



Note No: 421/19

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and has the honour to convey the United Kingdom's National Report on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests the assurances of its highest consideration.



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations

10 December 2019



Country:	United Kingdom
Date of submission:	2/12/2019

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

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

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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.

The information relating to the questions on Goal 1 has been provided in the UK Forest Europe submission and as per instructions this information will not be duplicated here.

- (i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

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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:

Description of actions:

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

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

The 2017 UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) defines the agreed approach to sustainable forest management across all four administrations of the UK. The UKFS is currently in its fourth edition, demonstrating the ongoing commitment to development and improvement. The administrations support and promote the stewardship and use of forests through policy and good practice under the UKFS. Alongside the UKFS, the constituent forestry policies and strategies of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland support and embed sustainable forest management into domestic forestry practice.

In Scotland, there is a legal duty for Scottish Ministers and public authorities to promote sustainable forest management under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2018/8/contents/enacted>

The creation and management of forests and woodlands in the UK should meet the requirements of the UKFS. As such, and along with the other measures and actions detailed in the Forest Europe report, the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument is supported through the commitment and actions to implement sustainable management of forests. The UK Forestry Standard re-affirms the UK's commitment to achieving the Global Objectives on Forests.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard>

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

(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.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

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.

The information relating to the questions on Goal 2 has been provided in the UK Forest Europe submission and as per instructions this information will not be duplicated here.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iii) Financial actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p>

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p>

(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?

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

Through the range of action detailed in the Forest Europe return and specifically through forest creation proposals and forest management plans meeting the requirements of the UKFS, the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits derived from forests are enhanced and support the implementation of the forest instrument.

The UK Forestry Standard re-affirms the UK's commitment to achieving the Global Objectives on Forests.

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

(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.

(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.

The information relating to the questions on Goal 3 has been provided in the UK Forest Europe submission and as per instructions this information will not be duplicated here.

- (i) Legislative and policy actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p>

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:

Description of actions:

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Description of actions:

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

<p><i>List of actions:</i></p> <p><i>Description of actions:</i></p>

(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?

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

<p>As above, through the range of action detailed in the Forest Europe return and specifically through the regulation of forestry and adherence to the requirement under the UKFS, forests are maintained and protected, supporting the forest instrument in terms of the implementation of effective sustainable management.</p> <p>Forestry legislation, regulation, policy and strategies in the four administrations of the UK supports the UK's commitment to achieving the Global Objectives on Forests https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard</p>

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

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

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.

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.

The UK has a long history of engaging in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management for the protection of biodiversity, and of supporting action to combat deforestation. The UK's primary mechanism for delivering international climate action is International Climate Finance (ICF). ICF helps developing countries adapt to climate change, supports the creation of jobs and livelihoods to reduce poverty, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and promotes sustainable economic growth. Three government Departments (DFID, BEIS and Defra) have responsibility for investing the UK's £5.8bn of ICF (2016-2021). Defra focuses its ICF spending on projects that: protect the world's most biodiverse forests, promote sustainable livelihoods through improved land use and low carbon agriculture, and contribute to global food security and resilience to climate change. Defra's ICF interventions are delivered through various channels (bilaterally, multilaterally, and through multilateral funds), and offer both technical and financial support. These investments cover various areas, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, promoting alternative livelihoods, encouraging sustainable use of natural resources, and driving private sector finance. They span a number of geographies, including Brazil, Indonesia, Madagascar, and various Latin American and Caribbean countries.

During the 2015 climate summit in Paris, Germany-Norway-UK, "the GNU", pledged \$5bn between 2015 – 2020 to developing countries to protect forests, specifically Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). We have a shared objective of ensuring the forests and land-use sector plays a key role in meeting global climate goals.

4.1 Defra secured £210m for International Climate Finance (ICF) between 2016-2021. Defra focuses its ICF spending on projects that: protect the world's most biodiverse forests, promote sustainable livelihoods through improved land use and low carbon agriculture, and contribute to global food security and resilience to climate change. Overall, Defra investments are expected to save 90 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, foster sustainable livelihoods for more than 143,000 people, and protect and restore more than 550,000 hectares of forests.

For example, Defra has a £10.1m investment in the ICF Blue Forests programme, managed by the NGO Blue Ventures. The project aims to design a holistic model for mangrove forest conservation and protection in Madagascar and Indonesia. It hopes to demonstrate that this framework provides climate resilience benefits, and therefore to incentivise the adoption of the model into national climate mitigation and adaptation plans.

4.2 The UK has a £20m ICF investment in the Eco.business fund, a public-private partnership which aims to promote business and consumption practices that contribute to biodiversity conservation, encourage sustainable use of natural resources, and support climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Fund will secure private sector investments and support both financial instruments and non-financial instruments, such as technical assistance. This could be, for instance, helping sustainably-certified farmers to grow shade covered coffee plantations. Within five years public finance in the Eco.business Fund is projected to reach \$147m, bringing in private sector funding of \$314m.

4.5 The UK has a dedicated research agency- Forest Research- and funds a range of programmes related to forest practice and the implementation of the principles of sustainable forest management in a UK context.
www.forestresearch.gov.uk

(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.

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:

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?

Yes 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.

The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulation 2013 transposed the EU's Timber Regulation into UK law and prohibits the placing of illegal timber and timber products on the market for the first time. The UK Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Regulations 2012 transposed the EU FLEGT Regulation and make it illegal to import timber and timber products without a valid FLEGT licence from partner countries with which the EU has signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

The UK has publicly stated its commitment to FLEGT and VPAs as crucial instruments to tackling the supply of illegally logged timber and its commitment to the Timber Regulations as vital in the creation of a demand for legally harvested timber.

The UK Government will maintain its commitment to tackling the trade in illegal timber after we leave the European Union. The Timber Regulations and FLEGT will become retained EU law within the UK, if we leave the European Union without a deal.

The import of timber and timber products protected on the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is regulated in the UK through the EU Wildlife Trade Regulations.

(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.

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?

Forest Research is the principle organisation for forestry related research.

Forestresearch.gov.uk

Biannual meetings take place between the devolved authorities of the United Kingdom to ensure information sharing and coordination relating to forestry matters.

A cross border Memorandum of Understanding exists to facilitate collaboration on a range of UK forestry functions including forestry research, UK Forestry Standard and cross-border tree health issues.

Yes No

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 policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

The administrations of the UK take a proactive role in involving many interested parties, both at a national (country) level and at the sub-national level to develop, review and deliver forestry policy and practice.

The forestry authorities of the four administrations also require that forest managers consult formally on forestry proposals and that these plans are made available for public comment.

Appropriate consultation and stakeholder involvement in the design and management of forests is encouraged as good practice under the UK Forestry Standard. Consultation is also a formal requirement under the Environmental Impact Assessment forestry regulations.

The UKFS states:

“Before approval, most forestry proposals are subject to a consultation procedure and available for public comment. Where the proposals are significant, an Environmental Statement is likely to be required and consultation processes are more extensive. For the public to be involved in forest planning, clear information is required in a form that suits their likely levels of knowledge and expertise” (p138, UKFS).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard>

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:

As above, consultation is identified as part of good practice by the four administrations of the UK. Other government policies refer to forestry and the need and opportunity to take an integrated approach to land use planning and management. The National Planning Policy Framework was revised in February 2019 and makes specific reference to forests. In Scotland the Land Use Strategy (2016-21) promotes land use integration. Stakeholder involvement is encouraged within the UKFS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/getting-best-land-land-use-strategy-scotland-2016-2021/>

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.

There is a cross-government group working on areas that impact on international forestry, which meets on an *ad hoc* basis as issues arise.

The UK Government has established an International Climate Fund (see above). Three departments with an interest in international forestry – Defra, BEIS and DFID – jointly manage this fund.

The UK Government also coordinates on a range of *ad hoc* issues related to forests and sustainable forest management.

(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.

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.

Reporting for Forest Europe is drawn from the National Forest Inventory and this provides statistics to help understand the nature of the forest resource and develop policies for its protection and promotion.
www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory.

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?

X Yes No

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

The forestry authorities in the UK promote a greater understanding of sustainable forest management through their websites and publications. For example:

<https://forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry>

<https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/what-we-do/forest-strategy-policy-and-guidance/sustainable-forest-management/?lang=en>

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?

X Yes No

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

As above, stakeholder involvement is encouraged under the UKFS, which is the benchmark for sustainable forest management in the UK.

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:

Gender, amongst other protected characteristics, is enshrined in the Equality Act 2010 and as such promotion of equality is a cross cutting action.

The UKFS promotes social inclusion and ensures that forest managers recognise the need to engage the full diversity of society. Specific reference is made to the Equality Act:

“Fundamental to ensuring that the benefits of woodland are available to all of society is the idea of fairness or equality, which means everyone can participate and has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Equality is supported by legislation designed to eliminate unfair discrimination and for public organisations such as the forestry authorities, there are specific obligations to ensure that people who share certain relevant protected characteristics are treated equally” (p.17, UKFS).

“For public sector organisations... the Act has an impact on forestry policies and on the management of the public forest estate, for example in the provision of forest access and recreation. Activities that affect people which are carried out by public bodies, or supported by public funds, may be subject to an Equality Analysis. This is required to demonstrate that the interests of groups with protected characteristics have been accommodated. In implementing forestry policies and setting standards, the forestry authorities will address equality and diversity to ensure that all requirements are fulfilled” (p.134, UKFS).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard>

(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)

X Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)

X Social media activities

Other

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

As part of the International Day of Forests, a press release was issued celebrating the work of those supporting and protecting forests, focussing on the work of para-ecologists. The press release included a statement by the UK Environment Minister relating to the International Day of Forests.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/un-international-day-of-forests-2019-para-ecologists-the-paramedics-of-the-rainforest>

Social media such as Twitter was also used to promote the day.

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.

