

Voluntary National Report to UNFF

Voluntary National Report on progress towards the implementation of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the UN Forest Instrument and Voluntary National Contributions

Thank you for taking the time to complete the voluntary national report to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF).
Before you start, please take note of the following important information:

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2022/17, requested the UNFF secretariat to amend the format for voluntary national reporting to the Forum, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from members of the Forum, and conduct a pilot phase for the use of the refined format. In the same resolution, the Council invited the Forum to consider establishing an advisory group on reporting. It further requested that the secretariat explore options for establishing an online reporting platform for the Forum, recognizing the need for streamlined reporting and minimizing the reporting burden, including the challenges faced by developing countries.
2. In fulfilling this mandate, the UNFF Secretariat has amended the format, taking into account the suggestions and proposals received from Members of the Forum and in consultation with the advisory group on reporting. The secretariat has also established an online reporting platform for the submission of voluntary national reports to the Forum.
3. The amended format is structured around the Global Forest Goals and targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 (UNSPF) and builds on the previous format that was used for reporting to the UNFF15.
4. The amended format consists of twelve sections, each with several questions:
 1. General information
 2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets
 3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets
 4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets
 5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets
 6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets
 7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets
 8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets
 9. Voluntary National Contributions
 10. Other questions: Gender equality
 11. Other questions: International Day of Forests
 12. Success stories

To download a PDF file of the amended voluntary report format, click here [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)

5. In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, you are kindly invited to consult experts from relevant national ministries, the national focal points for the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments (FRA), Rio Conventions, other member organizations of the CPF, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), or that is not available in other international databases, is requested.
6. In completing the national report, you may include actions by the Government, as well as the private sector, communities, civil society, or other stakeholders. The year 2020 is used as a baseline, so please include all actions taken since this date. Where applicable, please indicate the source of information, or provide a weblink as reference.
7. All terms used in this amended format are consistent with terms and definitions used by the FAO Forest Resources Assessment.
8. Please refer to the Explanatory Notes ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#)) for more in-depth guidance when completing the national report. Other helpful resources include:
[Global Forest Goals and targets \(E/RES/2017/4\)](#)
[Sustainable Development Goals and targets \(A/RES/70/1\)](#)
9. The deadline for submission of the national reports to the UNFF secretariat is 30 June 2025.

Instructions for using the online reporting platform

1. A dedicated link has been provided to the main UNFF national focal point from each country to complete their national report. You may share the link with other national officials, experts from your own country and other relevant departments to collaborate on a single national report. To avoid accidentally deleting or overwriting completed sections of the report, please ensure no two people are working on the same section of the format at the same time. Please do not share the dedicated link with anyone not involved in completing the UNFF national report for your country.
2. The reporting format is available in English, Spanish and French. Please select the language using the menu located in the top right corner of the page.
3. You are given the flexibility to pause and resume completion of the national report. Your responses will be automatically saved, and you may return to the report at any time before the deadline for submission. To return to the report, please click on the link in the original email. If you are working with a weak internet signal, you may want to connect using an Ethernet cable instead of Wi-Fi to ensure a more stable connection.
4. You are invited to use the Section Navigator to move between sections of the survey. Click on the 'Answer' button next to each Section to navigate to the questions in that Section. Once inside the section, use the 'Save and continue' button to proceed within the section and the 'Back' button to return to previous questions.
5. By clicking 'Review and Download' in the Section Navigator, you will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses. After download, you can return to the questions to amend your answers, if necessary.
6. Prior to submission, you will be prompted to upload a cover letter conveying this as the official national report for your country. This step is mandatory. The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The cover letter size should not exceed 2MB.
7. After submission, you will receive a confirmation email and a PDF copy of the national report.
8. In case of any questions or technical issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszcakt@un.org) from the UNFF secretariat.

1. General information

1. Country:

This question is required

South Africa

2. UNFF National Focal Point:

(The national focal point will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)

This question is required

Name: : Avhashoni Renny Madula

Title: : Mr

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Organization: : Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

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**3. Contact person for the present national report, if different from the UNFF National Focal Point:
(The contact person will receive a PDF copy of the UNFF national report upon submission)**

Name: : Miyelani Chester Ngobeni
Title: : Mr
Address: : Private Bag X93, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa
Organization: : Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Telephone: : +27 66 434 5181
Email: : mngobeni@dffe.gov.za

**4. Institutions involved in the preparation of the national report:
(up to five)**

Institution Name:

Email address:

Address:

2. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 1 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

Target 1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

Target 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

Target 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

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 and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 1.1: Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide

5. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Expedition of the authorization process for afforestation

Brief description of the action:

The South African government committed to fast-tracking the process of issuing water use licences (afforestation permits). This was a result of cooperative governance where in the Ministry responsible for forestry engaged with the Ministry of water and sanitation to ensure the speedy processing of afforestation permits.

Main results achieved for the action:

the timeframes for processing afforestation permits have been shortened.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:**Action (short title):**

Afforestation by communities with support from the forest industry

Brief description of the action:

South Africa has identified land suitable for plantation forestry expansion. Due to water scarcity only two provinces were identified that is the KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape provinces of the country. Government has facilitated the relationships between communities that have potential plantation forestry land with the private companies. These companies assist communities with provision of quality seedlings. For the period between 2017 and 2023 at least 15 543 hectares were planted in the two provinces. The area afforested could have been higher, however due to financial challenges the communities could not afford the fees required for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Currently government is assisting communities with funding the commissioning of EIAs.

Main results achieved for the action:

New afforestation with 15 543 hectares planted between 2017 and 2023

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:**This action contributes to these SDG targets:**

15.1

15.2

Weblink:

Target 1.2: The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced

6. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

The ten million trees programme

Brief description of the action:

The introduction of the Million Trees Programme in 2007 commenced as an initiative that brought different stakeholders in the greening space to collaborate and plant at least one million trees annually. This collaboration has ensured that over the years the target has been exceeded on an annual basis. In 2021, the office of the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa directed the DFFE, specifically the Forestry Management branch to lead the initiative of planting ten million trees over a period of five years.

Main results achieved for the action:

Trees have been planted to enhance the country's carbon stocks

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**Weblink:**

Target 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

7. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Declaration of Controlled Forest Area

Brief description of the action:

Access to land for settlement is a challenge in most urban areas within South Africa. During the COVID-19 pandemic the SA government declared a State of National Disaster as a mitigation strategy to curb the rate of spread of the virus. During this time a number of properties were illegally occupied by people requiring land for residential purposes. The invasion also affected properties with natural forest. Government swiftly declared over 20 properties including the Umtiza Forest Nature Reserve as controlled forest area to curb the deforestation.

Main results achieved for the action:

A number of joint enforcement operations conducted in the declared controlled forest area, with the arrest of perpetrators. The rate of deforestation in the area was reduced.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.4
3.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Target 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

8. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 1.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 1.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

National Action Programme

Brief description of the action:

In line with article 9 and 10 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), South Africa developed its second National Action Programme (NAP) to Combat desertification, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought (DLDD). The main objective of the NAP is to identify factors contributing to desertification, land degradation and drought as well as to implement practical measures necessary to combat desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought. The NAP also set out the respective roles of government, local communities, civil society organizations and land users in addressing issues of DLDD.

In addition, South Africa also established the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets with the aim of rehabilitating, restoring, conserving and sustainably managing degraded landscapes including forest and woodlands. The targets are under review to ensure integration into national planning tools related to climate change, biodiversity conservation and forestry management and ensuring targets are geographically explicit.

Main results achieved for the action:

A National Action Programme to combat desertification, land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought has been developed.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 1 Challenges

9. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 1 in your country?

Please limit your answer to 250 words.

South Africa is a water scarce country and the allocation of water resources to different uses limits the amount of land that can be afforested. funding of EIAs is a challenge for rural communities that are interested in joining the plantation forestry sector. The Covid-19 presented a great challenge as the efforts of new afforestation were halted and as a result of the National State of Disaster some forest areas were invaded and some cases illegal deforestation took place.

3. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 2 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

Target 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

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

Target 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

Target 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

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, 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.

Target 2.1: Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated

10. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Corporate Social Investment

Brief description of the action:

The corporate social investment made by the forestry sector evolved from being charity based giving when they have a little extra to become intentional efforts to create value and sustainability for broader communities in the rural areas where forestry plantations are situated. over and above the traditional eight core areas of Corporate Social Responsibility programmes: Education, health and welfare, community engagement and upliftment, food security, enterprise and supplier development, community infrastructure, environment and recreation. In 2021 they added disaster response to the core themes in response to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Main results achieved for the action:

More than 50 000 people have benefitted from the Corporate Social Investment.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.2
2.3
2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

11. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Masterplan for the Commercial Forestry Sector in South Africa: 2020 – 2025

Brief description of the action:

In September 2020 the Masterplan for the Commercial Forestry Sector in South Africa 2020-2025 was adopted. The goal of the masterplan is to increase investment, jobs and competitiveness, underpinned by greater inclusivity in the forestry sector. This masterplan focuses on five subsectors of the forestry value chain namely: Primary sector, pulp and paper, sawn timber, board products, utility poles and treated products. The master plan has measures to open up new investment. The private sector committed to investment in a blended finance instrument, once agreed by the partners. the instrument is aimed at assisting small forest enterprises access funding.

Main results achieved for the action:

Funding mechanisms created for small scale forest enterprises

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
2.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 2.3: The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased

12. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Corporate Social Investment on food security

Brief description of the action:

Like other developing countries food security is a major issue in poor rural communities of South Africa. To address the food security challenge many forest plantation companies run variety of initiatives in rural communities. Given the limited work opportunities for the rural youth and women, some companies has been seeking opportunities to provide access to land to emerging farmers. With the aim being to help the community members to reach competitive agri-business ventures.

Main results achieved for the action:

Communities provided with land for agri-business and helping address the food insecurity in rural communities.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

2.1
2.4

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

13. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Corporate Social Investment (Forestry Industry)

Brief description of the action:

The Corporate Social Investment (CSI) made by the Sector evolve from being "charity" based – giving when they have a little extra – to become intentional efforts to create value and sustainability for broader communities in the rural areas where forestry plantations are situated.

above the traditional eight core areas of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes: Education, Health and Welfare, Community Engagement and Upliftment, Food Security, Enterprise and Supplier Development, Community Infrastructure, Environment and Recreation, in the year 2021 the industry added Disaster Response to the core themes, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic

Main results achieved for the action:

Forestry industry that is contributing to socio-economic and environmental development

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3
2.2
2.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1

Weblink:

Target 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

14. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 2.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 2.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):**Brief description of the action:****Main results achieved for the action:****This action also contributes to these GFG targets:****This action also contributes to these SDG targets:**

Weblink:

Global Forest Goal 2 Challenges

15. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 2 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.

4. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 3 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 3: Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

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, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 3.1: The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased

16. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Protected area expansion

Brief description of the action:

South Africa has a program to increase the protected area network within its borders. There are different legislations used to protect land. However, with the diversity of the country's vegetation the protected areas and other effective area-based conservation are covered by a diverse vegetation such as forest, thicket, savanna, fynbos and grassland.

Main results achieved for the action:

Between 2020 and 2024 South Africa managed to declare ... protected areas and other effective area based conservation areas with a total combined land area of 2 241 562 hectares.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.2
3.3
2.5

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1
15.2

Weblink:

<https://dffportal.environment.gov.za/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e27f116dd194c1f9d446dacc76fe483>

Target 3.2: The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased

17. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Legislative and forest certification requirements for long term forest management plans

Brief description of the action:

Nature reserves within the Republic have management plans it is a legal condition that nature reserves have management plans. The National Environment Management: Protected Areas Act requires all protected areas to have management plans.

Forest certification ensures that forest management units in south Africa have long-term forest management plans. Within South Africa there are two forest certification agencies operating, i.e. FSC and SAFAS

Main results achieved for the action:

Protected areas have management plans
South Africa has 1 431 245 hectares of plantation forest land that is certified by FSC has management plans.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.2
1.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://africa.fsc.org/en-cd/sub-regions/southern-africa>

Target 3.3: The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

18. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 3.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 3.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Establishment of a local Forestry certification agency

Brief description of the action:

The Sustainable African Forest Assurance Scheme (SAFAS) is an agency that is recognized by the PEFC. This agency was established to bridge the gap of certification for small-emerging forest enterprises. The establishment of this local based agency has increased the number of certified sustainably managed forests within the Republic.

Main results achieved for the action:

Small-scale forest enterprises applying for SFM certification.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

3.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.2

Weblink:

<https://safas.org.za/>

Global Forest Goal 3 Challenges

19. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 3 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.

5. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 4 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 4: 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 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

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

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, 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.

Target 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

20. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.1? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.1, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Brief description of the action:

Main results achieved for the action:

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

21. Since 2020, has your country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes

22. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)

Private domestic funding
Blended financing

23. If no, please describe the main challenges encountered:

Target 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

24. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

The Masterplan for the Commercial Forestry sector in SA

Brief description of the action:

The South African government has adopted the Masterplan for the Commercial forestry sector in South Africa 2020-2025. The plan seeks to address the interventions required to increase forestry production in the Country. This plan advocates for recommissioning of some of the exit areas as well as new afforestation to meet the demand on forestry products. This document advocates for emerging timber producers to be assisted financially to achieve sustainable wood production.

Main results achieved for the action:

Facilitated funding to various industry participants

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

4.1

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

25. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 4.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 4.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Bilateral MoUs with SADC countries

Brief description of the action:

South Africa has taken the lead to get MoUs with the different SADC countries on matters relating to forest management, pest and diseases as well as forestry research or science. These MoUs speak to collaboration in research as well as sharing of scientific information.

Main results achieved for the action:

Formalized relationships with neighboring countries.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

Target 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

26. Is your country engaged in international cooperation and/or public-private partnerships to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes

27. If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:
(Select all that apply)

Governments
Private sector
Non-governmental organizations

**28. Please specify the types of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

South-South
Triangular

**29. Please specify the areas of cooperation and/or public-private partnerships in which your country is engaged:
(Select all that apply)**

Science
Innovation

Target 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

30. Since 2020, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes

31. Since 2020, has your country had access to financing to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

**32. If yes, please specify the sources:
(Select all that apply)**

Target 4.5: The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

33. Has the collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information in your country, for example, through multidisciplinary scientific assessments, improved since 2020?

No

34. If yes, please describe any improvements (maximum 250 words).

35. Does your country carry out a National Forest Inventory?

No

36. If yes, what year was the most recent inventory completed?

Global Forest Goal 4 Challenges

37. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 4 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.

6. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 5 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 5: 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

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

Target 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

Target 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

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

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, 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.

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

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

Yes

39. If yes, please specify which:
(Select both, if applicable)

National sustainable development plans
Poverty reduction strategies

Target 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

40. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.2? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.2, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a

maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Amendment of the National Forest Act No. 84 of 1998

Brief description of the action:

The amendment of the NFA was to provide for clear definitions of natural forests and woodlands; to provide for public trusteeship of the nation's forestry resources; to increase the promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management; to increase the measures provided for in the Act to control and remedy deforestation; to provide for appeals against decisions taken under delegated powers and duties; as well as to reinforce offences and penalties.

Main results achieved for the action:

The National Forests Act no 84 has been strengthened

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

15.1

Weblink:

Target 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

41. Since 2020, has your government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes

42. If yes, please specify the type of action:

Improved enforcement of existing legislation
Export controls
Import controls

Target 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

43. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 5.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 5.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Memorandum of Understanding between ministries and other government entities

Brief description of the action:

The ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment has a memorandum of understanding with the ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the aim of the MoU is to cooperate on different priority areas such as Legislative alignment and reform, and forestry development and management. Initiatives such as greening, afforestation and development of forest enterprises for rural communities are coordinated by National government with the assistance of local government.

Main results achieved for the action:

Cooperation between Ministries to ensure that forest resources are protected and developed sustainably.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
2.1
6.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

Target 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

44. Please describe what types of mechanisms are in place to involve stakeholders in the formulation, planning and/or implementation of forest-related policies and programmes (maximum 250 words).

Prior to policies being adopted, a policy goes through a rigorous commenting process (stakeholder consultation), where in stakeholders are given a chance to object, support as well as raise their concerns regarding the proposed policy or plans. the constitution of the Republic of South Africa protects the rights of stakeholders. The republic has legislation in place that protects the public in terms of consultations. The legislations are the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act and the Promotion of Access to Information Act. These legislations ensures that adequate stakeholder consultation is conducted prior to adoption of policies, as well as planning and implementation of projects.

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

45. In your country, have forests been integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development?

Yes

Global Forest Goal 5 Challenges

46. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 5 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.

Reducing illegal logging is a challenge, this is because of capacity issues (insufficient human resources to conduct patrols as well as to enforce the forestry legislation).

7. Progress toward Global Forest Goal 6 and associated targets

Global Forest Goal 6: 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

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

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

Target 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

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.

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

47. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.3? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.3, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a

maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Forestry Legislation ensures that SFM principles are considered

Brief description of the action:

The National Forests Act ensures that all sectors comply with the principles of sustainable forest management. The section on the Act ensures that forestry issues are considered in different plans, that is from local to national government.

Main results achieved for the action:

Forestry development and SFM is included in the Integrated Development Plans for Local Municipality Plans

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
2.1
2.5
3.1
3.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

Weblink:

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

48. Are mechanisms in place for cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation?

Yes

49. If yes, please specify the sectors involved:

Climate change
Biodiversity
Rural development
Land use

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

50. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target

6.4? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.4, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

Principles Criteria, Indicators and Standards (PCI&S)

Brief description of the action:

South Africa's principles of sustainable forest management are the core of the National forests Act. To assist with monitoring the progress or compliance with the principles of sustainable forest management a guide for forest managers and auditors titled "The Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Standards Framework: Achieving sustainable forest management" was published by government. The PCI&S were used as the foundation of the Sustainable African Forest Assurance Scheme.

Main results achieved for the action:

PCI&S that are implemented and monitored by stakeholders within the forestry sector.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

1.1
1.2
1.3
1.4
2.1
2.3
2.4
3.2
3.3

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

6.6
15.1
15.2

Weblink:

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

51. Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes

52. If yes, please specify which sets of criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)

National or subnational

**53. If yes, please specify for which of the following purposes the criteria and indicators are used:
(Select all that apply)**

To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
To monitor and assess forest conditions and management

Target 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

54. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of target 6.5? Please provide titles and briefly describe up to three actions per target, and the results to date. You may also indicate additional GFG and SDG targets supported by each action. Where possible, please provide a weblink to refer readers to more information about the action.

To report more than one action for target 6.5, click on "Add another action" below. Please limit your answers to a maximum of 150 words per action.

Action (short title):

the Masterplan for the Commercial Forestry Sector in South Africa 2020-2025

Brief description of the action:

In September 2020 the Masterplan for the Commercial Forestry Sector in South Africa 2020-2025 was adopted. The masterplan is in support of the re-imagined Industrial Strategy (RIS) for South Africa that was approved in 2019. The goal of the masterplan is to increase investment, jobs and competitiveness, underpinned by greater inclusivity in the forestry sector. This masterplan focuses on five subsectors of the forestry value chain namely: Primary sector, pulp and paper, sawn timber, board products, utility poles and treated products

The Masterplan has the following headline targets that should be achieved by 2025:

1. The target on investment is R24,9 billion to be invested, of which R8 billion had already been invested by the year 2020. A further R14 billion expected pending removal of some inhibitors, this would bring the investment to R38,9bn. There is also a target of 100 549 jobs of which the bulk will come from new afforestation.
2. To meet the current and future needs from forests, afforestation of new areas identified in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal is required (a total of 100 000 hectares of additional plantation land).
3. The return of previously afforested land to its full productive potential. This includes category B&C plantations (63 000 ha) and the Western Cape exit areas (22 000 ha) as well as poor performing plantations.

Main results achieved for the action:

There has been an increase in investment into the forestry sector.
Government has entered into community forest management agreements with rural communities.
A good working relationship between government, private sector and other stakeholders.

This action also contributes to these GFG targets:

- 1.1
- 1.3
- 2.1
- 2.2
- 3.2
- 4.1
- 4.2

This action also contributes to these SDG targets:

- 6.6
- 15.1

Weblink:

Target 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

55. Since 2020, have major groups and other relevant stakeholders been involved in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

Yes

56. If yes, please describe their involvement in a maximum of 250 words:

South Africa's government has been working with stakeholders on different programmes that contribute to the targets of the UNSPF 2017-2030. The programs include the 10 million trees program which aims at increasing tree cover outside forest within the country. The Masterplan for Commercial Forestry in South Africa which aims to achieve sustainable inclusive growth of the forest sector. The private sector is involved in both funding and planning processes for these programs

Global Forest Goal 6 Challenges

57. What are the main challenges in achieving Goal 6 in your country?
Please limit your answer to 250 words.

8. Self-assessment of progress toward the Global Forest Goals and targets

58. In your opinion, what is the progress of your country towards the targets of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, since its adoption in 2017?

	Achieved	On track	Some progress	No change	Negative change	Not applicable
1.1 Forest area		X				
1.2 Carbon stock			X			
1.3 Implementation of SFM		X				
1.4 Resilience and adaptation						
2.1 Extreme poverty of forest dependent people		X				
2.2 Access to finance of small forest enterprises		X				
2.3 Food security		X				
2.4 Contribution to social economic and environmental development	X					
2.5 Contribution to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation	X					
3.1 Protected areas		X				
3.2 Long-term forest management plans	X					
3.3 Products from sustainably managed forests	X					
4.1 Mobilization of resources for SFM		X				
4.2 Increased forest related financing		X				
4.3 Enhanced cooperation and partnerships		X				
4.4 Forest financing strategies and access to financing		X				
4.5 Forest-related information			X			
5.1 Integration of forests in national plans and strategies		X				
5.2 Enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance	X					
5.3 Coherence and coordination of policies and programmes	X					
5.4 Integration of forest related issues into land-use planning	X					
6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation		X				
6.4 Common understanding of concept of SFM indicator sets	X					
6.5 Strengthened involvement of stakeholders	X					

9. Voluntary National Contributions

59. Has your government announced any Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs) related to the Global Forest Goals?

No

60. If yes, please provide a brief description, including information on timeframes and the progress made thus far. If your government has announced more than one Voluntary National Contribution, please click "Add another contribution" (can add up to ten).

Brief description:

Progress to date:

This action contributes to these GFG targets:

This action contributes to these SDG targets:

10. Other questions: Gender equality

61. Since 2020, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes

62. If yes, please indicate the purpose of the action taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector: (Select all that apply)

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

63. Please provide a brief description of the actions taken to promote gender equality in the forest sector:

The Forest Sector Research Council (FSCC) was established to monitor compliance with the obligations of the social partners on the Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Forest Sector Transformation Charter including government. The social partners to the forest charter include government, labour and business and they have all committed to certain commitments / responsibilities aimed at ensuring transformation and development in the forest sector. The FSCC is the custodian of the Charter, and its primary responsibility is to ensure compliance with the charter obligations and to report on the performance of the sector.

Some of the Instruments adopted through the FSCC include: Instrument to support skills development targets; Instrument to support enterprise and supplier development; Instrument to support ownership targets as well as strengthening representative industry structures.

11. Other questions: International Day of Forests

64. Since 2020, what actions have been taken in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests? (Select all that apply)

Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)

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

Social media activities

65. Please provide up to three examples of actions taken in observance of International Day of Forests since 2020. If

possible, include a weblink to relevant documentation.

International Forest Day Action:

South Africa has held several events celebrating the International day of forests. These include seminars and tree planting events.

Weblink:

<https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/forestry-fisheries-and-environment-commemorates-international-day-forests-24>

International Forest Day Action:

Weblink:

12. Success stories

66. Since 2020, does your country have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

No

67. If yes, provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and/or articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets. Please specify the relevant GFG targets.

You may provide up to three success stories by clicking on "Add another success story".

Title:

Brief description:

Main results achieved:

GFG targets addressed:

Weblink:

Please review your responses. Click on the blue button below to download a PDF copy of your report.

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The cover letter shall include an official letterhead with the full name of country, ministry, and/or institution, mail and email address, phone number and the signature of an authorized senior national official. The file size should not exceed 2MB.

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10/07/2025

By clicking SUBMIT at the bottom of this page, you certify that your report is complete. This action is final and cannot be undone.

Thank You!

Thank you for completing the voluntary national report to UNFF. You should receive an email with a PDF copy of your report.

In case of any issues, please reach out to Ms. Nadine Souto (nadine.souto@un.org) and Mr. Tomasz Juszcak (juszczakt@un.org) at the UNFF secretariat.