

## MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE



**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:** LATVIA

Date of submission: 15/06/2010

**National correspondent:**

Name:	Ilze Silamīkele
Organisation:	Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia
Address:	Republikas laukums 2, Rīga, Latvia, LV- 1981
Phone/Fax:	+371 67027548, Fax: +371 67027096
E-mail:	ilze.silamikele@zm.gov.lv

**Other professionals involved in the reporting process:**

Name:	Lāsma Āboliņa
Organisation:	Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia
E-mail:	lasma.abolina@zm.gov.lv
Name:	Lelda Pamovska
Organisation:	Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia
E-mail:	lelda.pamovska@zm.gov.lv
Name:	
Organisation:	
E-mail:	

**Deadline for submission: 14 May 2010**

## 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 EUROPE<sup>1</sup> 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 2010<sup>2</sup>: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/44375/en>

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

---

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

<sup>2</sup> 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 2007<sup>3</sup>. 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.

---

<sup>3</sup> 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 type="checkbox"/> Formal Nfp process <sup>1</sup> <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: Forest sector political documents Internet link: <a href="http://www.zm.gov.lv/?sadala=66">http://www.zm.gov.lv/?sadala=66</a>	Starting year:	1998		
Main formal decision making body of the process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest-related environmental and social groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> tourism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> energy <input type="checkbox"/> others:	How are the key sectors involved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly formal arrangements <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> mostly informal arrangements <hr/> <input type="checkbox"/> mostly participation in Nfp workshops <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly separate consultation processes <input type="checkbox"/> other:		
Are other policies and international commitments <sup>4</sup> explicitly referred to in the Nfp or similar process?	National development policy/strategy	Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
	International forest-related commitments <sup>3</sup>	<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"/>
	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Significant changes related to the Nfp process or similar since 2007	No significant changes				
Major results of the Nfp or similar process and key lessons learned	The Cabinet of Ministers decides to enlarge wood extraction from state owned forests in year 2009 and 2010 to support forest industry in period of economic crisis. The results of forest industry production show that it helps to keep industry running and stabilize Latvia's economy.				

Comments on the Nfp or similar process	The decision was not fully discussed with all stakeholders and it caused opposition, especially from environment protection organizations. This situation makes the dialogue within forest sector more complicate now.				
<b>Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)</b>					
Existence of forest policy document (other than law)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
Title of main forest policy document <sup>4</sup> and internet links	Title: Latvian forest policy Internet links: <a href="http://www.zm.gov.lv/index.php?sadala=42&amp;id=4261">http://www.zm.gov.lv/index.php?sadala=42&amp;id=4261</a>				
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	Cabinet of Minister of Republic of Latvia	Date of endorsement	28/04/1998		
Current status of the forest policy document	<input type="checkbox"/> in development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in implementation <input type="checkbox"/> in review				
Is there explicit reference to / uptake of MCPFE instruments in the forest policy document?		Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
	MCPFE definition of SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE criteria and indicators for SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE guidelines for Nfps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 changes in forest policy documents. In reaction to EU renewable energy policy which set for Latvia the goal for renewable energy 42% (increase by 7,1% from 2005) the discussion about Wood mobilization program was started in June 2008.				
Comments on the forest policy document					
<b>Reporting notes</b>					
<p>1. Formal Nfp process means formally and explicitly acknowledged and referred to as "Nfp process"</p> <p>2. Formal arrangements comprise e.g. steering committees or other decision making bodies, consultative bodies, sector-specific working groups, etc.</p> <p>3. You may wish to refer for instance to UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, CBD, UNFCCC, etc.</p> <p>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.</p>					

<b>A.2. Institutional frameworks</b>				
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 type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Separate body <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Subnational governments <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words] Ministry of Agriculture RL responsible for formulating forest policy and preparing the necessary legislation for its implementation, while providing information to and making possible the participation of all stakeholders; State Forest Service responsible for supervision and law enforcement ; Joint Stock Company "Latvijas valsts meži" entity for management of state owned forests, responsible for the preservation and increase of state forest value and income to the forest owner - the state.			
Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests	Name or group/type <sup>1</sup> :		Forest-related staff <sup>2</sup> (2008,FTE)	
	Total [estimate]		2280	
	...of which forest administration <sup>3</sup>		1200	
	...of which management of public forests		750	
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions		330	
	... of which others			
Main private sector organizations relevant for forest policy (interest groups, associations and NGOs etc.)	Name			
	Latvian Forest Owners association			
	Latvian Forest Industry Federation			
	Latvian Fund for Nature			
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Reduction and optimization of public institutions is taking place in last two years. Forest consultancy function (information and education) is removed from State Forest Service (SFS). From beginning of 2010 SFS structure – Consultancy Service Centre with their earlier functions work as part of Ltd. Latvian Advisory and Training Centre (rural consultancy enterprise covering the whole territory of Latvia).			
Comments on the institutional framework	Forest administration - Forest department within the ministry of agriculture (only forestry related staff), State Forest Service (special department ~ 20 people manage research forests; special structure Consultancy services centre ~ 50 people responsible for consultation and education of private forest owners ); management of public forest – JSC “Latvijas valsts meži”, forest management staff in nature protection institutions not included; public forest research - Latvian State Forest institute "Silava", Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry, Faculty of Forestry Latvia University of Agriculture; Ogre technical school (forestry).			
<b>Reporting notes</b>				
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

<b>Legal/regulatory frameworks</b>		
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 type="checkbox"/> at federal level <input type="checkbox"/> other:	
Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act with national scope (e.g. Forest law, act or code)	Name and reference to legal document	Forest Law
	Main changes from previous legal act	No
	Date of enactment	2000
	Date of latest amendment	2008
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No significant changes. The last amendments in Forest Law connected with changes in structure of environmental institutions and formalizing of forest monitoring methodology.	
Comments	The discussion for Forest Law improvement with main goal to reduce administrative burden was started in 2009, but not finished yet.	
<b>International commitments</b>		
Significant changes in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No significant changes. Latvia signed declarations and resolutions of Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. The definition of sustainable forest management stated in Latvian Forest Policy is based on Helsinki Resolution H1. Main ratified conventions related to forest and forest management – Convention on Biological Diversity, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol.	
Comments		

<b>A.4. Financial instruments and economic policy</b>			
<b>Economic policy</b>			
Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests	Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related economic policy. [max. 100 words] Forest property and forest management is influenced by tax policy. Forests (forest land) are subject of property tax. Also income generated from timber selling is subject of income tax.		
Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Since January of 2010 property tax for land is heightened up to 1,5 % (before it was 1%) from cadastre value. Income tax for income generated from timber selling is reduced from 25 % to 10 % for private owner - physical entity.		
Comments			
<b>Financial instruments</b>			
Public forest management	Please describe financial arrangements related to public forests and their management [max. 100 words] State owned forest belonging to Ministry of Agriculture is managed by Stock Company "Latvijas valsts meži"(all stock is state owned, company is paying dividend to state budget every year from it's profit); state owned forests belonging to other ministries are managed by state institutions financed from state budget, for example, protected territories belonging to Ministry of Environment is managed by Nature Conservation Agency.		
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] Forestry related activities within the Rural Development Programme for Latvia 2007–2013 was taking place since end of 2008. Around 4,2 mil EUR was used for supporting forestry measures in private forests in 2009 and applications for around 7,1 mil EUR was submitted.		
Public expenditure <sup>1</sup>			
Year: 2009	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding (mil€)	<b>Total (mil€)</b>
Operational expenditure <sup>3</sup>	19,5	0	19,5
Transfer payments (support to private forest management) <sup>4</sup>	1	3,2	4,2
<b>Total public expenditure<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>20,5</b>	<b>3,2</b>	<b>23,7</b>
Of which <sup>5</sup> ...	For forest administration		19,5
	For management of public forests		0
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		2
	For other institutions. Please specify: Forest Development Fund, Hunting Management Development Fund – national support for forest related research and development projects.		0,3
Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Forestry measures within the Rural Development Programme are started with co-financed from European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (75% of public expenditure). Total planed sum for forestry activities for planning period is ~ 83 mil EUR.		
Comments	Public expenditure especially for administration is reduced by 20-40 % in 2009 and 2010 for balancing the Latvia's state budget. Provided information include financial data of Forest department within the Ministry of Agriculture, State Forest Service and research and education institutions. Data about		

nature protection administration and management of protected territories not included.

## 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	<p>Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related informational policy. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture coordinates forest sector internal and external communication. Communication within the sector going on in Forest Advisory Board discussions and through joint events like conferences, seminars. Forest sector has special event each year - Golden Cone Awards Ceremony.</p> <p>Forest sector external communication about forestry and forest management – Forest Days, competitions for youth and school children, about products and services to customers – „Zaļās mājas” <a href="http://zalasmajas.lv/par-mums/">http://zalasmajas.lv/par-mums/</a> promotion of Wood and Sustainable Building.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist? If so, please provide reference:</td> <td style="padding: 2px; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </td> </tr> </table>	Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist? If so, please provide reference:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist? If so, please provide reference:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Significant changes in informational means / forest related communication since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] No		
Comments			

## 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 changes.
	Policy objectives / targets related to forest area: <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:
	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: short rotation forestry is not formulated as policy objective till now
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
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] The measure „First afforestation of non-agricultural land” is carried out since the end of 2008 under the Rural Development Programme for Latvia 2007-2013. Objective of this measure is to facilitate afforestation of non agricultural land increasing the efficiency of land use, preserving biodiversity and recreational and using aesthetic values of landscape.
Other comments	First cycle of National forest inventory is finished 2009. Use of new information (forest cover, yield, tree species composition) is started.

<b>B.2. Carbon balance</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No
	Policy objectives / targets related to carbon sequestration by forests: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe objectives: By sustainable forest management ensure stability of carbon sequestration maintaining amount of sinks at the present level.[max 100 words]
	Existence of specific policy / measures for forests adaptation to climate change: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe objectives: [max 100 words]
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 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 changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. The objective related to carbon sequestration comes up coherently with Latvia's decision under Kyoto protocol and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

<b>B.3. Health and vitality</b>	
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
	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 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 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	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No changes. According Latvia's Forest policy (1998) the economic goal of the forest policy is to ensure the sustainable development and profitability of the forest sector, taking into account ecological and social requirements, and to generate the greatest possible increase in value added.
	Policy objectives / targets related to the harvesting of wood: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by            m <sup>3</sup> within / until            (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:
	Policy objectives / targets related to the use of wood: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumption of energy from wood: to remain the same by 2007 within/until 2012 (period or year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of forest products in construction: to remain the same by 2007 within/until 2012 (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> Other uses: [please specify]: to [please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by            within/until            (period or year)
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No 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  Name/reference            Amendment to Decision of Cabinet of Ministers "Maximum amount of timber harvest 2006-2010" (2008) (Grozījumi Ministru kabineta 2005.gada 5.oktobra rīkojumā Nr.655 "Par koku ciršanas maksimāli pieļaujamo apjomu 2006.-2010.gadam" <a href="http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=118449&amp;from=off">http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=118449&amp;from=off</a> )
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 changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Economic situation and remarkable drop of timber prices in 2008 allow to prognoses decrease of wood supply from private forest in 2009. The Cabinet of Ministers decides to increase harvesting from state owned forests in year 2009 and 2010 to stabilize wood supplies from domestic forest (~ 10mil m3/year private and state together). The open question is also round timber import from Russia, in last two years it's practically stopped due to wood export duties policy in Russia (max was 2007 ~ 1mil m3/year).

<b>B.5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services, especially provision of recreation</b>	
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
	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 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] Monitoring of wild berries bushes is started within the National forest inventory second cycle.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Public forests are open for free access (except special protective areas). Stock company "Latvijas valsts meži" provide information and infrastructure with collaboration with local municipalities about recreation facilities.

<b>B.6. Biodiversity</b>			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No 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: Area of protected forest slightly increasing – small microreserves for protecting of birds species and other have to be established.</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] Structural optimization was done – administrations of nature reserves and parks incorporated in the Nature Conservation Agency which is responsible for implementation of unified nature protection policy in Latvia (<a href="http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/">http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/</a>)</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] Discussion about improvement of instrument was initiated within the process of elaboration of Forest law (not finished yet).</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. During discussions experts emphasize that more attention should be paid to more dead wood leaving in the forest in harvesting process.</p>		
<b>Reporting notes</b>			
<p>Please refer to the following levels/dimensions of biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecosystem, habitat, protected areas, landscape patterns</li> <li>2. Species diversity, especially tree species composition and threatened forest species</li> <li>3. Genetic diversity, especially in situ and ex situ gene conservation and seed production</li> </ol>			

<b>B.7. Protective services</b>	
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
	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 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 changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. During discussions on Forest law elaboration questions about management regimes in protective belts was pointed out from nature protection NGO side, especially with connection to biodiversity.
<b>Reporting notes</b>	
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>B.8. Economic viability</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No changes. The economic goal of the Latvia's forest policy (1998) is to ensure the sustainable development and profitability of the forest sector, taking into account ecological and social requirements, and to generate the greatest possible increase in value added.
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
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
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Support from government to forest industry in period of economic crisis. The Cabinet of Ministers decides to enlarge wood extraction from state owned forests in year 2009 and 2010 to stabilize wood supplies from domestic forest.

<b>B.9. Employment (including safety and health)</b>	
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
	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 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 changes.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Forest sector employ ~ 5% of employed persons in national economy, 17 000 inhabitants employed in forestry and little bit less than 31 000 in forest industry.

<b>B.10. Public awareness</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No
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 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 changes. Information about forest sector is available on web page of Ministry of Agriculture <a href="http://www.zm.gov.lv/">http://www.zm.gov.lv/</a> , every year several events take place in Latvia to raise awareness about forest, forestry and forest sector.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. This year in the framework of EU INTERREG IVC project „FUTUREforest” the ministry in co-operation with Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava" organizes competition for schools „My Little Hike”. The competition participants’ task is to study relevant information sources on climate change, its processes and influence on the environment and economy as well as forest sector capability to mitigate climate changes and go to the nature - experiencing "little hike"( <a href="http://www.futureforest.eu/prlist.php">http://www.futureforest.eu/prlist.php</a> ).

<b>B.11. Research, training and education</b>	
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
	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 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 changes in instruments. Due to economic situation public financing is decreased in all public sectors from 2009, including research and education. Forest sector development fund reduced by 60 – 80% 2008 - 2010.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Main research institutions are Latvian State Forest institute "Silava", Latvian State Institute of Wood Chemistry, Faculty of Forestry Latvia University of Agriculture and Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Institute. Education institutions - Faculty of Forestry Latvia University of Agriculture, Ogre technical school (forestry) and wood working study programs in several technical schools.

<b>B.12. Cultural and spiritual values</b>	
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
	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 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 new instruments
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. European Regional Development Fund Estonia - Latvia Programme project "Unknown cultural heritage values in common natural and cultural space" (2009-2011) - revealing, mapping and protecting of remarkable nature and cultural heritage objects. Project give opportunity to map the relevant and also currently unknown objects, create an electronic database to increase awareness and protection, carry out extensive training and information campaign to increase environmental awareness and knowledge on cultural heritage, and establish joint Estonian - Latvian cultural heritage management and protection area with a associated training centre.

## **2. Reporting on National<sup>5</sup> 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.

### **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

### **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

### **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

---

<sup>5</sup> Note that the European Commission is asked to report on EU relevant implementation activities

## Annex 1: Terms and definitions

<b>Forest</b>	<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>
<b>Other wooded land</b>	<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>
<b>Forest institutional framework</b>	<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>
<b>Forest policy</b>	<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>
<b>National forest policy/strategy document or statement</b>	<p>It describes the objectives, priorities and means for implementation of the forest policy.</p>
<b>Subnational forest policy/strategy documents or statements</b>	<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><b>“National forest programme” (Nfp)</b></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"> <li>- Participation</li> <li>- Holistic and inter-sectoral approach</li> <li>- Iterative process with long-term commitment</li> <li>- Capacity building</li> <li>- Consistency with national legislation and policies</li> <li>- Integration with national sustainable development strategies</li> <li>- Consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest related initiatives and conventions</li> <li>- Institutional and policy reform</li> <li>- Ecosystem approach</li> <li>- Partnership for implementation</li> <li>- Raising awareness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Law (or Act or Code) on forest</b></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><b>Institutional framework</b></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><b>Forest management</b></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><b>Forms of ownership</b></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><b>Publicly owned forest</b></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"> <li>1. Includes all the hierarchical levels of Public Administration within a country, e.g. State, Province and Municipality.</li> <li>2. Shareholder corporations that are partially State-owned, are considered as under public ownership when the State holds a majority of the shares.</li> <li>3. Public ownership may exclude the possibility to transfer.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Privately owned forest</b></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 <sup>2</sup>						
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						