



**Reporting on the
pan-European Qualitative Indicators
for Sustainable Forest Management
and
National Implementation of
Commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the
Protection of Forests in Europe**

COUNTRY: AUSTRIA

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Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
ha	Hectares
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (abbreviation replaced by brand name FOREST EUROPE, November 2009)
Nfp	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

Introduction

In preparation for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, planned to be held in Norway in June 2011, FOREST EUROPE¹ correspondents are asked to provide information to assess progress made since the reporting for the fifth Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, Poland 2007. This enquiry intends to enable signatory countries and the European Union to provide information on progress made towards sustainable forest management and implementation of commitments in the period 2007-2011. Countries which did not report for the fifth Ministerial Conference in 2007 may consider reporting also more in-depth on the current status of indicators, not only on changes.

This enquiry consists of two parts.

Part 1 contains the pan-European qualitative indicators for sustainable forest management. Results from this part will be combined with the results of the reporting on pan-European quantitative indicators (sent to the FRA national correspondents on 19.02.10), and will be presented in the next report on the State of Europe's Forests.

Part 2 contains reporting of implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments since 2007. It asks for national implementation of the Warsaw commitments and provides the opportunity to report on any major national activities since 2007 in implementing former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. National responses to this part of the enquiry will be published in a report on implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments 2007-2011, together with reporting on pan-European implementation of Warsaw commitments and former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The reports "State of Europe's Forests 2011" and "Implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments 2007-2011" (preliminary names) will serve as background information for the political discussions of future opportunities and challenges, and political responses to these, at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The structure of this questionnaire was improved, compared to the 2007 version by learning from previous experience. The main change from the previous version is that reporting on national implementation of former commitments is separated and simplified. The change is meant to reduce the reporting burden on countries, while still providing for descriptions of national implementation of Warsaw commitments and former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, if applicable. The questionnaire was prepared in consultation with partners at FAO and FOREST EUROPE, shared with the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM and FOREST EUROPE national focal points, and subsequently improved.

In completing the enquiry, you may wish to consult the following sources of information on policies and institutions:

MCPFE 2007 qualitative indicators: <http://www.unece.org/timber/fra/mcpfe07qualcountryreport.htm>

FRA 2010²: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/44375/en>

FAO-LEX: <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex>

¹ "FOREST EUROPE" has recently replaced the abbreviation "MCPFE" as the brand name of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

² Country data not yet available

1. Reporting on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators

Reporting on pan-European Qualitative Indicators consists of parts A and B. The five indicators in **Part A**: “Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM” aim to describe overall policy approaches for a sustainable forest management. **Part B**: “Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area” contains twelve indicators aiming to provide information in addition to the information provided in Part A. This concerns the specific policy objectives, the main institutions relevant to achieve the objective as well as the main policy instruments used. Under both A and B, significant changes since the last reporting process in 2007 should be reported. There is no need to repeat information already supplied in 2007³. This part will be used for the report on the *State of Europe’s Forests 2011*. Please see Annex 1 for Terms and definitions, and Annex 2 for an overview of the pan-European qualitative indicators.

For reporting, please note the following:

1. In the tables all requests for responses are marked by [], visible on computer screens (not necessarily on print-outs). All requests for responses are limited to approximately 100 words or 650 letters (including blank spaces) automatically in order to keep the analytical efforts within reasonable bounds.
2. The sum of texts provided per indicator in Parts A and B should not exceed 2 pages, and be around 1 page, if possible.
3. Changes since the reporting in 2007 will be analyzed systematically, first by determining whether or not such changes were reported. No information is interpreted as “no significant change”.
4. The main indicator related to climate change is B.2 (carbon balance). Please include information related to climate change policies under this indicator. Where relevant, you can also include information related to climate change under B.3 (health and vitality) and B.4 (production and use of wood).
5. Please provide further information on the measures taken, as deemed relevant, e.g. major partners in implementation, time period, budget involved experiences made (lessons learned, obstacles encountered and solutions).
6. Please provide the latest information available unless otherwise specified
7. Please specify reference documents as follows: - Author or institution. Year of publication (if published). Title. Reference Number. Publisher.

³ Country Reports submitted in 2007 are available at:
<http://www.unece.org/timber/fra/mcpfe07qualcountryreport.htm>

A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM

A.1. National forest programmes (Nfp) or similar and related forest policies					
Nfp or similar process for forest related dialogue, policy development & implementation					
Existence of Nfp process or of similar process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Nfp process ¹ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process explicitly guided by Nfp principles <input type="checkbox"/> Similar process <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above				
Name of Nfp or similar process	Name: Austrian Forest Dialogue Internet link: www.walddialog.at	Starting year:	2003		
Main formal decision making body of the process	<input type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministry responsible for forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:				
Characteristics of Nfp or similar process, including Nfp principles as defined by MCPFE					
Commitment to iterative process		Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who is regularly participating in the Nfp or similar process?	Administration responsible for forestry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest owners representatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Representatives from other sectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest-related environmental and social groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest based industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest education and/or research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are other sectors actively involved in the Nfp or similar process?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, which:		How are the key sectors involved:	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tourism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others: <i>youth, political parties, provincial governments</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly formal arrangements ² <input type="checkbox"/> mostly informal arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly participation in Nfp workshops <input type="checkbox"/> mostly separate consultation processes <input type="checkbox"/> other:	
Are other policies and international commitments ⁴ explicitly referred to in the Nfp or similar process?		Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
	National development policy/strategy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	International forest-related commitments ³	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: EU-Policies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How is policy implementation monitored and evaluated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-specified periodic monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodically, but not pre-determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				
	Are MCPFE criteria & indicators for SFM used in monitoring and evaluation policies?	Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Significant changes related to the Nfp process or similar since 2007	<p>A lot of the agreed measures have been implemented since than (Work Programme)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyses of the structures in the forest and wood based industry Assessment of potentials of renewable energy supply Elaborating a Forest research strategy Establishment of a biodiversity monitoring in forests Working out silvicultural and nature conservation advisory strategies (handbook for forest owners) 				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of the Austrian Protection Forest Platform • Establishment of an Austrian alliance platform for strengthening the transfer of forest and wood based knowledge • etc. 				
Major results of the Nfp or similar process and key lessons learned	Austrian Forest Programme Work Programme (living document) Evaluation Report "Work Programme of the Austrian Forest Programme" (living document) The work programme (available only in German language) is being revised on a regular basis. The latest version is dated April, 2010.				
Comments on the Nfp or similar process	Challenging task which requires full political commitment and sufficient resources and expertise in participation processes.				
Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)					
Existence of forest policy document (other than law)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
Title of main forest policy document ⁴ and internet links	Title: Austrian Forest Programme Internet links: http://www.walddialog.at				
Forest policy document development process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> formal Nfp process or process explicitly guided by Nfp principles <input type="checkbox"/> process similar to Nfp or other process				
Name of endorsing/authorizing /enacting institution of the forest policy document	The NFP was endorsed by all 80 institutions who participated in its development.	Date of endorsement	Dec. 2005		
Current status of the forest policy document	<input type="checkbox"/> in development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in review				
Is there explicit reference to / uptake of MCPFE instruments in the forest policy document?	MCPFE definition of SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes/fully	<input type="checkbox"/> Partly	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
	MCPFE criteria and indicators for SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE guidelines for Nfps	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>If the responsibility for forest policy is decentralized:</i> Existence of formally endorsed subnational forest policy document(s)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Significant changes related to main forest policy document since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes.				
Comments on the forest policy document	The NFP is currently implemented within the "Work Programme". The Austrian Forest Dialogue is implemented step by step applying a continuously updated Work Programme. The Work Programme comprises concrete individual measures as well as so-called "best				

practice” measures. Further, also the indicators with their respective actual and target values form part of the Work Programme. The Work Programme is a separate document which, due to the process of continuous updating, is published only in electronic form on the internet (also at www.walddialog.at). The implementation and the continuous update of the Work Programme is supervised by the Forest Forum, which holds meeting at least once a year.

Reporting notes

1. Formal Nfp process means formally and explicitly acknowledged and referred to as “Nfp process”
2. Formal arrangements comprise e.g. steering committees or other decision making bodies, consultative bodies, sector-specific working groups, etc.
3. You may wish to refer for instance to UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, CBD, UNFCCC, etc.
4. The main forest policy document can be a national forest programme document, a forest policy statement, a forest strategy or other. Forest legislation is covered separately under A3.

A.2. Institutional frameworks				
Government bodies	Please specify the type of forest-related institutional arrangements - forest policy administration - legislative supervision & enforcement - general support to forest management - management of public forests	Part of Ministry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Separate body <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Please specify the level of main responsibility - forest policy administration. - legislative supervision & enforcement - general support to forest management - management of public forests	Central government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Subnational governments <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words] Part 1: - legislative supervision & enforcement: separate body = Federal Forest Office (BFW), other = provincial governments - general support to forest management: other = provincial governments - management of public forests: other = Austrian Federal Forests (Österreichische Bundesforste AG) Part 2: Subnational governments = provincial governments Other = Austrian Federal Forests (Österreichische Bundesforste AG)			
Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests	Name or group/type ¹ :	Forest-related staff ² (2008,FTE)		
	Total [estimate]	803		
	...of which forest administration ³	546		
	...of which management of public forests	See comment		
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions	135		
	... of which others	122		
Main private sector organizations relevant for forest policy (interest groups, associations and NGOs etc.)	Name			
	Austrian Chamber of Agriculture (+ 9 provincial chambers)			
	Austrian Association of Farm & Forest Owners (Land- und Forstbetriebe Österreich)			
	Austrian Forest Association (Österreichischer Forstverein)			
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes.			
Comments on the institutional framework	Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - figures available only on forest professionals - of which public forest research, education and training institutions: figure represents Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW), figures exclude University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences and Austrian Environmental Agency - of which others: Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control - “Management of public forests”: According to reporting note 1, “Publicly owned business entities should be excluded”-Since the Austrian Federal Forests is a publicly owned business, separated from the public administration, no figures have been reported. Nevertheless, the Austrian Federal Forests employ 292 forest related staff. Figure represents forest			

	professionals only.
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Reporting notes

1. Please provide aggregated figures for each group/type of organizations, including all levels of government. Publicly owned business entities should be excluded. Where it is impossible or inappropriate to separate the activities of publicly owned business entities from other public sector activities in forest sector, this should be noted and staff of the entities should be included in the table. Please specify in the space left for comments which institutions are included (or not) in the figures you provide.
2. Forest-related staff in public organizations includes human resources within public forest institutions at subnational level. This refers to professionals as well as administrative staff.
3. "Forest administration" includes the first three sub-categories mentioned in the previous part of the table, i.e. forest policy administration, legislative supervision & enforcement, and general support to forest management.

A.3. Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments

Legal/regulatory frameworks		
General characteristics of legal/regulatory framework: formal authority on main forest matters is laid down... [multiple answers possible]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in constitution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in legislation enacted by parliament <input type="checkbox"/> in administrative decrees / regulations only <input type="checkbox"/> other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at central government level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at federal level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: See comments	
Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act with national scope (e.g. Forest law, act or code)	Name and reference to legal document	Austrian Forest Act 1975
	Main changes from previous legal act	No major changes.
	Date of enactment	1975
	Date of latest amendment	2010
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes. Minor amendments of the Austrian Forest Act.	
Comments	<p>The forest act is a federal law. According to the constitution, forest issues are federal competency. However, the implementation of the Forest Act is executed by indirect federal administration: this means, the Provincial Administrative Authorities at the district level are responsible in the first instance. For certain matters the Provincial Governor or the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management is entrusted with enforcement of the law.</p> <p>The federal forest act is complemented by provincial laws on hunting and nature conservation and several other legal provisions relevant to land use.</p>	
International commitments		
Significant changes in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Comments	Implementation within the Austrian NFP and regular meetings of a stakeholder platform.	

A.4. Financial instruments and economic policy			
Economic policy			
Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests	Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related economic policy. [max. 100 words] Main objectives: Enhancement of renewable resources, Protective function of forests Main Instrument: Austrian NFP		
Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes		
Comments			
Financial instruments			
Public forest management	Please describe financial arrangements related to public forests and their management [max. 100 words] Austrian Catastrophe Fond (measures to restore and maintain protective functions of forests)		
Government financial instruments: private forest management	Please specify the use of financial instruments, including fiscal measures, subsidies, loans etc. for private forests and their management, incl. main objectives [max. 100 words] Austrian Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007-2013 Type of measures: financial (subsidisation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of the economic value of silviculture management • Adding value to forestry products • Improvement of infrastructure related to forestry • Public relations • Afforestation of agricultural land • Natura 2000 and forest environment payments • Restoring forestry potential • Introduction of prevention actions • Diversification of forest activities Austrian Catastrophe Fond (measures to restore and maintain protective functions of forests) Research Programme of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Area Management Projects		
Public expenditure ¹			
Year: 2009	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding (mil€)	Total (mil€)
Operational expenditure ³	16.3	0.2	16.5
Transfer payments (support to private forest management) ⁴	40.2	40.2	80.4
Total public expenditure¹	56.5	40.4	96.9
Of which ⁵ ...	For forest administration		0
	For management of public forests		0
	For public forest research, education and training		18

	institutions	
	For other institutions. Please specify:	
Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Comments	Figures include expenditures of Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austrian Catastrophe Fond ((measures to restore and maintain protective functions of forests) and Austrian Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007-2013. Figures partly based on expert-estimation.	

Reporting notes

1. Data on operational expenditure, transfer payments and total public expenditure for the year 2009 has been reported to **FRA 2010** (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra>) in local currency. FRA definitions and reporting guidelines, also specified in these reporting notes, apply. Please indicate figures based on FRA data, or **updated figures when available**. Please specify the **year** which the data refers to in the intended box.

Public expenditure refers to all government expenditures on forest related activities. It corresponds to the total budget allocated and spent by all concerned institutions. It includes expenditures for administrative functions, reforestation funds, direct support to forest sector (e.g. grants and subsidies) and support to other institutions (e.g. training and research centers). It excludes expenditures in publicly owned business entities. Where it is impossible or inappropriate to separate the activities of publicly owned business entities from other public sector activities in forest sector, this should be noted and expenditure of the entities should be included in the table. In this case, please specify in the space left for comments which institutions you included (or not).
2. **Operational expenditure** is all government expenditure on public institutions solely engaged in the forest sector. Where the forest administration is part of a larger public agency (e.g. department or ministry), this should only include the forest sector component of the agency's total expenditure. As far as possible, this should also include other institutions (e.g. in research, training and marketing) solely engaged in the forest sector, but it should exclude the expenditure of publicly owned business entities. Where it is impossible or inappropriate to separate the activities of publicly owned business entities from other public sector activities in forest sector, this should be noted and expenditure of the entities should be included in the table. In this case, please specify in the space left for comments which institutions you included (or not). Operational expenditure includes expenditure on: personnel; materials; operating costs; and capital investment (e.g. buildings, equipment, tools, vehicles and machinery), whether funded by domestic or external sources of finance. It includes expenditure on contract or outsourced activities. It also includes the operating costs associated with any forest sector incentive schemes. It excludes expenditure on: marketing; trade facilitation; general research, education, training; or development projects, where forest is not the main focus of activities.
3. **Transfer payments** refer to all government expenditure on direct financial incentives paid to non-government and private-sector institutions, enterprises communities or individuals operating in the forest sector to implement forest related activities. It includes cash grants and subsidies. It excludes tax incentives; government loans; benefits in kind (free or subsidized materials and/or advice). It also excludes direct financial incentives available to all individuals and enterprises or not specifically related to forest related activities (e.g. relocation grants, employment subsidies, general training grant schemes).
4. See A2 reporting notes.

A.5. Informational means	
Main characteristics of informational policies	Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related informational policy. [max. 100 words] No major changes.
	Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If so, please provide reference: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Significant changes in informational means / forest related communication since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Comments	The Austrian Forest Report is structured according to the MCPFE criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. The most recent edition ("Sustainable Forest Management in Austria - Austrian Forest Report 2008") was published in 2008 and covers the period from 2005 to 2007. It is based on all the data available from various statistical surveys as well as studies by and the opinion of numerous experts.

B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

B.1. Land use and forest area & other wooded land			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.		
	Policy objectives / targets related to forest area: <input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by ha within / until (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> to limit decreasing to ha within / until (period or year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: Although the overall forest area should remain about the same, special focus is laid on areas with low forest cover (i.e. especially in the eastern parts of Austria). The Austria NFP contains a series of measures to increase the forest coverage in these areas to an appropriate level.		
	Policy objective / targets related to short rotation forestry area: <input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by ha within / until (period or year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: The topic is not addressed in the Austrian forest policy. While there is much debate about the supply of raw materials, the topic is mainly discussed in agricultural policy.		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	
Name/reference			
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No major changes.		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes. Measures used: financial measures (subsidization), e.g. afforestation of agricultural land.		
Other comments			

B.2. Carbon balance			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Adoption of the climate and energy package including targets for renewable energy and for reduction in greenhouse gas emission in 2020. (EU legislation)</p> <hr/> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to carbon sequestration by forests: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe objectives [max 100 words]: Objectives, indirectly related to carbon sequestration by forests: Additional measures to mobilize forest biomass harvest to comply with the targets included in the climate and energy package; Those measures are defined in the Austrian Energy Strategy and will lead to a lower carbon stock increase in the future.</p> <hr/> <p>Existence of specific policy / measures for forests adaptation to climate change: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe objectives: Ongoing: Working out a national adaptation strategy. In total, six sectors are involved, one of which is forestry.</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; vertical-align: top;">Name/reference</td> <td> <p>Climate and energy package comprising mainly the EU-directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (RES-directive) and the decision on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020 (effort sharing decision), adopted April 2009</p> <p>Austrian Energy Strategy, as adopted by the Austrian Federal Government in April 2010 (www.energiestrategie.at)</p> <p>National renewable action plan as referred to in Article 4 of the RES-directive, notified to the European Commission in June 2010</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	<p>Climate and energy package comprising mainly the EU-directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (RES-directive) and the decision on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020 (effort sharing decision), adopted April 2009</p> <p>Austrian Energy Strategy, as adopted by the Austrian Federal Government in April 2010 (www.energiestrategie.at)</p> <p>National renewable action plan as referred to in Article 4 of the RES-directive, notified to the European Commission in June 2010</p>
Name/reference	<p>Climate and energy package comprising mainly the EU-directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (RES-directive) and the decision on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's greenhouse gas emission reduction commitments up to 2020 (effort sharing decision), adopted April 2009</p> <p>Austrian Energy Strategy, as adopted by the Austrian Federal Government in April 2010 (www.energiestrategie.at)</p> <p>National renewable action plan as referred to in Article 4 of the RES-directive, notified to the European Commission in June 2010</p>		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]</p> <p>The Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth (together with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) is responsible for the implementation of the Austrian Energy Strategy.</p>		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Austrian Energy Strategy The Austrian Energy Strategy (http://www.energiestrategie.at/) defines measures to comply with the renewable targets (34% of national final energy consumption) and the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets (16% reduction in GHG emissions in the Effort Sharing sectors compared to 2005) up to 2020; According to measure 6.6.3 – which reiterates one important goal of the Austrian Eco Electricity Act (Ökostromgesetz, BGBl. I Nr. 104/2009) – the share of biomass in electricity production shall be increased by 100 MW in 2015. According to measure 6.6.4 additional 50 PJ of forest biomass shall be mobilized between 2005 and 2020 to increase the renewables share –</p>		

	<p>especially in heat production. Approximately 50% of the additional biomass has already been mobilized by 2009, mainly due to the installation of new biomass CHP-plants in the framework of the Austrian Eco Electricity Act.</p> <p>Adoption of a national renewable energy action plan according to Article 4 of the EU-Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources by June 2010 on the basis of the Austrian Energy Strategy, setting out Member States' national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in 2020, taking into account i.e. existing biomass resources and the mobilisation of new biomass resources.</p>
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p> <p>In January 2009, the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape published the study “Holz- und Biomasseaufkommen für Österreich (HOB1)” commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management. One major goal was to provide answers to the question of renewable energy from forests and the future availability of wood.</p> <p>The results of this study, which affirms a vast timber biomass potential of 31 Mio. m³ forest biomass under bark (u.b.) in 2020, were published in a press release on 22 January 2009 with a political declaration to mobilize up to 28 Mio. m³ forest biomass u.b. in 2020. (press release: http://www.nationalpark.or.at/article/articleview/74178/1/5843)</p>

B.3. Health and vitality	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.

B.4. Production and use of wood

Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.</p> <hr/> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to the harvesting of wood:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to increase by m³ within / until (period or year)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: In Austria, two thirds of the annual increment is harvested. One objective is to increase this rate of use, to increase the domestic supply of wood. Main focus is laid on small forest owners.</p> <hr/> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to the use of wood:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumption of energy from wood: to increase (objective related to EU Directive 2009/28/EC: The National Overall Target on renewable energies for Austria amounts 34% by 2020. A substantial part should be provided by wood biomass. by within/until (period or year)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of forest products in construction: to increase (non-quantified)(a major objective of Austrian forest policy is to promote the use of wood in construction by designing the 9 provincial building regulations more wood friendly) by within/until (period or year)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other uses: [please specify]: to increase (non-quantified) the domestic supply of the Austrian forest based industry by within/until (period or year)</p>		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management 9 provincial governments Austrian Chamber of Agriculture</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">Name/reference</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Austrian Forest Act (§1a) Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	Austrian Forest Act (§1a) Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013
Name/reference	Austrian Forest Act (§1a) Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes,</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p>		

B.5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services, especially provision of recreation		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No changes	
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td>Austrian Forest Act (§1a) Austrian NFP, 2005 Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	Austrian Forest Act (§1a) Austrian NFP, 2005 Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management 9 provincial governments Austrian Federal Forests - Österreichische Bundesforste AG (Öbf AG) Austrian Chamber of Agriculture Austrian Association of Farm & Forest Owners (Land- und Forstbetriebe Österreich)	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. 1) The Austrian NFP contains multiple measures concerning the topic. Among those, a series of conferences have been held in order to show up and discuss possibilities and limitations in the use of non-wood goods and services. Most recently (May 4, 2010, Eisenstadt, Burgenland) a symposium addressed the topic "Sport and Recreation in Forests and Nature"). 2) In 2009, there was a study (potential assessment of non-wood goods and services in Austria) carried out by the University of Applied Life Sciences, commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: "Potenzialabschätzung von Nichtholzprodukten und forstlichen Dienstleistungen in Österreich", B. Wolfslehner, H. Vacik The study was carried out in collaboration with the Austrian Association of Farm & Forest Owners (Land- und Forstbetriebe Österreich). It contains possible guidelines for creating new business fields.	

B.6. Biodiversity			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.</p> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to protected forest areas: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by ha within / until (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Name/reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	
Name/reference			
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No major changes.</p>		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p> <p>Main legal documents: Minor amendments of certain Provincial Nature Protection Laws</p> <p>In the Austrian National Forest Programme (Document: National Forest Programme - Working Programme) the relevant chapter concerning biodiversity is currently under adaption and will be adopted in autumn 2010.</p> <p>The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and partner organizations held two conferences regarding forests & biodiversity: May 2009: Title: „Forstwirtschaft(f)t Biodiversität“ May 2010: Title: „Biodiversität: Großer Wert, kein Preis?“</p> <p>The set of indicators for the latest Austrian Forest Inventory (AFI 2007/09) was complemented with additional parameters for biodiversity. The fieldwork is done, results are not published yet.</p>		
Reporting notes			
<p>Please refer to the following levels/dimensions of biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecosystem, habitat, protected areas, landscape patterns 2. Species diversity, especially tree species composition and threatened forest species 3. Genetic diversity, especially in situ and ex situ gene conservation and seed production 			

B.7. Protective services		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td>In additions to the documents listed in 2007: Austrian NFP, 2005</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	In additions to the documents listed in 2007: Austrian NFP, 2005	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]</p> <p>In addition to the institutions listed In 2007: At operational level: Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape</p>	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>No major changes.</p>	
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p> <p>The Austrian Protection Forest Strategy led to the establishment of Protection Forest Platforms (Schutzwaldplattformen). These platforms make the necessary measures for the protection forests clear to the provinces and municipalities, coordinate the same, and work to achieve the necessary balance of interests. A major objective is to create awareness within the local population.</p> <p>The Austrian NFP contains a series of measures concerning the topic. Among those, a series of conferences have been held in order to discuss problems in affected areas (Meetings of the Federal Protection Forest Platforms, INTERREG, etc.). Furthermore the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management issued topic related publications.</p> <p>In 2007 Austria signed the declaration “Strengthening Mountain Forests in Europe”.</p> <p>The Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control is currently working on a new strategy which will contain major guidelines and objectives until the year 2015. The new strategy will be applied from 2011.</p>	
Reporting notes		
Protective services cover services as specified in pan-European indicators 5.1 “Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions” and 5.2 “Protective forests – infrastructure and managed natural resources“		

B.8. Economic viability	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p> <p>In 2008, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management presented a free software tool for farm forest owners in order to support sustainable forest management ("Praxisplan Waldwirtschaft"). The software enables the creation of basic management plans. The tool should facilitate forest management and by this means motivate forest owners to increase the production of wood.</p> <p>In 2009, there was a study (potential assessment of non-wood goods and services in Austria) carried out by the University of Applied Life Sciences, commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management: "Potenzialabschätzung von Nichtholzprodukten und forstlichen Dienstleistungen in Österreich", B. Wolfslehner, H. Vacik</p> <p>The study was carried out in collaboration with the Austrian Association of Farm & Forest Owners (Land- und Forstbetriebe Österreich). It contains possible guidelines for creating new business fields.</p>

B.9. Employment (including safety and health)		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Name/reference</td> <td>In addition to the documents listed in 2007: Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	In addition to the documents listed in 2007: Austrian Governmental Programme 2008-2013	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p> <p>Labour safety and its sustainable improvement is a very important issue. The promotion of training and further education in forestry is very important with a view to safety at work. The programmes offered by the forestry training centres include a large number of courses relevant to this issue. Important contributions towards the prevention of accidents are also made by the Social Insurance Institution for Farmers and the Austrian Social Insurance for Occupational Risks.</p> <p>The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water management holds regular meetings with teachers and trainers of forest schools and training centres and other relevant institutions in order to discuss measures on improving training programs with a view to work force safety.</p> <p>July 2007: minor amendment of the Austria Forest Act, in order to comply with the Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications.</p>	

B.10. Public awareness	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No major changes.
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] In early 2009, a comprehensive long term (until 2013) communication programme on forests was launched ("Waldzeit" – http://www.waldzeit.at)
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. The Austria NFP contains a series of measures concerning public awareness. In October 2008, an educational forest-musical for kids was presented to the public. Until today, nearly 30.000 kids attended the performances of the so called "Waldoper" (Forest Opera). The International Year of Forests 2011 will be utilized for awareness campaigns by public and private institutions. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management set up a task force to coordinate activities.

B.11. Research, training and education			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	
Name/reference			
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management Technical Forestry High School Technical Forestry School Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape Forestry Training Centres University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna & other Universities Other relevant research institutions		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.		
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. <u>Research:</u> In the last two years, there was a shift of focus within forest research towards the production of biomass respectively the sustainable supply with raw material for energetic purposes. In early 2010, the EFI Regional Offices in Vienna was opened (Central-East European Regional Office – EFICEEC). <u>Training and education:</u> July 2007: minor amendment of the Austria Forest Act, in order to comply with the Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. Since 2008: major investments (25 Mill. EUR) in Technical Forestry High School in Bruck/Mur with a main focus on improving the infrastructure (enlargement and modernization of the premises). The Austrian NFP contains a couple of measures concerning the topic. In 2008 e.g., an evaluation process on a new job description of forest wardens was initiated. The results were presented in 2009.		

B.12. Cultural and spiritual values		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td>MCPFE Vienna Resolution 3 Austrian NFP, 2005 UNESCO, Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, 2003</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	MCPFE Vienna Resolution 3 Austrian NFP, 2005 UNESCO, Convention for the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage, 2003	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] In addition to the institutions listed in 2007: "Netzwerk Land": a connecting network for all stakeholders related to rural development.	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] No major changes.	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Most recently: - January 08: Workshop: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management / UNESCO-Department for Intangible Cultural Heritage: "Intangible Cultural Heritage and forestry" - January 09: Workshop: Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management / UNESCO-Department for Intangible Cultural Heritage: "Intangible Cultural Heritage and forestry"	

2. Reporting on National⁵ Implementation of Warsaw commitments and activities since 2007 in implementing former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Please report on national implementation of Warsaw commitments, and major activities since 2007 in implementing commitments from former Ministerial Conferences, if applicable. Note that responses to this part of the enquiry will be published in the next report on implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments (2007-2011), together with information on pan-European implementation of Warsaw commitments and former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

We ask that the report on national implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments since 2007 be kept to maximum 4 pages. Please do not report on participation in international cooperative efforts, but focus on implementation within your country

National implementation of Warsaw Declaration

Please give a description of national implementation of the commitments, including major achievements and remaining challenges.

The Austrian Forest Dialogue (Austrian NFP) addresses the full range of forest issues and puts focus on topical and emerging issues. Since 2007, the Austrian Forest Dialogue was taken significant steps further. A series of workshops and other activities (publications, studies etc.) was carried out in implementing the NFP's plan of action.

National implementation of Warsaw Resolution 1 Forests, Wood and Energy

Please give a description of national implementation of the commitments, including major achievements and remaining challenges

Adoption of a national renewable energy action plan according to Article 4 of the EU-Directive on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources by June 2010 on the basis of the Austrian Energy Strategy, setting out Member States' national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources consumed in 2020, taking into account i.a. existing biomass resources and the mobilisation of new biomass resources.

In January 2009, the Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape published the study "Holz- und Biomasseaufkommen für Österreich (HOB) – Wood and Biomass Supply in Austria" commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management. One major goal was to provide answers to the question of renewable energy from forests and the future availability of wood.

National implementation of Warsaw Resolution 2 Forests and Water

Please give a description of national implementation of the commitments, including major achievements and remaining challenges

The relation between forests, their management and water has been addressed since long in Austria and is institutionalized in form of the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control. A special focus was on forest management in watersheds in mountainous areas. As in response to floods in the lowlands, in 2002 the business field "Protection Against Natural Hazards" was established for better coordination of forest and water related policies. In recent years, emphasis was given to coordinating

⁵ Note that the European Commission is asked to report on EU relevant implementation activities

spacial planning, risk analyses, research and development. A special focus is put on adaptation to climate change.

Major activities since 2007 in implementing former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, if applicable

Please describe any major national activities since 2007 in implementing commitments from former Ministerial Conferences, if applicable. Please specify the Commitment (Ministerial Conference and Declaration/Resolution) to which the activity relate

Vienna Resolution 1

The Austrian Forest Dialogue (Austrian NFP) engages stakeholders and experts from 80 different organizations and institutions on a regular basis in a structured long term oriented process. It is the main instrument for cross-sectoral cooperation on forest related issues in Austria and widely considered a role model in new governance. Aside the ongoing implementation of its plan of action, at present, the whole process and programme are undergoing a thorough through evaluation that will provide the basis for setting new priorities and adjustments.

Annex 1: Terms and definitions

Forest	<p>Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i>. May consist <u>either</u> of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; <u>or</u> of open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes, which have yet to reach a crown density of 10 percent or tree height of 5m, are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area, which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.</p> <p><u>Includes:</u> Forest nurseries and seed orchards that constitute an integral part of the forest; forest roads, cleared tracts, firebreaks and other small open areas within the forest; forest in national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas such as those of special environmental, scientific, historical, cultural or spiritual interest; windbreaks and shelterbelts of trees with an area of more than 0.5 ha and a width of more than 20 m. Rubberwood plantations and cork oak stands are included.</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> Land predominantly used for agricultural practices.</p>
Other wooded land	<p>Land either with a tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of 5-10 percent of trees able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i>; or a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent of trees not able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i> (e.g. dwarf or stunted trees) and shrub or bush cover.</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> Areas having the tree, shrub or bush cover specified above but of less than 0.5 ha and width of 20 m, which are classed under "other land"; Land predominantly used for agricultural practices.</p>
Forest institutional framework	<p>It refers mainly to the organizational set-up of forest policy in the country. It further comprises formal coordinating mechanisms between these (including e.g. national forest programme process)</p>
Forest policy	<p>A set of orientations and principles of actions adopted by public authorities in harmony with national socio-economic and environmental policies in a given country to guide future decisions in relation to the management, use and conservation of forest and tree resources for the benefit of the society.</p>
National forest policy/strategy document or statement	<p>It describes the objectives, priorities and means for implementation of the forest policy.</p>
Subnational forest policy/strategy documents or statements	<p>Forest policy document or statement which refers to subnational administrative units, e.g. States in a Federation or Autonomous Regions or Provinces.</p>

<p>“National forest programme” (Nfp)</p>	<p>According to the MCPFE approach (Vienna resolution 1), a national forest programme (Nfp) is a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or subnational level in order to proceed towards the further improvement of sustainable forest management as defined in Helsinki Resolution H1, and to contribute to sustainable development.</p> <p>The principles of Nfps in Europe are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation - Holistic and inter-sectoral approach - Iterative process with long-term commitment - Capacity building - Consistency with national legislation and policies - Integration with national sustainable development strategies - Consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest related initiatives and conventions - Institutional and policy reform - Ecosystem approach - Partnership for implementation - Raising awareness
<p>Law (or Act or Code) on forest</p>	<p>Set of rules enacted by the legislative authority of a country regulating the access, management, conservation and use of forest resources.</p>
<p>Institutional framework</p>	<p>Institutional framework is understood to refer mainly to the organizational set-up of forest policy in the country. It further comprises formal coordinating mechanisms between these (including e.g. national forest programme process).</p>
<p>Forest management</p>	<p>The processes of planning and implementing practices for the stewardship and use of forests and other wooded land aimed at achieving specific environmental, economic, social and /or cultural objectives. It includes management at all scales such as normative, strategic, tactical and operational level management.</p>
<p>Forms of ownership</p>	<p>Generally refers to the legal right to freely and exclusively use, control, transfer, or otherwise benefit from a forest. Ownership can be acquired through transfers such as sales, donations, and inheritance.</p> <p><u>Explanatory notes:</u> In this questionnaire, forest ownership refers to the ownership of the trees growing on land classified as forest, regardless of whether or not the ownership of these trees coincides with the ownership of the land itself.</p>
<p>Publicly owned forest</p>	<p>Forest owned by the State; or administrative units of the Public Administration; or by institutions or corporations owned by the Public Administration.</p> <p><u>Explanatory notes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Includes all the hierarchical levels of Public Administration within a country, e.g. State, Province and Municipality. 2. Shareholder corporations that are partially State-owned, are considered as under public ownership when the State holds a majority of the shares. 3. Public ownership may exclude the possibility to transfer.
<p>Privately owned forest</p>	<p>Forest owned by individuals, families, communities, private cooperatives, corporations and other business entities, private religious and educational institutions, pension or investment funds, NGOs, nature conservation associations and other private institutions.</p>

Annex 2: Pan-European qualitative indicators

A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for sustainable forest management

A.1 National forest programmes or similar

A.2 Institutional frameworks

A.3 Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments

A.4 Financial instruments/economic policy

A.5 Informational means

B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

Ind. No.	Crit.	Policy area	Main objectives	Relevant institutions	Main policy instruments used			Signific. changes since last Ministerial Conference
					Legal/regulatory	Financial/economic	Informational	
B.1	C1	Land use and forest area and OWL ²						
B.2	C1	Carbon balance						
B.3	C2	Health and vitality						
B.4	C3	Production and use of wood						
B.5	C3	Production and use of non-wood goods and services, provision of especially recreation						
B.6	C4	Biodiversity						
B.7	C5	Protective forests and OWL						
B.8	C6	Economic viability						
B.9	C6	Employment (incl. safety and health)						
B.10	C6	Public awareness and participation						
B.11	C6	Research, training and education						
B.12	C6	Cultural and spiritual values						