Country:	<u>IRAN (Islamic</u>	Republic)
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Voluntary National Report to the 11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

Background

The eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) will be held from 4 to 15 May 2015 in New York. In accordance with the Forum's Multi-Year Program of Work for 2007-2015, the overall theme of UNFF11 is *Forests: progress, challenges and the way forward on the international arrangement on forests (IAF)*. The UNFF11 will, *inter-alia*:

- Review progress towards the achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs) and implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereinafter referred to as the "Forest Instrument"), and
- 2. Review the contribution of forests and the IAF, including the Forest Instrument, to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The submission of national reports by UNFF Member States on the above items will provide a crucial input to the Secretary-General's analytical, consolidated report to UNFF11 on the progress and trends in the above-mentioned areas, as well as to the Forum's deliberation on the future of the IAF.

Pursuant to Resolution 10/1 of the tenth session of the Forum¹, the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) in collaboration with the CPF member organizations and in close consultations with countries, revised and streamlined the reporting format. The attached revised format builds on and further simplifies the UNFF10 reporting format. Specifically, the number of questions has been reduced by consolidating previous areas of overlap, and Member States are asked to submit only information that is not currently provided to CPF member organizations, or that is unavailable in other international databases.

The UNFF11 reporting format is presented in two parts. Part I includes questions related to the progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including achievement of the GOFs. Part II includes questions on the contribution of forests and SFM to the achievement of the MDGs.

To the extent possible, the information submitted by countries to the UNFFS will be supplemented with quantitative data, *inter alia*, from the following international data providers:

- FAO, Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)/Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CRFQ) - FAO, Forest Europe, UNECE, ITTO, Montreal Process and OFAC
- Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) FAO, ITTO, UNECE, EUROSTAT
- FAO, State of the World's Forests (SOFO) 2014
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

¹ Resolution 10/1 of UNFF10 requested the UNFF secretariat (UNFFS) to further streamline the guidelines and format for voluntary national reporting to the eleventh session of the Forum including a technical discussion on reporting methodology with relevant experts of Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations, taking into account types of information provided to Collaborative Partnership on Forest member organizations and through criteria and indicators and other regional processes and balanced regional workshops depending on available resources.(United Nations Forum on Forests, Report on the Tenth Session -8 to 19 April 2013, E/2013/42 _E/CN.18/2013/18, Page 6)

Reporting Guidelines and Format

Member States are kindly requested to:

- Submit their completed national report electronically (in MS Word) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org, by 30 September 2014, at the latest. Early submissions will greatly facilitate the Secretariat's preparation of the analytical, consolidated Secretary-General's report to UNFF11. Please note that the MS Word file of the reporting format can also be downloaded from the UNFF website at: http://www.un.org/esa/forests/ /unff11_reporting_template.doc
- Submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official, signed letter conveying their submission from their respective Ministry, or a note verbale from their Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.
- 3. Submit any graphic elements included in their national report, as separate electronic files.
- 4. Check all boxes that apply to questions that have multiple-choice components. In addition to the "Yes" or "No" answers, countries are encouraged to provide brief descriptive narratives, as this provides context and background. Please also note that space provided for the descriptive information is limited to 250 words per question.

In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues related to forests and sustainable forest management (SFM), respondents are encouraged to consult with experts from relevant national ministries to complete the reporting format, including, for example, the ministries of environment, economic development, finance and agriculture. Respondents are also strongly encouraged to consult with the national focal points for the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), the Rio Conventions, other CPF member organizations and C&I processes, where applicable.

Please note that the Year 2007 – the year of the adoption of the Forest Instrument (2007), is used as a baseline throughout the document.

All terms used in this document are consistent with the FAO/FRA Working Paper 180 "Terms and Definitions FRA 2015": http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap862e/ap862e00.pdf

Abbreviations

C&I	Criteria and Indicators	processes

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FLEGT Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

FRA FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment

GOF Global Objectives on Forests

ITTO International Tropical Timber Organization

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

NFP National Forest Programme

ODA Official Development Assistance
SIDS Small Island Developing States
SFM Sustainable forest management

UN United Nations

UNFF United Nations Forum on Forests

General information

UNFF national focal point

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

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PART I:

<u>Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,</u> <u>including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)</u>

		New	Amendment of e	existing
Forest policy			X	
Forest legislation			X	
National forest programme				
Forest land tenure	Э		X	
Other actions				
None				
Please provide fu	rther information o	on these and/or oth	ner actions:	
 - Agriculture & Natural Resources Productivity Enhancement Law. www.maj.ir/ in which some amendments have been made in terms of Forest policy and Forest land Tenure. To what extent have these actions been effective in advancing implementation of the Forest Instrument? 				
	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Forest policy		X		
Forest legislation		X		
NFP				X
Forest land tenures		X		
Other actions				
Please provide 2-	•	ective actions in su	upport of the Forest I	nstrument and web
link(s) to relevant				

۷.	traffic	Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to prevent and reduce international trafficking in illegally-harvested forest products such as timber, wildlife and other biological resources?					
		New legislation					
	X	Improved enforcement of existing legislation					
	X	Export controls					
	X	Import controls					
	X	Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries					
		None					
	X	Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:					
	- For - Plan	ociation of Iran Wood Industries' Employers. www.iranwoodind.com mation of Forest Guard at FRWO www.frw.org.ir/ nning new terminal construction for importation of wood products in Serakhas, Dargaz ncheborun borders					
	Please	provide 2-3 examples and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):					
	- Ex	 Expansion of check points in forests to control logging operation www.frw.org.ir/ Export permit of fast-growing species such as poplar is only issued for private enterprises. www.iranwoodind.com/ 					
		moving wood import tariffs. www.frw.org.ir/					
	equiva	alent plans? Forests/SFM are now included in national development plans/strategies					
		Forests/SFM now have a higher priority in national development plans/strategies					
		The contribution of forests/SFM to poverty eradication, food security, water security, employment is an ongoing subject of discussion Other, please list below:					
		Cutor, prease not below.					
	Have t	hese steps resulted in:					
	Have t	hese steps resulted in: More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities					
	Have t	More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related					
		More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities					
		More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities					
	□XX	More Official Development Assistance (ODA) being programmed to SFM-related activities More domestic public resources devoted to SFM-related activities Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to sustainable development					

Please describe these steps, and, if possible, provide 2-3 examples and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

and SFM? X Yes	☐ No			
If Yes, please specify these measures have b		-	nts are involved	and how effecti
Ministry of Energy; A Affairs; Education; Dep				
	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	X			
Climate Change	X			
Environment	X			
Mining		X		
Energy	X			
Water		X		
Tourism		X		
Other	X			
Please provide 2-3 exarelevant document(s): - National Committee www.frw.org.ir/	To Combat Desertion Climate Changovernors of Caspian	tification (Restrued) e(Restructured) n, Arasbani and	ictured in 2009)). in 2009) <u>www.doe</u> Zagros provinces	.ir/
Agreements with Go National Committee				

		nt activities has your				
	X	Afforestation	10000	ha		
	X	Reforestation	33000	ha		
	X	Restoration	15000	ha		
Introduct	ion or en	forcement of:				
X		legislation aimed a forestation	at reduction	of deforestation	on and/or supp	oort afforestation
X	and/or re	islation aimed at r eforestation				
X	New legi	slation and actions	aimed at co	nservation and	d protection of	forests
		s for forest owners		and implement	management	plans
		s for forest protect d/deferred taxes for				
\boxtimes		rest loans for fores		anagement		
		ease list below:		J		
Please documer		and, if possible	, provide 2	-3 examples	and web-link	x(s) to relevant
		Natural Resources	Productivity	Enhancement	Law(Article15)).
	w.org.ir/ tment De	evelopment Fund o	f Agriculture	www.sfida.ir/ (Facilities and lo	pans)
		mechanisms are y formulation, pla				takeholders in
I	Roundtab	les/committees ha	ve been esta	blished which	meet regularly	/
	Forest au hem aris	ithorities meet wit e	h stakeholde	ers on an <i>ad</i>	hoc basis as	issues affecting
X	Other, ple	ease list below:				
- Partici	patory m	echanisms develop	ed under Int	ernational join	t projects www	v.frw.org.ir/
- Partici	patory m	echanisms implem	ented by NG	O networks w	ww.iranngos.blo	ogfa.com/
- Public	ation of le	eaflets, posters, bo	oks etc.			

	- Organizing exhibitions, seminars, workshops etc.					
	- Press conferences					
	- Multi media production					
	- TV & Radio programmes on natural resources management and conservation. www.irib.ir/					
	How effective are these me	chanisms in pro	_	us approaches:		
		Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place	
	Private sector	X				
	Forest workers	X				
	Local communities		\boxtimes			
	Indigenous communities		X			
	NGOs		X			
	General Public		X			
	Please provide 2-3 example	s, and, if possik	ole, provide web-	link(s) to relevant	document(s):	
	- Investment Development	Fund of Agricu	Iture www.sfida.ii	<u>·/</u>		
	- Forestry Association of In-			ir/ www.menarid ir	/ www.ircen.net/	
	international joint project	5. <u>www.omp.m/</u> ,	www.nabicinoda.	iir, <u>www.menana.n</u>	7, <u>www.iicsp.iicir,</u>	
8.	To what extent do local a	and indigenous	s communities	have tenure or ι	user rights over	
	publicly-owned forests?					
	☐ Completel ☑ Partially	У				
	☐ None					
	☐ Not applic	able				
	Please provide 2-3 examp		and indigenous	communities are	benefiting from	
	goods and services produ document(s):	ced by forests	and, if possible	e, provide web-lir	nk(s) to relevant	
	Local and indigenous com	munities may h	onefit from force	t goods and sorviv	cos in form	
	of fuel wood and construct				ces iii ioiiii	
9.	Since 2007, has your gove SFM and to implement the			I financing strate	egies to achieve	
	X Yes	□ No				
			ogioo?			
	If Yes, what is the timeframe	on mese strate	gies :			

These	strategie	es take into account:		
	X	Domestic public funding		
	X	Domestic private funding		
	X	Public international (including	ODA and REDD+)	
		External private funding	,	
Please	e provide	2-3 examples, and, if possible,	provide web-link(s)	to relevant document(s):
-Don Agric	nestic pri culture <u>w</u>	olic funding are annually allocated for vate funding are provided throuwww.sfida.ir/ etc. www.hablehroud.ir/, www.m	gh Investment Deve	lopment Fund of
		ernment established one or rivices (PES) provided by fore		hanisms for payment f
	Ш			
If Yes,		specify, and, if possible, provice	le the estimated tota	al value of these paymer
	Watersl	ned protection/water supply	USD	
		storage (including REDD+)	USD	
		conservation	USD	
	Otrier, p	blease list below:	USD	
docum	2007,	2-3 examples of PES and, if po	able to mobilize	significantly increase
financ	ial reso	urces for the implementation	of SFM? If yes, plea 2007	ase specify sources: 2013
		Domostic public funding		
	Ш	Domestic public funding	USD	USD
		Domestic private funding	USD	USD
		Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD	USD
		External private funding	USD	USD

		2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector ment in SFM and forests?			
	X	Policy and legal reforms that encourage greater private investment			
		Financial incentives, such as credit guarantees, tax breaks, employment subsidies etc.			
		Establishment of markets for ecosystem services provided by forests			
		Outreach to the private sector (leaflets, conferences, fairs promoting investment in forests)			
Development and improvement of infrastructure and other public services relate SFM					
Other; please list below:					
		provide 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):			
	Privat - Rep	on Reduction of State Control on Executive Activities & Transfer of Affairs to be Sector lacement of wood by fossil fuels			
	- Law	for the Fifth Five-year Development Plan of I. R. of Iran www.mefa.gov.ir/			
13.	ls your	government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?			
		X Yes No			
	If Yes, I	please specify with whom:			
		Private sector/philanthropy			
		□ NGOs			
		Others			
	Type of	f cooperation:			
		North-South			
		☐ South-South ☐ Technical			
	And en	ecify the areas of cooperation:			
	•	Forests and climate change			
	\boxtimes	Forest biodiversity			
		•			
	X	Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests			
	\square	Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods			
		Forest degradation and rehabilitation Scientific cooperation			
		Forest monitoring/data collection			

		ology transfer and capacity development please list below:
	Other,	piease list below.
	provident docum	e 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to
		www.hablehroud.ir/, www.menarid.ir/, www.ircsp.net/- International projects
	7.CHIP.II/	www.nabienroud.ii/, www.menand.ii/, www.ircsp.net/- international projects
Please	list the	key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:
-		st land conversion
-		tock in forests ation of public participation
-		I cutting
14 Does v	vour coi	untry have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the
develo		and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for
SFM?		V
	X	Yes L No
If Yes,	what are	eas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:
X	Forest	inventory systems
X	Low-in	npact logging or other harvesting techniques
	Wood	production for energy
X	Wood	processing technology
X	Waste	reduction and recycling
	Other,	please list below:
		nstitute of Forests & Rangelands www.rifr-ac.ir/
		esearch Institute <u>www.standard.ac.ir/</u> enter on Cellulose Industries www.ariafair.com/
Are the	ese prog	rams directed at:
		Forest owners
	X	Timber companies/forest products industry
	X	State agencies
	X	Local communities
	X	Indigenous communities
		NGOs
		General public
Since 2	2007, ha	as funding for forest-related science and research increased?
	X	Yes
Please	describ	e, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

	Law for the	Fifth Five-year Development Plan of I. R. of Iran www.mefa.gov.ir/
15.	What action	ns has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the
		enefits provided by forests?
	X	Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
	X	Published materials, e.g. brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, or/and posters, etc.
		Meetings with the general public Art events/Exhibitions
		Activities in support of the International Day of Forests Other
		de 2-3 examples, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):
	-Exhibition	ce of Natural Resources Week 5-12 March and Tree Plantation Day 5 March on Natural Resources n Natural Resources
16.	What sets o	f criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:
	X	
	X	
		Other
	Please descr	ibe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):
	by High Co	on of national set of C&I for SFM is finalized by FRWO and is under review uncil of Environment for adoption. www.doe.ir/ ted FAO's C&I for the Near East & North Africa Region in 2000
	Are these C&	dused to:
		erate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
		itor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
		ew and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
	Com	municate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
	Repo	ort on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:
17.		untry translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including JN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?
	Not yet.	

- 18. Please give examples of your country's success stories and lessons learned related to the implementation of the Forest Instrument, including contributions towards the four Global Objectives on Forests:
 - Preparation of Forest Resources Assessment of Iran (FRA 2015)
 - -Restoration of Degraded Forests
 - -Enhancement of Forests and Rangelands Conservation Level
 - Finalization of forest resources maps of five vegetation regions including Caspian, Zagros, Arasbarani, Persian Gulf and Oman Sea and Iran- o- Touranian regions
 - Formulation of Vision 2025 on natural resources management
 - Guidelines on sustainable forest management in the Zagros forest ecosystems to prevent and control oak dieback
 - Directive on sanitation and silviculture operations including removal, destruction and processing of infected/infested trees
 - Study and classification of rangelands of Iran
 - Revision of Forests and Rangelands Law
 - Conservation and Protection of Natural Resources and Forests Reserves
 - Formulation of Directives on National Land Use Planning Law
 - Revision of National Action Plan to Combat Desertification
 - Formulation of Forest Exploitation Monitoring Program
 - Development of national Class set of criteria and indicators for SFM

PART II

Contribution of forests and SFM to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The aim of Part II of this reporting questionnaire is to learn how forests and SFM have contributed to achieving the MDGs in your country, particularly with respect to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1), environmental sustainability (MDG7) and developing a global partnership for development (MDG8).

19. How have forests/SFM contributed to en in your country?	adicatir	ng extreme	poverty	and hung	ger (MDG1)		
Please rate the scale of contribution on a highest)	scale o	f 1-5 (1 bei	ng the lo	west and	5 being the		
Ву:	1	2	3	4	5		
Improving livelihoods		X					
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter				X			
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	X						
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy			X				
Other:							
Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-	link(s) to	relevant d	ocument(s):			
- Direct employment of local communities in NR projects - Supply of fuel for local communities - Employment in other sectors such as service sector due to livelihood change 20. How have forests/SFM contributed to ensuring environmental sustainability (MDG7) in your country?							
Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being highest)							
Ву:	1	2	3	4	5		
Providing habitat				X			
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity			X				
Stabilizing soils and slopes		X					
Safeguarding water resources		X					
Sequestering carbon		X					
Providing timber, energy and other products		X					
Other							

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to releva	ant doc	ument(s	s):		
 Increase of birds population in the project sites Protection of rear and endangered species in the project Reduction of erosion and land slides Supply of fresh water Increase of wood stock in the project sites Decrease of wood harvest 	ct sites				
21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a gl (MDG8) in your country?	obal p	artners	hip for	develo	ppment
Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (highest)	1 being	g the lo	west a	nd 5 be	ing the
Ву:	1	2	3	4	5
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	X				
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	X				
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	X				
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	X				
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	X				
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships		X			
Other					
Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relev	ant dod	cument((s):		
-Number of joint international projects on natural resourc more resources.	es incre	eased b	out there	e is nee	d for
22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in MDGs in your country? Yes No	n achie	eving a	any of	the rem	naining
If Yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) t	o relev	ant doc	ument/	e).	
ii 100, picase describe, aria, ii possible, provide web-iiik(s) t	J I GIEV	arit uoc	annent(<i>-</i>).	

	Achieving universal primary education
Non	8
MDG3: I	Promoting gender equality and empowering women
Non	е
MDG4: I	Reducing child mortality
Non	9
MDG5: I	mproving maternal health
Non	•
	Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Non	e