

Country: Slovak Republic

Date of submission: 20 October 2014

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*:

1. 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:

1. 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
2. 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

Name:	
Title:	
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PART I:
Progress on the implementation of the Forest Instrument,
including achievement of the Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs)

1. Since the adoption of the Forest Instrument in 2007, what actions has your government taken to strengthen forest-related policies, legislation, and law enforcement in support of sustainable forest management (SFM)? Please specify:

	New	Amendment of existing
Forest policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National forest programme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Please provide further information on these and/or other actions:

Forest policy:
 The Action Plan of the National Forest Programme was adopted by the Government on 11th June 2008 (resolution No. 380/2008). It identified concrete measures and actions to implement overall objectives and priorities of the National Forest Programme. It expired on 31 December 2013. The implementation of the Action Plan during 2008-2013 is being evaluated at present.

The Strategy for Development of Agriculture and Forestry Sector 2013-2020 was elaborated and adopted in 2013.

Forest legislation: The Forest Act amended in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014; the new Act on Forest Reproductive Material adopted in 2010 and amended in 2011 and 2014.

Forest land tenure:
 The Act on Land Ownership's Rights Consolidation (incl. forest land) amended in 2014.
 The new Act on Land Associations was adopted in 2013 (land association represent a special type of land owner, incl. forest land owner).

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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NFP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest land tenures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of effective actions in support of the Forest Instrument and web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The actions are not solely a reaction to the need to implement the Forest Instrument. Nevertheless, they have been contributing in advancing SFM at national and sub-national levels substantially in line with the international commitments, including the Forest Instrument.

2. 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
- Improved enforcement of existing legislation
- Export controls
- Import controls
- Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries
- None
- Other, e.g. public procurement policies, public-private partnerships. Please list below:

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

The issue has to be seen and examined in the context of the whole European Union law: adoption and implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan and legislative acts resulted from it, namely EUTR (the EU timber regulation adopted in 2010) and the FLEGT Regulation (adopted in 2005). In order to ensure a proper application of the EUTR at a national level, the Forest Act has been amended in 2014.

3. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to raise the importance of forests and SFM in national development plans, poverty reduction strategies or other equivalent 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:

In principle, a priority for forests/SFM remains the same. Some slightly higher recognition of forests in the newly adopted National Development Strategy for 2014-2018 can be observed (in comparison with the previous strategy). Nevertheless, for the time being this has not resulted in more development assistance being programmed to SFM-related activities.

Have these steps resulted in:

- 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
- Increased awareness of the importance of forests/SFM to poverty eradication
- Other, please list below:

See information in a previous box.

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

National Development Strategy for 2014-2018 (as adopted by the Government; in Slovak language):
<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23178>

4. **Since 2007, has your government taken measures to strengthen coordination across ministries and departments whose policies have an impact on or may affect forests and SFM?**

Yes No

If yes, please specify which ministries and/or departments are involved and how effective these measures have been in implementing SFM:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Agriculture/Rural Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide 2-3 examples of cross-sectoral cooperation and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

In 2013-2014, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (responsible for forests) was fully involved in the process of developing the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy supervised by the Ministry of the Environment. This resulted in a proper reflection of forests in the strategy.

The strategy is available on the website (in Slovak language only):

<http://www.rokovania.sk/Rokovanie.aspx/BodRokovaniaDetail?idMaterial=23364>

In 2013-2014: Forest stakeholders have been involved in the process of developing the National Rural Development Programme for 2014-2020. The final draft of the programme contains a set of forestry measures which will be able to fund forests and forestry from the EU Agricultural Fund in coming years. Nevertheless, the programme still has to be approved by the European Commission (situation as of 1 October 2014).

5. Does your government's national forest policy/strategy or national forest programme contain time-bound and quantified targets related to the forest area?

Yes No

If yes, please list the targets and dates by which they are to be achieved and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

6. Since 2007, what activities has your government undertaken to reverse the loss of forest cover and/or to enhance the area and quality of forests? Please specify:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Afforestation	(n. a.)	ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reforestation	61.300	ha
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Restoration	(n. a.)	ha

Introduction or enforcement of:

- Existing legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support afforestation and or reforestation
- New legislation aimed at reduction of deforestation and/or support of afforestation and/or reforestation
- New legislation and actions aimed at conservation and protection of forests
- Subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement management plans
- Subsidies for forest protection
- Reduced/deferred taxes for forest land
- Low-interest loans for forest activities/management
- Other, please list below:

New policy/strategy: The National Programme of Utilizing Wood Potential in the Slovak Republic was adopted by the Government in 2013. It contains some specific measure aimed at mapping less favoured agricultural land with potential to be afforested and utilized for wood production and, possibly, for provision of other forest products and services.

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

The majority of instruments listed above (namely legislation aimed at preventing deforestation and forest degradation, legislation aimed at conservation and protection of forests, subsidies for forest owners to prepare and implement forest management plans, subsidies for forest protection, reduced taxes for forest land) had been in place before 2007 and remained unchanged or slightly changed during 2007-2014.

This means that activities have mainly been undertaken based on existing legislation and systems (e. g. of subsidies).

7. What types of mechanisms are currently in place for involving stakeholders in forest/SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation?

- Roundtables/committees have been established which meet regularly
- Forest authorities meet with stakeholders on an *ad hoc* basis as issues affecting them arise

Other, please list below:

Formal process of developing national policy and legislation: stakeholders, incl. general public, has the opportunity to submit comments on drafts developed by the governmental agencies. However, there is a specific rule for comments to be regarded as "comments submitted by public" since they must receive sufficient support (number of people/subjects supporting) to be formally taken into consideration by the governmental agency.

Other: organizing conferences and seminars with special topic.

How effective are these mechanisms in promoting consensus approaches:

	Effective	Partially effective	Not effective	Not in place
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigenous communities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NGOs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

8. To what extent do local and indigenous communities have tenure or user rights over publicly-owned forests?

- Completely
- Partially
- None
- Not applicable

Please provide 2-3 examples how local and indigenous communities are benefiting from goods and services produced by forests and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Everymen's right to enter forests and use them for recreational purposes is traditionally in place (quaranteed by law) at a national level.

9. Since 2007, has your government developed or updated financing strategies to achieve SFM and to implement the Forest Instrument?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what is the timeframe of these strategies?

- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- Other, please specify:

These strategies take into account:

- Domestic public funding
- Domestic private funding
- Public international (including ODA and REDD+)
- External private funding

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

10. Has your government established one or more systems/mechanisms for payment for ecosystem services (PES) provided by forests?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify, and, if possible, provide the estimated total value of these payments since 2007:

- Watershed protection/water supply USD
- Carbon storage (including REDD+) USD
- Nature conservation USD 6,22 mil.
- Other, please list below: USD

Please provide 2-3 examples of PES and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Mechanism established: (compensation) payments for Natura 2000 areas through the EU Agricultural Fund (*note*: Natura 2000 is the EU-wide network of nature protection areas)

11. Since 2007, has your government been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM? If yes, please specify sources:

	2007	2013
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic public funding	USD 27,1 mil.	USD 27,3 mil.
<input type="checkbox"/> Domestic private funding	USD	USD
<input type="checkbox"/> Public international funding (including ODA and REDD+)	USD	USD
<input type="checkbox"/> External private funding	USD	USD

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds:

Note: the main "domestic" public sources of funding forests: EU Rural Development Fund, national budget.

12. Since 2007, what steps has your government taken to encourage private sector investment in SFM and forests?

- 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 related to SFM
- Other; please list below:

Ad hoc meetings with private sector.

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

Nation-wide exhibitions with a special focus, e. g. "Lignumexpo-Les"

13. Is your government engaged in international cooperation to promote SFM?

- Yes No

If yes, please specify with whom:

- Government
- Intergovernmental Organization
- Private sector/philanthropy
- NGOs
- Others

Type of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- Technical
- Financial
- Others

And specify the areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Other, please list below:

Please provide 2-3 examples of international cooperation, and, if possible, web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Forest-related research: participation in research projects supported by the European Union (sustainable forest management, innovations in forest-based industries).

Forest monitoring/data collection: cooperation amongst the EU Member States and the European Commission (within the European Union).

Bilateral cooperation with some of the European countries (non-EU) aimed at transferring SFM-related knowledge and information.

Please list the key challenges faced by your government in implementing SFM:

A lack of domestic public financial resources when co-funding some collaborative projects (e. g. in the field of research).

14. Does your country have one or more institutes or centers of excellence engaged in the development and application of scientific, technical and technological innovations for SFM?

Yes No

If yes, what areas do these technical/scientific activities focus on:

- Forest inventory systems
- Low-impact logging or other harvesting techniques
- Wood production for energy
- Wood processing technology
- Waste reduction and recycling
- Other, please list below:

Adaptive forest ecosystems, forest protection against pests and diseases.

Are these programs directed at:

- Forest owners
- Timber companies/forest products industry
- State agencies
- Local communities
- Indigenous communities
- NGOs
- General public

Since 2007, has funding for forest-related science and research increased?

Yes No

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The total budget allocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development for forest-related research and science has decreased since 2007.

15. What actions has your country undertaken to increase public awareness of the important benefits provided by forests?

- Published broadcasts on TV and/or Radio
- 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

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

Exhibitions on forests and forestry, information and communication campaigns in media, press conferences, press releases, open-air museum of forestry, leaflets, posters, DVDs, web sites, internet-based social networks, forest pedagogy tools with focus on children and youth, discussions with stakeholders on special topics, seminars and conferences, and others.

Moreover, in 2010, the national strategy for forest pedagogics (as an integral part of environmental education) was developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Website: www.lesnickedni.sk

16. What sets of criteria and indicators (C&I) for SFM are used in your country:

- National set of C&I
- Regional/international set of C&I (e.g. ITTO, Forest Europe, Montreal Process, Taraporto etc.)
- Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

National set of C & I is identical with the Forest Europe one.

Are these C&I used to:

- Generate information to national reports on forest conditions and management
- Monitor and assess and monitor forest conditions and management
- Review and develop national forest policies and tools for SFM
- Communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- Report on forests to regional and international organizations If so, which ones:

FOREST EUROPE (Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe)

17. Has your country translated the Forest Instrument into another language (not including the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)?

Yes. The Forest Instrument has been translated into Slovak (unofficial translation).

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:

From a national perspective, the Forest Instrument has been rather seen as a general international policy framework for actions taken in implementing and achieving SFM at all levels, incl. national and sub-national ones. The instrument, notably through identifying a set of national actions, has provided relevant national authorities with policy guidance how to

comply with the international perspective on SFM – a concept whose implementation falls under national competence.

The International Year of Forests 2011 was a driving force for convening several events and activities at a national level with the aim to increase public awareness on forests.

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 eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Improving livelihoods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting subsistence needs, including fuel wood, fodder and shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contributing to food security, including through agroforestry systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing employment, including employment in informal economy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

Not relevant.

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 the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Providing habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supporting ecosystem, species and genetic diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stabilizing soils and slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding water resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sequestering carbon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Providing timber, energy and other products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe, and, if possible, provide a web-link to relevant document(s):

National measures contributing to achieving this goal:

- adoption and application of the national criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management (conservation of biological diversity in forest ecosystems as one of the criteria),
- forest genetic resources conservation activities implemented, in particular, through the Act on Forest Reproductive Material,
- monitoring of invasive forest tree species within the national forest inventory (results available in 2007),
- existence of a national legal framework on forest regeneration limiting a transfer of non-autochthonous forest reproductive material (the Act on Forest Reproductive Material),
- active participation of the Slovak Republic in the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme EUFORGEN (international dimension),
- on-going process of forest certification,
- applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forest through forest management planning (principle of differentiated approach in relation to natural conditions is applied),
- monitoring forest ecosystems through, so called, ecological surveys within the process of forest management plans elaboration,
- implementation of information systems in forestry (data and information concerning, *inter alia*, forest biodiversity are gathered, processed and stored),
- implementation of Natura 2000 network on forest land.

21. How have forests/SFM contributed to developing a global partnership for development (MDG8) in your country?

Please rate the scale of contribution on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest)

By:	1	2	3	4	5
Engaging in regional and international collaboration on issues related to improved governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Through trade agreements involving forest products (e.g. bilateral/sub-regional/regional/inter-regional free trade agreements, EU voluntary partnership agreements, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering partnerships with the private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting foreign investment in the forest sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering bilateral and international financial cooperation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fostering north-south, and south-south technical, technological and scientific partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other

Please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

The issue has to be seen in a context of the European Union and its continued support for global efforts to halt deforestation and eliminate illegal logging and trade with timber and timber products (FLEGT Action Plan, Voluntary Partnership Agreements with the third countries).

22. Have forests/SFM contributed to making progress in achieving any of the remaining MDGs in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please describe, and, if possible, provide web-link(s) to relevant document(s):

MDG2: Achieving universal primary education

MDG3: Promoting gender equality and empowering women

MDG4: Reducing child mortality

MDG5: Improving maternal health

MDG6: Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases