



Country:	South Africa
Date of submission:	October 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

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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:

- *Forestry Law Compliance and Enforcement Strategy developed*
- *Forest Officers appointed as Peace Officers under Forestry law to enforce Forestry legislation (their duties include issuing notice of non-compliance such as warnings, admission of guilt fines, litigation and joint operations)*
- *Forestry laws are currently being amended to expedite implementation*

Description of actions: There was no strategy for compliance and enforcement of the National Forests Act and the National Veld and Forest Fire Act therefore the comprehensive strategy is aimed at streamlining compliance and enforcement of the two forestry legislation. The definition of natural forests in the principal act proved problematic in that it did not cover under storey vegetation therefore the amended section seeks to provide wider protection of the indigenous trees and the under storey. The Forests Act in its original form did not provide mechanisms of dealing with appeals pertaining to destruction of forests by developers and mining organisations therefore the amendments now cover this aspect. Recognising shortage of forest officers to enforce forestry laws, the Act allows for the appointment of persons outside the domain of forestry as Peace Officers. These Officers are appointed by the Minister and they have certain powers conferred to them to implement and enforce the provisions of the Act.

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 Urban Forestry Forum composed of relevant National Government Departments, Municipalities, Institute of Environment and Recreation Management, Non-Governmental Organisations, Universities and Research Institutions launched in October 2019*
- *Forestry development forums have been established in the affected provinces to drive Forest Enterprise development including afforestation*

Description of actions: The Department has developed the action plan for afforestation in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal to guide and ensure accurate records in order to realize the areas to be afforested. Forestry development forums have been established in the affected provinces to drive Forest Enterprise development including afforestation to ensure that the areas available for planting are utilised by the sector. Furthermore, the Afforestation Technical Task Team was established to streamline the afforestation licensing process. Government have committed to support small growers in obtaining afforestation licenses, which are regulated in terms of the National Water Act, 1998, National Environmental Management Act, 1998, and Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983. One of the costly steps in attaining afforestation water use license is the costly Environmental Impact Assessment Studies (EIAs). In the financial year 2016/17 DAFF committed funds to assist with EIAs in KwaZulu-Natal for an area of 5 000ha and Records of decisions have been issued for an area of about 2 450 ha. Government developed afforestation guidelines, which are in draft form, and awaiting acceptance and endorsement by parties involved. The afforestation guideline are aimed at ensuring fairness in the deals struck between communities and industry

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- *Secured funding from GIZ for REDD+ feasibility study*
- *Made internal funding to conduct national forest resources assessment in two pilot areas*

Description of actions: the then Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (now Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development) approached the then Department of Environmental Affairs (now Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries) to access GIZ funding for a REDD+ feasibility study. The study has been completed and two areas were recommended for piloting of REDD+ projects. This will go a long way in mitigating the effects of climate change and the intention is to expand the projects to other areas of the country in the future.

Budget was made available for a project to conduct national forest resources assessment in the provinces of Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape. The data collected will be used as baseline for projects of this nature in the future and it is anticipated that with availability of funds, a wall to wall national forest resources assessment will be done.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- *Training , capacity and information session conducted regularly to stakeholders including students at Institutions of Higher Learning, the Judiciary, law enforcement agencies and the general public*
 - *Developed National Sector Research and Development Strategy (NFSRDS)*
 - *Established National Forest Research forum in 2015 for implementation of the NFSRDS*
 - *Currently reviewing strategic objectives of NFSRDS*
 - *Developed National Forest Protection Strategy*
 - *Programmes implemented to achieve Protected Areas target (five new forest nature reserves published in 2019 for public comments)*
 - *Five nature reserves have been proclaimed as biodiversity offsets since 2015*
 - *Forest habitats are constantly protected when landuse development activities take place (e.g., mining and settlements development)*
- REDD+ National Forest Management System (NFMS):*
- *Training received on Collect Earth application tools*
 - *Wall to Wall mapping of deforestation and forest degradation completed using the TerraAmazon System (Brazilian system)*
 - *Final phase of REDD+ NFMS concluded in 2016*
 - *List of Protected trees and Champion trees published annually on different media platforms such as newspapers and Government newspaper*

Description of actions: Because there has been low conviction rate for transgressions related to forestry and the environment, Government embarked on a drive to raise awareness on the importance of trees and forests to a variety of stakeholders including Magistrates, Prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies in general through the introduction of training programmes and information sharing sessions. Several strategies listed in the actions above have been developed and more funds are required to ensure their successful implementation. South Africa has taken a progressive approach in its response to climate change. The Country published a National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRP) and has gradually developed a substantial foundation on which to base future policy and measures. A particular opportunity that has been identified is the implementation of a national program aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

Based on initial analysis in the National Terrestrial Carbon Sink Assessment (DEA 2013), a REDD+ Consultative Task Team was established which commissioned REDD+ Readiness Study in 2017. The outcomes of the study and subsequent expert consultative workshop identified the clear need to proceed with the project in the country.

In addressing the elements identified within the 'REDD+ Readiness Study for South Africa', currently South Africa is trying to address some other elements. A professional Service Provider was appointed to conduct a feasibility study for REDD+ Project in South Africa and pilot areas have been identified for implementation. Piloting is currently taking place at selected sites

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

The National Forest Protection Strategy is aimed at providing more protection to forests, which is one of the targets of the UN forest instrument (now GFGs). Efforts on awareness raising also highlight the importance of forests and trees outside forests and the need to ensure their sustainability. The Research and Development Strategy encourages innovations that will lead to resilient plant species, particularly in plantation forestry thus contributing to climate change adaptation. Publication of protected trees list and national Champion trees is done annually to ensure maximum protection of certain trees species and those trees of significant importance declared as Champions.

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

With regard to forest protection, challenges include insufficient resources (human and financial) for implementation of the National Forest Protection Strategy. The Judiciary is not so much conversant with forestry legislation resulting in low convictions rate on forestry and environment related offences. There are also less personnel on the ground to monitor transgressions in forests. Authorisations for water use licences for afforestation purposes is a lengthy process since the process requires approval of many institutions and funding for Environmental Impact Assessments is not adequate. More funds are needed to implement REDD+ projects.

(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.

Government and its social partners signed on a Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Charter for transformation in forestry that require involvement of previously excluded groups such as black, women and youth in the mainstream economy. An undertaking was made to afforest 10 000ha of land every year since the signing of the pact. However, it has proven difficult to meet this target due to the lengthy and cumbersome process of acquiring water use licences, exacerbated by the costly environmental impact assessments.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Broadcasts for publicity on forests done regularly through radio, television and newspapers, seminars, symposiums and conferences. Countrywide public talks on the importance of forests and trees done regularly every year. Inter-school competitions on forestry are held in Gauteng Province in October annually. Celebrated International Day of Forestry (annually) through various activities such as talks, and publication of books and pamphlets. Participated on the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) Programme for SADC. The following agencies are participating, namely, Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Agricultural Research Council, SA National Space Agency and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and SA Weather Service. Celebrated International Day of Forestry (annually) through various activities such as talks, and publication of books and pamphlets

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.

⁵ Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p>- N/A</p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
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(ii) Institutional actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p>- N/A</p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p>

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

- *Government has developed a Forestry Development Funding Framework to provide easy access to information and overview of grants funding, loans and funding process*
- *Forestry is now included in the Blended Funding Scheme which provides funding for producers through the combination of loan and grant funding*

Description of actions: Forest Enterprise Development is not sufficient addressed because of lack of dedicated funding in the country. Government has developed a Forestry Development Funding Framework, which serves as a guide on qualifying projects for loans or grants to kick-start forestry projects. There is also a Blended Funding Scheme, which is a dedicated scheme to support forestry development in the country.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- *Participated in the implementation of the SADC/ JICA Programme for conservation sustainable management of forest resources in Southern Africa*
- *Participated on JICA sponsored training on three thematic areas namely Forest information system, forest fire management and participatory forest management*
- *Guidelines for SADC/JICA Programme developed (2018)*
- *Process of securing funding for projects is under way*
- *National Afforestation Strategy developed (2011)*
- *Agroforestry Strategy developed (2017)*
- *Sawlog Strategy and Implementation Plan for South Africa developed (2011)*

Description of actions: the guidelines developed through the SADC/ JICA programme are aimed at guiding the processes of engaging communities and ensuring meaningful participatory forest management, provision of information systems and their use as well as fire management to protect forests and other vital ecosystems. The SADC/ JICA guidelines are intended for ensuring coordinated Participatory Forest Management so that people who were previously excluded can be involved in forestry management (co-management).

(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?

N/A

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

The forest instrument calls for Member States to mobilise funds to support sustainable forest management, therefore the action of Forestry Development Funding Framework seeks to ensure that forest dependent people may access funds through grants or loans for forestry related projects.

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

The challenge with the JICA project is that funding is not coming forth. The Administrators of the SADC JICA project are still trying to secure funds for implementation of the developed guidelines. This makes the project to lose momentum and introduces mistrust between the role players as communities become despondent.

(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.

No voluntary national contributions announced by government

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

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:

No legislative or policy activities undertaken from 2015 to date

Description of actions:

N/A

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

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
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(iii) Financial actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
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(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

- *National Certification Standard developed and submitted for legal scrutiny*
- *Forest Industry applied to the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) for the endorsement of the South African Assurance Scheme using the National Certification Standard*
- *Participated at the meeting for strengthening Criteria, Indicators and Standards for SFM which was held in Cameroon on 27-29 May 2019*
- *Participated at a training on forest certification for Eastern and Southern Africa held in Kenya 7-11 December 2015*

Description of actions: It is perceived that the current FSC scheme implemented in South Africa excludes emerging timber farmers due to the cumbersome requirements. FSC certified plantations in the country is at 82% in the country, the highest in the world in terms of proportional plantation area and the aim of government is to increase the areas which sustainably managed and the National Certification Standard is one of the tools for achieving this objective.

(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?

A Protected Area Expansion Strategy was developed and is being implemented steadily. Efforts are underway to get the National Certification Standard endorsed by the PEFC for implementation and involvement of small timber growers. On regular basis, forest areas and other areas are being declared as protected under various legislation implemented by different government Departments.

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

The National Forest Certification Standard is an all inclusive standard which also caters for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises and bringing a lot of role players on board will ensure maximum participation and therefore significantly increase the area under sustainable forest management.

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

It took the country a very long time to get the National Certification Standard developed due to resistance from big role-players in the commercial forestry industry. The C& Is system for SFM is not fully implemented since it is voluntary at the current moment leading to static area of certified plantations.

(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.

No voluntary national contribution announced by Government

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

The Government has developed the action plan for afforestation in Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal to guide implementation of the Afforestation. Forestry development forums have been established in the affected provinces to drive Forest Enterprise development including afforestation to ensure that the areas available for planting are utilised by the sector. Furthermore, the Afforestation Technical Task Team was established to streamline the afforestation licensing process. Government has committed to support small growers in obtaining afforestation licenses, which are regulated in terms of the National Water act, National Environmental Management Act, and Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act. One of the costly steps in attaining afforestation water use licenses is the costly Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) Studies. In the financial year 2016/17 Government committed funds to assist with EIAs in KwaZulu-Natal for an area of 5 000ha and Records of decisions have been issued for an area of about 2 450 ha. Government developed afforestation guidelines, which are in draft form, and awaiting acceptance and endorsement by the parties involved.

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

⁷ Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

- *Funding (National budget) obtained for national forest resources assessment in two provinces as pilot study*
- *In the financial year 2016/17 Government committed funds to assist with EIAs in KwaZulu-Natal for an area of 5 000ha and Records of decisions have been issued for an area of about 2 450 ha*

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

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.

No VNC made by government

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:

South Africa's economy is growing at a low rate and there are competing priorities, particularly government is paying more attention to socio-economic aspects such as housing, education and crime prevention to which most financial resources are directed. This leads to low budget allocation for forestry, which inhibits promotion and implementation of forestry programmes.

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 **X** No

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

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

Types of cooperation:

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

Areas of cooperation:

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

Yes No **X**

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

- *Working Group on Timber consisting of multiple stakeholders established*
- *National Forest Research Forum established in 2017*
- *National Fire Working Group established in 2017*
- *National Forests Advisory Council is in place*
- *National Forestry Liaison Forum operational*
- *Forestry Charter Council in place to ensure transformation in the forestry sector in South Africa*
- *Southern African Development Community (SADC) Natural Resources Management Department*
- *Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) and National Statistical Office (Statistics South Africa) leading processes for SDGs (All relevant Departments participating)*
- *The National Development Plan (NDP) 2030 is a master plan for the country takes into consideration all elements of sustainable development. Forestry is an integral part of this Master Plan*

⁸ Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi 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.

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.

(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.

<i>No VNC made</i>

Progress towards target 5.1

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

- Yes **X** No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

- National sustainable development plans and/or **X**
 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 **X** No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

- New legislation
 Improved enforcement of existing legislation **X**
 Export controls **X**
 Import controls **X**
 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 **X** No

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

The Department (DEFF) has set up a Working Group on Timber. This working group involving officials of various enforcement branches and the Branch Forestry, as well as TRAFFIC, monitors and address issues arising from cross-border timber trade. This Working Group developed guidelines for timber monitoring.

(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

There are several Task Team and Working Groups established for coordination of processes in the country.

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 X

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

There is no dedicated mechanism for land use planning and development in the country, however, if landuse affect forests, the relevant Department is approached to make comments on such projects.

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

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.

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

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.

- *Established Working Group on timber*
- *Participated SADC FLEGT activities which include SADC law enforcement and anti-poaching strategy*
- *FLEGT Working Group established to investigate feasibility of implementation of FLEGT Programme in the SADC region*
- *Participated in the Wildlife Trade Law Enforcement and Compliance training programme*
- *SADC Regional FLEGT Programme developed*
- *Presented customs officials with information on timber trade monitoring*
- *Occasionally monitored cross border timber movement activities*
- *Conducted timber identification exercises annually (2 -3 times per year)*
- *Identified three tree species occurring in South Africa and other SADC Countries to be proposed for inclusion on the CITES list in the next round*
- *Conducted Intergovernmental / multi- stakeholder operations to detect illegal trade in protected tree species*
- *Impounded suspected timber from protected trees harvested from a SADC country destined for Asia*
- *Memorandums of Understanding with Lesotho and Swaziland on Integrated Fire Management in place*
- *Afforestation Technical Task Team established to streamline the afforestation licensing (authorization) process.*

(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.

None

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: Virtually the entire elements are used as these inform the triennial State of the Forests report, which is a mandatory requirement in terms, the forest legislation. However, these

are not sufficiently enforced, as they are voluntary. It was the intention of Government to make this compulsory but there is a perceived level of resistance and instead, incentives for compliance are contemplated.

- National or subnational **X**
- 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 **X**
- To monitor and assess forest conditions and management **X**
- To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management **X**
- To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders **X**
- To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify): **X**

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 **X** No

The Arbor Month Campaign held every year in October affords the South Africa the opportunity to undertake a major national awareness programme re-iterating the value of trees and forests and creating awareness of tree species that are threatened by extinction. The campaign promotes awareness for the need to plant and maintain indigenous trees and fruit trees throughout South Africa, especially for the many disadvantaged communities who often live in barren and water stressed areas. It further raises awareness of South Africa's urban and rural greening initiatives. It highlights the important role trees play in sustainable development and the livelihoods of people and their environment and encourage communities to participate in various greening activities within their own surroundings. Various platforms are used to communicate the messages including television, radio and newspapers, seminars, conferences, and public talks. As a mandatory requirement, the Ministry produces at three year interval, the State of the Forests report which serves as a communication tool providing the status of the forest sector and highlighting any trends and facts of national importance.

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

Progress towards target 6.5

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.

(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

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

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation, with the National Statistical office (Statistics South Africa) are leading the processes of the development of national targets to be met by stakeholders (public and private) by 2030. There is a forum in place consisting of various government department and other stakeholders, which is responsible for planning and implementation of plans to achieve the SDGs targets. Statistics South Africa is responsible for national reporting on the SDG process.

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

Please provide a brief description:

The country has a Forest Sector Charter for transformation in the sector. The Charter binds social partners (government, labour and business) to achieve certain targets pertaining to forest ownership, control and management across all levels with emphasis on involvement of previously disadvantaged groups, women and youth.

(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:

- *The Department/ Ministry is involved in giving public talks and making presentations at Symposia on trees and forests. This happens almost on yearly basis.*

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

Action taken:

Goals and targets addressed:

Outcome and results achieved:

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

<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>
7. Area of degraded forest	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. 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

<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>
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 forest sector	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number of full-time equivalents	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic 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

<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>
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
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.