inventory in the Country. There is also high conversion of natural forests into Agricultural crops like Sugar cane fields.

(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The Government has pronounced afforestation programme as one of the economic drive strategy in the country up to the year 2022. We will be planting over a million trees in the country.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

We are also having a challenge on Invasive alien species (IAPS) which need to be eradicated by the year 2040. These species are highly consuming a lot of water and lead to forest degradation as they dominate a lot of area and reduce forest cover in the country. Forest fires are a problem that is reducing the forest cover in both private companies and public natural forests.

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets⁵

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Associated targets

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions: National forest policy, National development strategy,

Description of actions: National Forest Policy intends to achieve sustainable forest management and sustainable development of all types of forests. Protection of the environment and forest resources is a central component in all of the eight sectors of the National Development Strategy (NDS) and this is reflected by the principles identified in the National Environment Policy (NEP). The vision of the National Forest Policy is contributory to the vision of the NDS. Cross-sectoral working relationships and integrated approaches in forest planning are key elements in today's holistic development strategies. These development trends enhance the importance and relevance of forestry, such as in the following areas of interest:

1. The results of forest inventory are needed to support the National policy processes for the enhancement of sustainable forest management (SFM) while at the same time addressing issues of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and Green House Gas (GHG) as international reporting obligations.
2. A forest Inventory framework will be developed for determining the direct and indirect use as well as non-use social economic and environmental benefits of forests and woodland resources in Swaziland
The inventory will eventually yield information about vegetation cover, forest resources, forest utilization, and importance of forests and forest product for communities in Swaziland.
3. Forest Inventory resource will be constructed to assess the carbon stock, flow and use of the physical forest and woodland assets in the country.
4. The constructed physical resource asset and flow accounts will be employed to derive monetary accounts in order to measure the true contribution of forest and woodland resources to national economic wellbeing.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions: Stakeholders are the commercial forest plantations (Montigny, Tonkwane, plantations, Peak timbers, Shiselweni Forests), all chiefdoms (communities), non-governmental organisations, Southern African Development Community, SEA, SNTC and international agencies

Description of actions:

Communities must retain the control over their forest resources and take measures to remain the principal recipients of the revenue and benefits obtained from forest products.

The development of small sustainable industries specialising in the processing of natural forest and woodland products shall be encouraged and supported.

The true value and importance of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) to the national economy must be established and recognised in national planning and accounting.

A comprehensive species utilisation database of non-timber forest products needs to be created, in conjunction with research into the wider occurrence and potential of NTFPs in Swaziland.

Medicinal plants must be protected by effective measures, to ensure that extraction and use will be sustainable and primarily aimed at satisfying local needs.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Government financial capacity to undertake such analyses, non-continuous forest inventory (collecting of data), updating resources status and improving mapping, no review of forest vegetation types and classification, no establishment of permanent sample plots, inadequate qualified personnel and GIS & remote sensing training. There is no national forest research institution, and no university for forestry Department. The public forestry service has only a very limited research programme, due to a lack of resources.

Description of actions:

Forest resource assessment needs a methodology that can be reliably repeated for monitoring the resources, in particular with respect to the different strata and their spatial distribution. There is a need for introduction of a reliable methodology that can be repeated within a shorter time interval should be considered to remedy this situation. The industrial forestry is the only sector where there is an adequate human resource development with a skilled labour force and competent training facilities. The Government and to some extent the University of Eswatini and a few NGOs are the only other institutions where trained people with expertise in forestry are found. Very little forestry related research is undertaken in Swaziland, apart from research by the commercial plantation forestry. Shortage of the Forest resources data makes difficult for the country to partake on carbon trade markets.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Forest Resource assessment inventory

Description of actions:

The two most recent forest resource assessments, conducted in 1990 and 1999, have provided inconclusive data on the status of the forest resources. The use of TM images acquired in July-August, which is winter may resulted in a conservative area of estimate. This necessitated image enhancements, indicating that the imagery was not of an optimal quality and thus an underestimation of the deciduous tree cover would be expected. Secondly, in 1990 visual interpretation methods were used, which are most likely resulting in an underestimation of forest areas. In the 1999 forest resource assessment (FRA) mapping exercise, digital seemed logical as opposed to visual interpretation because it is used in order to improve area estimates and objectivity of the forest strata.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

The Government has taken initiative to educate members of the public on using Non forest Timber products like Beekeeping, Collecting marula fruits to produce different products. Selling mushrooms to alleviate poverty issues in the Communities. Promote ecotourism in order to contribute in climate change mitigation.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

Such actions are contributing to climate change mitigation and add on alleviate poverty in the communities.

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country?

In this case the issue of land tenure system is a challenge especially on the land ownership. Most of the land is own by males as compared to females. Most of the time females must have permission from the man in order to use land.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Our government has contributed on assisting local farmers to convert wattle jungles in to proper wattle stands that will contribute much on the livelihoods of the nation and add value to the Biodiversity. This will put action to the mitigation in climate change.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Our country has also join the Commonwealth action on Environment as the Queens canopy cover. Where natural vegetation is kept undisturbed to contribute to climate change and benefit that particular community.

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets⁶

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

Associated targets

- 3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased
- 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased
- 3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

- (i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

There are gazetted arrears according to the Flora and Fauna protection Act of 2001. these areas are treated as protected areas, (PA).

Description of actions:

Information was gathered from the ENTC and Big Game Parks to determine which areas had been gazetted as PAs under the ENTC act or Game act. According to the Forestry Section no areas have yet been gazetted as PAs under the Flora Protection act, although there has been declaration of a botanical garden. Based on this information gazetted PAs were mapped using cadastral boundaries and historical maps and this was overlaid on the map of National PAs. Significant portions of Swaziland's National PAs are not gazetted and one of the purposes of this project is to rectify this. Therefore for the purposes of this report the gazetted portions of Eswatini's National PAs are considered as a separate category of PA in the analysis. In total only 76% of the National PA area is gazette.

⁶ Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

These are the areas that were declared as protected areas in the 2015.

Description of actions:

The largest of these Community Eco-tourism Areas is Ngwempisi Gorge at just under 11,500 ha and the smallest is Mahamba at just over 2,100 ha. Only Shewula and Ngwempisi Gorge are connected to PAs and these are the only two community eco-tourism areas which fall within the top priority Protection Worthy Areas (see next section). It should be noted though that there are current efforts underway under the Lubombo Conservancy to establish an additional community conservation area in Mhlumeni. Shewula is the only community ecotourism area connected to a National PA.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions: In this regard financial from partners and the Government of Eswatini contributed towards these projects.

Description of actions: Ngwempisi Gorge has had the greatest single investment in tourism facilities including three separate hiking lodges connected via a network of hiking trails while Mambane has the smallest investment in tourism facilities which includes a coffee shop that is yet to become operational. The Shewula Mountain Camp is the most successful community tourism operation. With the exception of Shewula all of the other tourism investments are unsustainable in that they do not generate enough revenue to pay the staff and maintain the facilities, let alone contribute towards other activities such as conservation.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions: A number of the above National and Informal PAs and Community Eco-tourism areas are bordered by the National boundary and have corresponding PAs across the border in neighbouring South Africa or Mozambique. These form Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) and the importance of these for conservation and trans-national collaboration has been increasingly recognised and supported. There have been international agreements signed by the respective countries to facilitate co-operation for conservation and tourism development within these areas. There are four core TFCAs involving Swaziland: Malolotja- 31 Songimvelo; Lubombo Conservancy-Goba; Ndumu-Tembe-Futhi-Mambane; and JoziniPongola.

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?

Our Government has been signing Mou with other countries like South Africa and Mozambique in order to form Trans-Frontier Conservation Areas. Protected areas have a lot at stake with the neighbouring countries.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

This will increase vegetation cover and biodiversity in the country.

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?

Lacks of the political buy in some cases. Cross boarder fires and infestation of diseases. A large number of gaps in the information available were identified including very limited information on threatened and endemic species, which hampered the ability to properly assess the biodiversity assets. There was also limited information on the socio-economic potential of the areas.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

It is targeting at least to have 5 more gazetted areas in the country by the year 2030

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets⁷

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Associated targets

- 4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased
- 4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased
- 4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased
- 4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Questions on goal 4

Many of the world's forests are still managed primarily for the commercial production of goods and services. Yet, increased awareness, international conventions and globalization of markets are highlighting the importance of sustainable forest management to achieve broader development goals. Forest finance is important as it affects the feasibility of shifting from unsustainable to sustainable practices, the distribution of costs and benefits amongst different stakeholders, and consideration of the non-market costs and benefits of forests. Furthermore, the financial and economic implications of managing forests in different ways are important factors that influence the implementation of sustainable forest management.

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

ject is designed to integrate knowledge management within the two components and hence ensure that all the knowledge products are captured and form an integral input to the success of the project. The knowledge management includes development of a systematic infrastructure and protocols for information management, awareness raising, capacity building, communication of outputs, lessons experiences gained, and best practices to all stakeholders in a timely manner as to inform their engagement in the project. will also target academic and research institutions in Eswatini to take up some of the knowledge products in their wider research and devours. The project will also seek linkages with institutions and partners in Southern Africa and Africa as a whole; with the aim of south-south cooperation arrangement.

Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

(c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify the sources:

- Public domestic funding
 Private domestic funding
 Public international funding, including official development assistance
 Private international funding
 Blended financing

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

Due to rising environmental awareness, international conventions and globalisation of markets, most countries now want to manage their forests more sustainably than they have in the past. However, progress is hindered by a lack of suitable financing. Many countries currently take an ad-hoc approach to financing, using a small number of mechanisms such as grants and subsidies, that often cover only a few activities. Furthermore, reliance on government budgets and overseas development assistance as funding sources remains high. To address this challenge, it is necessary to examine how to expand and diversify financing mechanisms and sources of finance. At the same time, the contributions of forests to economic development, human well-being and the environment are increasingly recognised as important. This opportunity has been seized by some countries that are now experimenting with innovative financing mechanisms. These mechanisms may generate new sources of revenue and help to make investments in sustainable forest management more attractive and feasible.

Progress towards target 4.3

(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other

Types of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- North-North
- Triangular
- Technical
- Financial
- Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Production of timber or non-timber products
- Other (please specify):

Progress towards target 4.4

(e) Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

xYes No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

- 2–5 years
- 5–10 years
- 10–20 years
- More than 20 years

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets⁸

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

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

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Eswatini is working with the following key stakeholders involved in its implementation and monitoring Sustainable forest management are the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MoTEA) (the department of Forestry; the parastatals Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC); Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA)), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) (National Curriculum Centre (NCC)), Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MoTAD), University of Eswatini (UNESWA), NGOs, Media, Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African (MESA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Private sector and Traditional leaders.

biodiversity targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

The government of Eswatini through its 2019 – 2022 strategic road map¹ has identified community based conservation and eco-tourism initiatives as a key driver of tourism development, in this regard the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs promotes community based conservancies to contribute to the implementation of the road map. In addition, the ministry through the forestry department has earmarked Ngwempisi as one of the areas where the Common Wealth Queens Canopy Project which aims at planting 2 million trees.

Progress towards target 5.1

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

Yes No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

National sustainable development plans and/or

Poverty reduction strategies

Progress towards target 5.2

(d) Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation

Improved enforcement of existing legislation

Export controls

Import controls

Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

(e) Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?

Yes No

Eswatini is using the mechanism of CITES as a major tool to control biodiversity trafficking. CITES is one of the largest and oldest conservation and sustainable use agreements in existence. Participation is voluntary, and countries that have agreed to be bound by the Convention are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework respected by each Party, which must adopt their own domestic legislation to implement CITES at the national level. Often, domestic legislation is either non-existent (especially in Parties that have not ratified it), or with penalties with the gravity of the crime and insufficient deterrents to wildlife traders.

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management

is an active member of the global community of nations. The country is party to a number of various international conventions and , including on environmental protection such as the following: (a) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; (b) World onvention; (c) International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources; (d) Ramsar Convention; (e) United Nations Framework Convention on ange; (f) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; (g) International Plant Protection Convention; and (h) Convention on Diversity, among others.

policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Progress towards target 5.4

(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Key stakeholders involved in its implementation and monitoring are the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (MoTEA) (the Section of Forestry; the parastatals Eswatini National Trust Commission (ENTC); Eswatini Tourism Authority (ETA)), Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) (National Curriculum Centre (NCC)), Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development (MoTAD), University of Eswatini (UNESWA), NGOs, Media, Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African (MESA), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Private sector and Traditional leaders.

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets⁹

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

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

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

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

⁹ Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (r) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

The project is complementary to Agro-forestry that has been funded by SADP. Therefore Eswatini in collaboration with European Union has developed an Agro-forestry component through Swaziland Agricultural Development Project (SADP). This project involves different ministries Like; Ministry of Agriculture, which is the core leader for the whole project, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, and Ministry of Commerce and Trade. The Agro-forestry Project will help to bring back the greening of the Environment. Also another project of wattle rehabilitation that was funded by the Government of Eswatini.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead. The government has involve private sector, Civil society, government enterprises, NGOs and Commercial forest companies have been involved in co-financing.

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

National or subnational

Regional or international¹⁰

Other (please specify):

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management

To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management

To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders

To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

¹⁰ For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

SADC with JICA have been assisting countries in the Southern Africa on the promotion of Sustainable forest Management. Eswatini has been participating in the 15 member states on training of such activity. This project is still going on for about 2years since its closing in 2021. It is widely recognised that there are strong links between local forestry, biodiversity and poverty reduction. Effective forest management encourages forest resource use in a way that supports long-term poverty alleviation and the protection of biodiversity. Effective management of forest resources across the SADC region requires coordination in utilisation and long term enhancement of forest resources. Forestry Resources development should consider and protect related valuable ecosystem services, such as river basin integrity and soil protection and retention.

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes No

Naturally functioning ecosystems deliver valuable services and benefits to humankind. The loss and degradation of ecosystems has serious implications for the Eswatini society. The country's diverse economy; agriculture, forestry and manufacturing heavily rely on functional ecosystems. Furthermore, majority of the Eswatini population are heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. The overall socio-economic well-being of the people of Eswatini is dependent on the achievement of a balance between development and sustainable use of biodiversity.

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

- Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
- Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
- Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions
- Other

Women in the country are fully accessing the forest resource in terms of fire wood and also collecting Marula to produce local brew and crush the kennels to produce oil. Also women do participate in the Commercial forest industry where some women own plantations in the country to produce timber and charcoal.

Please provide a brief description:

(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?

- Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
- Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
- Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)
- Social media activities
- Other

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

Cultural women do produce Marula brew and this is celebrated in country on two occasions. Part of the International Day forests plant trees in commemoration of the day. We are also having a radio programme called TeMahlatsi, which is aired every Tuesday.

Success stories

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

Success story 1

- ESWATINI IS BOASTING WITH HIGH CONSERVATION OF FORESTS WHICH IS HAVING A LOT OF CARBON STOCK. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT ALL THE ACTIVITIES AIM AT EMPOWERING THE EMASWATI SOCIETY TO BETTER MANAGE THEIR FORESTRY RESOURCES BY INCREMENTAL TRANSFER OF POWER, MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AS WELL AS RESOURCES FROM THE FOREST DEPARTMENT TO THE COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (NRMCS).BASED ON THE LAST COMMUNICATION BIOMASS INCREASE WAS 13149.73 AND LAND CONVERTED TO FOREST 151.25.TAKEN FROM FRA REPORT OF 2015.

Action taken:

A conservative estimate made in 2002 (Forest Policy Legislation Project) set the monetary value of forest products at USD 15.92 million. This estimate did not include a number of crucial ecosystem services such as water and air purification. It is believed that if ecosystem service accounts were performed these would show that ecosystem services are worth much more than this estimate. This is in line with observations made in the first NBSAP which estimated the contribution of the forest ecosystem services to be USD 32.66 million per year (36 percent of the GDP). This subsidy from nature is rarely accounted for or even acknowledged in Eswatini

Goals and targets addressed:

Goal 15 and Goal 13

Annex II

Draft global core set of forest-related indicators

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and global forest goal 1. Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.1
2. Forest area annual net change rate	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and target 1.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
3. Net greenhouse gas emissions (source)/ removals (sink) of forests, and carbon balance of harvested wood products	1. Extent of forest resources 4. Productive functions of forest resources	Kilotons of carbon dioxide emissions per year	2	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat	Measures progress towards targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and measuring, reporting and verifying requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas	2. Forest biological diversity	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 2.5 and 3.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
5. Change in area of primary forests	2. Forest biological diversity	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 15
6. Proportion of forest area disturbed	3. Forest health and vitality	Percentage of forest area	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
7. Area of	3. Forest health and vitality	Hectares	3	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
degraded forest vitality				Resources Assessment	plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Linkages to strategic objective 1 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (2008–2018), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
8. Above-ground biomass stock in forest	4. Productive function of forest resources	Tons per hectare	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
9. Volume of wood removals	4. Productive function of forest resources	Cubic metres	1	ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
10. Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption	4. Productive function of forest resources	Percentage	2	ECE and FAO	Linked to target 7.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals
11. Forest area with a designated management objective to maintain and enhance its protective functions	5. Protective function of forest resources	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Linked to target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
12. Employment related to the	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest	Number of full-time	2	FAO Global Forest	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
forest sector	resources	equivalents		Resources Assessment	plan for forests 2017–2030
13. Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
14. Contribution of forests to food security	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	To be decided	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
15. Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	United States dollars	3	OECD, World Bank	Measures progress towards global forest goal 4 and targets 4.1 and 4.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with targets 15.a and 15.b of the Sustainable Development Goals
16. Existence of national or subnational policies, strategies, legislation, regulations and institutions that explicitly encourage sustainable forest management	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards global forest goal 5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
17. Existence of national or subnational forest assessment process	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
18. Existence of national or subnational stakeholder platform for participation in forest policy development	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
19. Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 1.3 and 3.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
20. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.3 and 3.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
21. Existence of traceability system(s) for wood products	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards targets 3.3 and 5.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Abbreviations: ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

^a Tier 1: methodology and data in place. Tier 2: methodology in place, data challenges. Tier 3: methodology and data both present challenges.