



**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:

Slovak Republic

Date of submission:

##15/07/2010###

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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 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 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: National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic Internet link:	Starting year:	2006		
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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partly <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
Who is regularly participating in the Nfp or similar process?	Administration responsible for forestry Forest owners representatives Representatives from other sectors Forest-related environmental and social groups Forest based industry Forest education and/or research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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 type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> tourism <input type="checkbox"/> energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others: <i>Ministry of Environment</i> <i>Ministry of Economy</i> <i>Ministry of Defence</i> <i>Ministry of Health</i> <i>Ministry of Construction and Regional Development</i> <i>Ministry of Finance</i> <i>Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family</i> <i>Ministry of Interior</i> <i>Ministry of Education</i>	How are the key sectors involved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly formal arrangements ² <input type="checkbox"/> mostly informal arrangements <hr/> <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?	National development policy/strategy International forest-related commitments ³ Other: Other:	Yes/fully <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Partly <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

<p>How is policy implementation monitored and evaluated?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-specified periodic monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodically, but not pre-determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Specific measures for policy implementation were set up in Action Programme of NFP SR, which is foremost an indicative plan (measures for fulfilment of the objectives were proposed irrespective of the fact, if there will be sufficient amount of finances and human resources in the realization period).				
	<p>Are MCPFE criteria & indicators for SFM used in monitoring and evaluation policies?</p>	<p>Yes/fully <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Partly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Don't know <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Significant changes related to the Nfp process or similar since 2007</p>	<p>Development of the AP of NFP SR for a period 2009-2013 – detailed work out of objectives and setting of specific measures and financial provisions.</p> <p>Development of Vision, Prognosis and Forest Development Strategy in Slovakia (MORAVČÍK, M. ET AL., 2009), which is a combination of two documents: Prognosis and Visions of Slovak Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Rural Development (part forestry) and Forest Development Strategy and sets an up to date and comprehensive overview on forestry in general and on elaboration of these documents.</p>				
<p>Major results of the Nfp or similar process and key lessons learned</p>	<p>NFP was further elaborated in Action Plan of the NFP as stated below. Results will be evaluated in the end of the period of validity, i.e. after 2020. Because of there are 18 strategic objectives that cover all aspects of forestry sector evaluation will be comprehensive. Since NFP is in force 3 year, a more detailed evaluation has not yet started.</p>				
<p>Comments on the Nfp or similar process</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture of the SR (MA SR) initiated NFP process in 2004, when was the proposal discussed and submitted to the other sectors for further discussions and comments. To inform the public, the proposal was put on a website.</p> <p>During the document elaboration, which was mostly accomplished by National Forest Centre representatives, outcomes of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in 2003 were applied.</p>				
<p>Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)</p>					
<p>Existence of forest policy document (other than law)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		
<p>Title of main forest policy document⁴ and internet links</p>	<p>Title: National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic (NFP SR) Action Plan of the National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic (AP of NFP SR) Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013 (RDP SR)</p> <p>Internet links: http://www.land.gov.sk/sk/index.php?navID=2&navID2=2&sID=37&sID2=38&id=481 http://www.land.gov.sk/sk/index.php?navID=2&navID2=2&sID=37&sID2=38&id=2017 http://www.land.gov.sk/en/index.php?start&language=en&navID=1&id=19</p>				
<p>Forest policy document development process</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> formal Nfp process or process explicitly guided by Nfp principles <input type="checkbox"/> process similar to Nfp or other process				
<p>Name of endorsing/authorizing /enacting institution of the forest policy document</p>	<p>The National Council of the Slovak Republic</p>	<p>Date of endorsement</p>	<p>20 September 2007</p>		
<p>Current status of the forest policy document</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> in development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in implementation <input type="checkbox"/> in review				

		Yes/ fully	Partly	No	Don't know
Is there explicit reference to / uptake of MCPFE instruments in the forest policy document?	MCPFE definition of SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE criteria and indicators for SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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] 1. National Council of The Slovak Republic charged Ministry of Agriculture in 2007 with elaboration of AP of NFP SR until 31 June 2008. This document was set up for a period 2009-2013. Unlike NFP SR that includes general overview of forest management, strategic objectives, priorities and framework objectives, this document contains specific responsibilities for realization of measures, deadline for realization of measures, financial capacity and resources of funding. 2. Conception of the Agricultural Development 2007-2013 – part Forestry (CAD) 3. Prognosis and Visions of Slovak Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Rural Development (part forestry)				
Comments on the forest policy document	NFP SR is basic document that guarantees a sustainable forest management in the forests. It was approved by the Government of the SR on 27 June 2007 and National Council of the SR took note of it on 20 September 2007 and was worked out for the period by 2020 by formulating five strategic goals, 18 priorities and 52 framework objectives. 5 strategic objectives: -Support of ecological forest management -Improvement and protection of the environment -Improving quality of life -Increasing long-term competitiveness -Strengthening cooperation, coordination and communication				
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Separate body <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words] Ministry of Agriculture of the SR is the supreme national authority on forests. Other bodies are regional and district forest offices, state forest organizations. Forests owned by state are managed by state bodies, namely the Forests of the Slovak Republic, s.e., Forest-Agricultural Estate Ulič, s.e. (FAE) and the State Forests TANAP (SF TANAP). All these bodies are under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Military Forests and Estates, s. e., Pliešovce (MFE SR) is a statutory unit of the Ministry of Defence. Atop the state forests, state bodies also manage unreclaimed forests and forests leased from non-state subjects.			
Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests	Name or group/type ¹ :	Forest-related staff ² (2008,FTE)		
	Total [estimate]	5870		
	...of which forest administration ³	270		
	...of which management of public forests	5200		
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions	400		
... of which others				
Main private sector organizations relevant for forest policy (interest groups, associations and NGOs etc.)	Name			
	Council of Non-state Forest Owner Associations			
	Union of Regional Associations of Non-state Forest Association of Municipal Forests in Slovakia			
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Public framework: Management of wood processing industry was moved from Ministry of Economy to MA SR and a new unit, Section of forest management and wood processing was established.			
Comments on the institutional framework	Non-state forests include private, municipal, community, church and agricultural co-operative forests. Most common legal and corporate forms represented in non-state sector include land associations with/without corporate entity status, limited companies, shared companies, natural persons with/without business license, and special units (commercial, semi-budgetary) of municipal offices.			
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 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	Act No. 326/2005 of the Coll. on Forests as amended. (The same act as in 2007 answer). The last amendment by Act No. 540/2008 of the Coll.
	Main changes from previous legal act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consent of forest owner with declaring the forests for special purpose forests and agreement on the amount and way of reimbursement of detriment due to restrictions of ownership's rights - Ban on clear-felling system; introducing a special regeneration method – forest reconstruction, in damaged, more open, weeded forest stands, in conversions - Determination of purposeful silvicultural system being applied mainly in protective and special purpose forests - Introduction of the regime of forest roads utilization, performing forestry-technical reclamation and torrent control in the forests, with considering the ownership of forest lands
	Date of enactment	Date of Adoption: 23 June 2005 Valid from: 22 July 2005 Effective from: 1 September 2005
	Date of latest amendment	Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll. On Forests Date of Adoption: 21 June 2007 Effective from: 1 September 2007
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Changes in the Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll. On Forests: Amendment is focused on solving problem with applying the law in practice (mainly conflict in providing professional forest management under the principles of sustainable development): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic methods and their forms 2. Selection of the executor of the forest management plan and related activities and methods of payment 3. Elimination of distortion in proper forest management in small-scale forests 4. The protection of forest lands 5. The conditions of professional forest management 	
Comments	Main changes from previous legal act (cont.): - Introduction of the regime of incidental felling in protected areas with the highest degree of protection - New act does not deal with the issue of gathering forest fruits, berries - New provision on reimbursement of damage to forest property and reimbursement of detriment due to restrictions of ownership's rights - Establishment of a new regime of funding, elaboration of forest management plans with covering the costs by the state as well as forest manager - Introduction of the regime of professional forest administration on the basis of the decision of the organ of state forest administration	

International commitments	
Significant changes in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country, since 2007	<p>Please specify [max. 100 words] Slovakia is in international relations concerning forestry represented by Ministry of Agriculture of the SR. International obligations and engagements were met through close cooperation between its Forestry and International Cooperation Departments. The following list names the most important bodies and processes with a direct involvement of Slovakia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working Group on Forests of the EU Council • EC Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) • United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) • FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) • Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). <p>There are not any significant changes in implementation of international commitments related to forests in Slovakia</p>
Comments	

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] Economic policy of forestry sector was realized on the principles of the documents called CAD 2007 – 2013 – part Forestry and NFP SR, which were worked out in relation to the vision and strategy of the EU Forestry Action Plan. Main focus was targeted to improve the competitiveness and viability of the forestry and to sustainable forests management.		
Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Improving of the competitiveness and viability of the forestry is assumed through development of an economic system of compensation for providing the ecological and social functions of forests and forestry services to society.		
Comments	Two research projects “Research, classification and implementation of forest functions in landscape” and “Evaluation of public-beneficial functions of forest and agricultural ecosystems and sectors services” run in Slovakia. Results of these projects should be implemented into policy documents and influence the economic policy of forestry in Slovakia in next years as well.		
Financial instruments			
Public forest management	Please describe financial arrangements related to public forests and their management [max. 100 words] Public forests were supported through MA SR under the following budget lines: “Sustainable Forestry” (08V01 – Structural Funding for Forest Sector; 08V02 – Revival and Development of Forest Sector; 08V03 – Research and Expert Assistance for Sustainable Forestry) and “Policy formulation, Regulation and Implementation (090-01 – Programme Funding; 090-04 – Information System of agriculture; 090-05 – Statistical Information System) and from other sources: budget line of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Environment.		
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] Private forests were supported through MA SR under the budget line: “Sustainable Forestry” (08V01 – Structural Funding for Forest Sector). Main measures supported are: forestry operations, investments and other measures (forest management plans, national parks, forest fire protection etc.) For supporting private forests subsidies were used as a financial instrument.)		
Public expenditure ¹			
Year: 2009	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding (mil€)	Total (mil€)
Operational expenditure ³	9,5	0,7	10,2
Transfer payments (support to private forest management) ⁴	11,4 (3,9) - Private	2,5 (0,9) - Private	13,9 (4,8) - Private
Total public expenditure¹	20,9	3,2	24,1
Of which ⁵ ...	For forest administration		3,9
	For management of public forests		13,9
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		5,5
	For other institutions. Please specify:		0,8
Significant changes in financial instruments	Please specify [max. 100 words] It was implemented the RDP 2007 – 2013 (Measures: adding value to		

related to forests since 2007	agricultural and forestry products, Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forest management, Improvement of the economic value of forests, Vocational training and information activities, Use of advisory services, First afforestation of agricultural land, Natura 2000 payments, Forest environment payments, Restoring forestry potential and introducing of preventive measures, Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage). Forestry can be supported also from other operational programmes: OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth, OP Research an
Comments	The trend of public support to forestry is decreasing. It was caused by finishing of support from Sectoral Operational Programme Agriculture and Rural Development on one hand and starting the RDP 2007-2013 on the other hand. It is assumed higher funding of forestry in next years. Government revenues include: economic result of state forests, penalties and sanctions, taxes and charges, license fee for hunting. The official exchange rate 30,126 SKK/€ was used for transformation from national currency SKK to Euro

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>The Forestry information system of the Slovak Republic is based on the approved concept of the sectoral information system, as well as computerization of the MA SR.</p> <p>The goal of system is to monitor and present all forestry fields. The system consists of these subsystems: forest condition and development, forest management record, owner and user relations, sectoral statistics, forestry market information system and geographical subsystem.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist? If so, please provide reference:</td> <td style="width: 20%; 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	<p>Please specify [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Principles of informational means and mainly forest monitoring are set up in document FDP 2008. In its first objective, that focuses on Development and realization of a complex inventory system and monitoring of all components and functions of forest ecosystems, it presents 5 systems to collect and process information on forest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Inventory and Monitoring of Forests of Slovakia – provides data that are obtained by mathematical-statistics method of determining the conditions of forests for national or regional level. 2. Monitoring of forests condition – provides data on forests health conditions indicators and factors (anthropogenic and natural), which influence the conditions of the forests. 3. Detailed monitoring of forests conditions under the description of forest stands in the framework of forest management plans elaboration. 4. Complex monitoring of forests conditions for framework or specific planning. 5. Economic information on management activities of forest management and its subjects. <p>In 2006 the “Working group on coordination of communication strategy” was created by the representatives of the most important forestry organizations. The representatives from the MA SR, National Forest Centre, State Forest Enterprise, State Forests of Tatra National Park, Forestry Faculty, forestry secondary schools, Slovak Forestry Chamber, Association of Forest Owners, municipal forests, etc. started to cooperate in dealing with communication and PR. The first mutual PR Concept and “Communication Strategy in Forestry Sector” were developed by National Forest Centre and were approved by the partner organizations. The concept became a base for common forestry strategy of communication with various target groups. It focuses on pro-active dialog with the public to increase public acceptance and positive perception of forestry sector and a profession of forester as well by public.</p> <p>The group of professionals is also preparing the official concept of Forest pedagogics – Forest related environmental education, which focuses at the increasing of positive relations and perception of public to forests and foresters using interactive learning methods.</p> <p>In 2008 a new informational web page was launched with the objective of providing information on the Slovak forests, forestry and forest management to the general public. This web page is administrated by National Forest Centre and you can find it at: http://www.forestportal.sk.</p> <p>See also: http://www.lesnapedagogika.sk/en/ http://www.lesnickedni.sk/index.php?lang=en</p>		
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	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>New objectives related to land use were formulated in new forest policy documents adopted in Slovakia after 2007. In-processed in details in the FDS. Mainly these objectives are closely related to "Forest land use":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creation of healthy, ecologically stable and biologically diversified forests as a basic condition of sustainable management and forest land use, under the conditions of synergic effects of injurious agents and expected climate change ▪ To maintain biological sources of forests, their genetic and ecosystems diversity, to use them in a sustainable way ▪ To carry out a comprehensive inventory and monitoring of all components and functions of forest ecosystems ▪ Assuring maximal functional efficiency of forests with prevailing protection functions (ecological and social) by maintaining and enhancing their vitality and stability ▪ Use of wood biomass for energy generation as an important factor ... of alternative use of forest lands ▪ Elaborating a programme of afforestation of marginal agricultural lands ... 		
	<p>Policy objectives / targets related to forest area:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to increase by non-quantified ha within / until (period or year)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to limit decreasing to ha within / until (period or year)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: Actual forest percentage in Slovakia – about 41% seems to be sufficient. However there is a great potential for the statistical increase of forest area in Slovakia. It was found out that area of forest on non-forest lands (agricultural, others) is up to 275±3.7 ths. ha – forests on other lands. These forests are not managed by forest act (but by act on protection of nature and landscape with very low level of institutional care); they do not have elaborated forest management plans, there are not recorded any realised measures and so on. The issue should be solved by the change of actual land class into class of forest land according to their</p>		
	<p>Policy objective / targets related to short rotation forestry area:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to increase by non-quantified ha within / until (period or year)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: Objectives: 1) Increase of volume and improvement of structure of timber assortments supply. 2) Securing permanent and balanced timber production.</p> <p>There were formulated "Principles and measures for securing of effective primary production of timber raw material". One of them is: Establishment of intensive forest stands for quicker production of qualitative wood for industrial processing and wood chips for energetic purposes</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: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td>AP of NFP SR Vision, Prognosis and Forest Development Strategy in Slovakia, 2009</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	AP of NFP SR Vision, Prognosis and Forest Development Strategy in Slovakia, 2009
Name/reference	AP of NFP SR Vision, Prognosis and Forest Development Strategy in Slovakia, 2009		
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>No relevant changes in institutions</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>Changes reside mainly in Consecutive implementation of above mentioned objectives in the Slovakian forestry.</p> <p>Concerning this issue, among another documents can be assigned NFP</p>		

	and RDP SR in which there were applied some economic and financial instruments on securing above mentioned objectives. There are currently applied mainly payments in the scope of these measures of the RDP SR: regeneration of forestry potential; first afforestation of agricultural land; increase of economic value of forests; infrastructure related to development and adaptation of forestry; forest and environmental payments; payments in the scope of NATURA 2000 system.
Other comments	

B.2. Carbon balance	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] No changes. Main objective remains still identical: To mitigate impacts of climate change and to support adaptation of forests to the effects of climate change.
	Policy objectives / targets related to carbon sequestration by forests: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe objectives: Policy objectives related to carbon balance are presented in two main policy documents: NFP SR and FDS, which specifies main objectives and priorities of the NFP SR. NFP SR: Priority 4: To mitigate impacts of climate change and support adaptation of forests to the effects of climate change), states in one of its framework objectives to “increase the carbon store on forest ecosystems through forestry measures (maintenance, replacement of carbon).”[max 100 words]
	Existence of specific policy / measures for forests adaptation to climate change: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe objectives: FDS further elaborates this problem area a sets up measures to mitigate impacts and adaptation of forests to the effects of climate change: - afforestation of non-forest areas - increasing of carbon store in existing forests by forest restoration after the intentional and incidental felling and by forest reconstruction based on: 1.Enhancement of forest health condition and 2. Transformation of low-productive forests - adaptation of tree species composition - conservation and restoration of forest-tree species genetic resources - foundation and maintenance of forest protected areas - production and exploitation of wood biomass [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. Main responsible organizations are still Ministry of Environment of the SR and MA SR.
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] Changes are indicated in NFP SR and FDS as mentioned above. RDP 2007-2013, Measure 5.3.2.2.1. First afforestation of agricultural land. First afforestation should serve to extend and improve forest resources in order to protect environment and to mitigate impacts of climate change. Current main instruments are following: - adaptation of tree species composition - conservation and restoration of forest-tree species genetic resources - foundation and maintenance of forest protected areas - production and exploitation of wood biomass for energetic purposes, - and afforestation of agricultural land. All the instruments mentioned in the 2007 are still relevant.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.

B.3. Health and vitality			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Objectives are indicated in NFP SR in Priority 5: To strengthen forest protection and are further specified in FDS as objectives: To increase forest protection effectiveness with help of all possible, environmental friendly and economically viable measures. This is divided into 3 parts: 1. Creation of an effective system of forest protection with long-term measures (the increase of forest stands stability and revitalization measures), short-term measures (security) and combined measures (prevention, protection and pests regulation), 2. Monitoring of damaging factors particular focusing on invasive species (cont. in comments) 3. Increase the research intensity regarding measures to reduce the negative effect of damaging factors on forest stands.		
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%; vertical-align: top;">Name/reference</td> <td> 1. Act No. 295/2007 of the Coll. on Plant Health Care Date of issue: 17 May 2007 2. Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll. on Forests Date of issue: 21 June 2007 3. Act No. 454/2007 of the Coll. on Nature and Countryside Protection Date of issue: 11 September 2007 4. Act No. 45/2009 of the Coll. on Plant Health Care Date of issue: 3 February 2009 5. RDP 2007-2013 </td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	1. Act No. 295/2007 of the Coll. on Plant Health Care Date of issue: 17 May 2007 2. Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll. on Forests Date of issue: 21 June 2007 3. Act No. 454/2007 of the Coll. on Nature and Countryside Protection Date of issue: 11 September 2007 4. Act No. 45/2009 of the Coll. on Plant Health Care Date of issue: 3 February 2009 5. RDP 2007-2013
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Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No changes. Forest Protection Service as a part of National Forest Centre – Forest Research Institute is responsible for survey and control of forest pest agents and forest health.		
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] RDP 2007-2013: Under Measures on the sustainable use of agricultural land: Measure 5.3.2.2.1. First afforestation of agricultural land. First afforestation should serve to extend and improve forest resources in order to protect environment and to mitigate impacts of climate change. Measure 5.3.2.2.3. Forest-agricultural payments Measure 5.3.2.2.4. Restoration forest potential and introduction of prevention activities (as the most important measure for health and vitality) The last measure will meet following objective: to strengthen the biodiversity and ecological stability of the forests and improving its public functions, to reduce the risk of soil erosion, to increase the absorption potential of forest soil and to enhance the water functions of the soil, to increase protection from forest fires. Forest Management Plan – preventive measures on increase of ecological stability of forests. – still relevant Professional Forester – he monitors state and development of injurious agents and proposes measures. – still relevant Programme on elimination of damages in forest ecosystems by the year 2010. Funding measures of the programme was secured from own financial sources of forest managers and from public sources: Sectoral Operational Programme Agriculture and Rural Development. - finished		
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] The specific changes are set up in NFP SR in Priority 17: To support the use of wood and another wood products from forests managed in sustainable way and its particular objectives, that are elaborated in FDS: Objective 1: The increase of wood production, Objective 2: Provisions for consistent and balanced wood production, Objective 3: The increase of capacity and supplies structure of timber assortment. (Higher access on use of wood as energy source. Support for boilers for wood chips use as energy in apartments. Higher wood consumption in construction and furniture as higher Slovak GDP growth in 2007-2008.).</p> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to the harvesting of wood: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by m³ within / until (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Roundwood 1000m³</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> <th>2010</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Production</td> <td>8 131</td> <td>9 268</td> <td>9 087</td> <td>9 100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Export</td> <td>1 533</td> <td>2 289</td> <td>2 685</td> <td>2 500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Import</td> <td>413</td> <td>808</td> <td>365</td> <td>400</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to the use of wood: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumption of energy from wood: to increase [please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by 35% within/until 2008-2009 (period or year) In the period 2010-2013 consumption of energy from wood will increase approximately 5-8% per year first of all from harvesting residues. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Use of forest products in construction: to increase[please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by 30% within/until 2007-2008 (period or year) In the period 2009-2010 it will decrease 25% due to world economy crisis. For the period 2011 –2013 increase at the level of year 2008. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other uses: [please specify] : furniture production and use : to increase [please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by 25% within/until 2007-2008 (period or year) In the years 2009-2010 it will decrease 25% due to world economy crisis. For the period 2011 –2013 increase at the level of year 2008.</p>	Roundwood 1000m ³	2007	2008	2009	2010	Production	8 131	9 268	9 087	9 100	Export	1 533	2 289	2 685	2 500	Import	413	808	365	400
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Export	1 533	2 289	2 685	2 500																	
Import	413	808	365	400																	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Since 2008 department of wood processing industry has been moved from Ministry of Economy at MA SR. Now forestry and wood processing industry create a common unit at Ministry of Agriculture under the Section of forest management and wood processing.</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%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td>Act No.165/2009 of the Coll. – with reference to the changes in relevant institutions Effective from: 1 June 2009</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	Act No.165/2009 of the Coll. – with reference to the changes in relevant institutions Effective from: 1 June 2009																		
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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] Above-mentioned changes in political instruments. Instruments in 2007 report are still relevant.</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	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>The main objectives and priorities result from the NFP SR, Priority 11: Valuation and marketing of forest non-wood products and services. Changes in objectives are identified further in FDS (in-processed in details):</p> <p>Objective 1: Implementation of method of identification, quantification and assessment of non-wood products and services.</p> <p>Objective 2: Gradual achievement of the societal acceptance of ecological and social forest functions.</p> <p>Objective 3: Realization of a system for economic assurance of still not traded forest functions and forest services.</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: 30%; vertical-align: top;">Name/reference</td> <td> <p>1. AP of NFP SR</p> <p>Measures and financial provisions in the framework of Strategic Objective 4: Increasing a long-term competitiveness, Priority 11: Valuation and marketing of forest non-wood products and services, Framework objective 30: Proposal and implementation of methods of identification, quantification and assessment of non-wood products and benefits from non-production forest functions, framework objective 31: Gradual achievement of the societal acceptance of non-production forest functions as externalities of forest management. (cont. in comments)</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	<p>1. AP of NFP SR</p> <p>Measures and financial provisions in the framework of Strategic Objective 4: Increasing a long-term competitiveness, Priority 11: Valuation and marketing of forest non-wood products and services, Framework objective 30: Proposal and implementation of methods of identification, quantification and assessment of non-wood products and benefits from non-production forest functions, framework objective 31: Gradual achievement of the societal acceptance of non-production forest functions as externalities of forest management. (cont. in comments)</p>
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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>See Table B.4. Production and use of wood, part "Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007"</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>Above-mentioned changes in political instruments.</p> <p>The most important funding instrument for the accomplishment of forest policy objectives and priorities, concerning Production and use of non-wood goods and services, is the RDP SR 2007 – 2013.</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. . Changes in main legal or reference document (cont.): FDP Strategic Objective 4: Increasing a long-term competitiveness, Priority 11: Valuation and marketing of forest non-wood products and services. (Advanced specification and explanation of the NFPs' objectives as stated in "Changes in main objectives since 2007")</p> <p>3. Prognosis and Visions of Slovak Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Rural Development (part Forestry)</p> <p>Section: Production of non-wood forest products.</p> <p>4. Regulation No. 499/2008 of the Coll. on conditions for providing subsidies under RDP</p>		

B.6. Biodiversity							
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words] NFP SR: Priority 3: To support conservation, improvement and increase of biological diversity of forests Objectives – in-processed in details by the FDS in the FDS: 1) Preservation of biological forest sources, their genetic, species and ecosystem diversity as well as their sustainable utilization 2) Creation of legal, technical and economic preconditions for active differentiated care about forest ecosystems in protected territories in dependence on their naturalness. 3) Preservation and in reasoned cases adequate improvement of biological diversity in commercial forests and in forests with prevailing ecological and social functions.</p> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to protected forest areas: <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: Ongoing disputes between foresters, forest owners and conservations about the type of management of protected areas (management vs. natural processes) and as well as about their area. In general, current area of protected areas is acceptable only in the case of not very strict protection, despite this, conservationists are calling for stricter protection (in many cases for intervention-free management). Therefore, there is no consensus on this issue. Area of Natura 2000 was constant, and slight increase is expected due to requirements of European Commission.</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;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Amendment of the Act No. 543/2002 of the Coll. on nature conservation and landscape protection introduced by Act No.117/2010 of the Coll.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Amendment of the Act No. 326/2005 of the Coll. on forests and Act No. 217/2004 of the Coll. on forest reproduction material introduced by Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name/reference			Amendment of the Act No. 543/2002 of the Coll. on nature conservation and landscape protection introduced by Act No.117/2010 of the Coll.		Amendment of the Act No. 326/2005 of the Coll. on forests and Act No. 217/2004 of the Coll. on forest reproduction material introduced by Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll.
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	Amendment of the Act No. 543/2002 of the Coll. on nature conservation and landscape protection introduced by Act No.117/2010 of the Coll.						
	Amendment of the Act No. 326/2005 of the Coll. on forests and Act No. 217/2004 of the Coll. on forest reproduction material introduced by Act No. 360/2007 of the Coll.						
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] No 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] Above-mentioned changes in legal and political instruments. Instruments stated in 2007 report are still relevant.</p>						
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. While the main part of responsibility for biodiversity conservation belongs to the State Nature Conservancy (under Ministry of Environment), the stewardship of forests (even in protected areas) is traditionally controlled by organizations under MA SR, i.e. relevant bodies of State Administration of Forestry (regional forest offices), forest management plans elaborated by bodies partially paid by MA SR supervised by National Forest Centre, certified forest managers, forest owners or tenures or the Forests of Slovak Republic (state forest enterprise). Forests of Tatra National Park are managed by the State Forests of TANAP.</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] NFP SR: Priority 7: To preserve and improve of protective forest functions Objectives – in-processed in details by the FDS: 1) To secure maximal function effectiveness of forests with prevailing protective functions mainly through the maintenance and improvement their vitality and stability. 2) Creation of legal, technical and economic preconditions for active differentiated care about forest ecosystems in protected territories in dependence on their naturalness. 3) Preservation and in reasoned cases adequate improvement of biological diversity in commercial forests and in forests with prevailing ecological and social functions.	
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>An approval of the National Water Plan (Governmental Decree No. 109 from 10 February 2010), the plan directly implements the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, impacts of this plan on forestry is still unknown.</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	An approval of the National Water Plan (Governmental Decree No. 109 from 10 February 2010), the plan directly implements the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, impacts of this plan on forestry is still unknown.	
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] Above-mentioned changes in political instruments. Instruments stated in 2007 report are still relevant.	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Slovakia has only one tool for support of protective services, which is called “categorization of forests” (according to their primary functions). This categorization is based on site survey and it is legally binding for forests owners. No taxes are paid for protective forests, however, forest owners sometimes consider this financial support not sufficient and call for new payment schemes for protective services. There is traditional lack of cooperation between foresters and water managers in Slovakia.	
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	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>The main objectives and priorities result from the NFP SR, Priority 9: To increase long-term competitiveness and economic viability of multifunctional forestry. In-processing and changes in objectives are identified further in the FDS as goals of the above-mentioned Priority:</p> <p>Objective 1: To increase competitiveness of forestry by utilization of basic production factors,</p> <p>Objective 2: Increasing economic effectiveness by optimalization of operative, marketing and innovative approaches,</p> <p>Objective 3: Improvement and actualization of instruments of forestry policy and economy.</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: 30%; vertical-align: top;">Name/reference</td> <td> <p>1. AP of NFP SR Measures and financial provisions in the framework of Strategic Objective 3: Improving quality of life, Priority 8: To increase contribution of forests and forestry to development of rural economy, Strategic Objective 4: Increasing a long-term competitiveness, Priority 9: To increase long-term competitiveness and economic viability of multifunctional forestry.</p> <p>2. FDS</p> <p>3. Prognosis and Visions of Slovak Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Rural Development (part Forestry)</p> <p>4. Regulation No. 499/2008 of the Coll. on condition for providing subsidies under RDP 2007-2013</p> </td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	<p>1. AP of NFP SR Measures and financial provisions in the framework of Strategic Objective 3: Improving quality of life, Priority 8: To increase contribution of forests and forestry to development of rural economy, Strategic Objective 4: Increasing a long-term competitiveness, Priority 9: To increase long-term competitiveness and economic viability of multifunctional forestry.</p> <p>2. FDS</p> <p>3. Prognosis and Visions of Slovak Agriculture, Food, Forestry and Rural Development (part Forestry)</p> <p>4. Regulation No. 499/2008 of the Coll. on condition for providing subsidies under RDP 2007-2013</p>
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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>See Table B.4. Production and use of wood, part "Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007"</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 changes.</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p>		

B.9. Employment (including safety and health)		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Human resources development, improving employability, strengthening social inclusion and building capacities. Due to economic crisis the objective since 2009 is extended on maintaining of employment. The new Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion (OP EaSI) was prepared and is implementing during the programming period 2007 – 2013.	
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>1. The Operational Programme Employment and Social Inclusion (OP EaSI) 2007 - 2013 Web: http://www.nsrr.sk/en/operational-programmes/employment-and-social-inclusion/ 2. Labor code 2009 Web: http://www.employment.gov.sk/index.php?id=17621</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
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Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] The authorities involved in the OP management and implementation: Managing Authority: Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR, Intermediate Body under the Managing Authority: Social Implementation Agency, Social Development Fund of the SR. The Managing Authority bears full responsibility for the execution of the delegated powers.	
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 main policy instrument is the OP EaSI with the objective directed towards the main labour market elements, specifically to the movement towards full employment (growth of employment and decrease of unemployment) and to supporting the employment of persons endangered by exclusion from the labour market (who are most sensitive to changes in conditions in the labour market).	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.	

B.10. Public awareness		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Priority 18 of FDS: To support environmental education and systematic work with the public in order to achieve a positive change in perception of forestry by the public, Objective 1: Realization of complex strategy and ensuring of adequate institutional conditions for public relations activities, Objective 2: Improving coordination and cooperation in public relations among forest and non-forest public influential organizations based in forestry, Objective 3: Improving financial and organizational conditions for public relations.	
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>1. NFP SR 2. CAD 2007-2013 3. AP of NFP SR 4. FDS</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	1. NFP SR 2. CAD 2007-2013 3. AP of NFP SR 4. FDS	
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] Forestry organizations in Slovakia are supported by joint pan - European communication activities (European Forest Week). On national level, a mutual cooperation of forestry organizations was set up, for example, organizing of the National Forestry Days all around the Slovakia involving forestry sector. Other instruments are: forest related environmental education (Forest Pedagogics), building of Forest Open Air Museum, construction of educational paths and Special Forestry Sites, media communication and education of foresters in communication skills.	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Communication on forests and forestry plays a crucial role in order to increase awareness of the positive state of European forests, improve people's understanding of sustainable forest management as a source of multiple benefits, increase sense of responsibility and interaction for the role of forests and forestry ahead climate change.	

B.11. Research, training and education								
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Priority 10 of the FDS: To support research and technological development in order to improve competitiveness of the forestry sector, Objective 1: Improving economic, legislative, institutional and informational instruments to strengthen forest research, technological development, innovations and faster transfer of results into practice, Objective 2: Assuring orientation of forest research to scientific-technical projects in the framework of the State Science and Research Programme and international research programmes in the framework of the 7th Framework Programme for science and research. (cont. in comments)							
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"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name/reference</th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1. RDP 2007-2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2. FDS</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3. AP of NLP SR</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name/reference			1. RDP 2007-2013		2. FDS	
Name/reference								
	1. RDP 2007-2013							
	2. FDS							
	3. AP of NLP SR							
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] The main organizations in further education have been the same as in 2007: National Forest Centre -- Institute for Forest Consulting and Education Zvolen. Technical University in Zvolen - Centre of further education.							
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 change in use of main instruments since 2007.							
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Changes in objectives (cont.): Priority 18 of the FDS: See Table B.10. Main objectives in further education (2007): To improve education, consultation, and technical courses and training in forest sector with regard to requirements of labour market and building knowledge economics. Forest related environmental education (forest pedagogics) was implemented into the main objectives in further education. Further education: Since 2008, the RDP (Measure 5.3.1.6 - Vocational training and information activities) has been used to fund further education in forest sector. During last two years, more than 2000 participants took part in the course.							

B.12. Cultural and spiritual values		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Name/reference</td> <td>The Act No. 208/2009 of the Coll. amending and supplementing the Act. No. 49/2002 of the Coll. on the protection of cultural heritage as amended by Act. 479/2005.</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	The Act No. 208/2009 of the Coll. amending and supplementing the Act. No. 49/2002 of the Coll. on the protection of cultural heritage as amended by Act. 479/2005.	
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>The Monuments Board of the Slovak Republic is the most important institution under the Ministry of Culture. The Institute of Monuments Preservation in Bratislava is responsible for the General Inventory of the Cultural Monuments (GIM) of Slovakia.</p> <p>As stated in 2007 report, State Nature Preservation is another relevant organization in relationship with e.g. protected old trees.</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>Some information instruments are developed. Forestry sector is more active in PR and since 2007 are special events - Forestry days yearly organized to promote cultural value of forests.</p>	
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p> <p>The first book of Special forestry sites in Slovakia was published in 2009 by State enterprise Lesy SR, Banská Bystrica. There are described 50 places of the Slovak forestry history.</p> <p>Figurová T., Mičovský, J., Miľanová, L., Rošková, M., Varga, M., 2009: Významné lesnícke miesta na Slovensku I. Special forestry sites in Slovakia I., Lesy SR, š.p., National Forest Centre, 133 p. ISBN: 978-80-970152-5-1</p>	

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 Warsaw Declaration was fully involved and in-processed in details mainly in the Forest Development Strategy

Since 2007, following documents in the area of production and energy utilization were elaborated and adopted by Ministry of Agriculture:

- Forest Development Strategy
- National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic and Action Plan for National Forest Programme of the Slovak Republic
- Rural Development Programme of the Slovak Republic 2007 – 2013 (RDP SR)
- Conception of the Agricultural Development 2007 - 2013
- Action Plan for Biomass Utilization of the Slovak Republic 2008 – 2013
- National Inventory and Monitoring of Forests of Slovakia (NFI SR)

Within the scope of Ministry of Economy, following documents were adopted:

- Law on Renewable Energy Resources
- Strategy for Renewable Energy Resources

Slovakia is committed to increase the share of renewable energy resources exploitation in the total energy consumption.

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

The Warsaw Resolution 1 Forests, Wood and Energy was fully involved and in-processed in details mainly in the Forest Development Strategy

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

The main motives for the gradual growth of the use of wood for energy purposes is a gradual increase of fossil fuel prices, the need to meet emission limits, particularly burning of coal, the possibilities of co-financing the construction and reconstruction of biomass energy resources from the structural funds, and since 2010 also increased purchase prices of electricity produced from renewable energy resources.

Growth in the production and use of wood for energy purposes is in Slovakia far from the potential opportunities. The main reasons of insufficient use of wood for energy purposes:

- The lack of applicable concept and support of wood production for energy purposes in forest management and the lack of financial resources to implement necessary technology
- Absence of legislation, applicable concept and wood production support in non-forest areas enabling a significant growth of available resources of raw material, that can be used for energy production including intensive stands of fast-growing wood species and energy stands.
- Lack of effective cooperation of ministries and sectors that are involved in the effective growth of renewable energy resources exploitation and promoting of rural areas development, particularly in development of common concepts to supportive programmes and necessary legislation.
- Lack of support for science and research in the field of energy production and use of wood and its economic, ecologic and social impacts.
- Lack of applicable concept of sustainable production and use of wood as an important factor of rural development, including necessary capacity building of infrastructure and support of timber market.

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 Warsaw Resolution 2 Forests and Water was fully involved and in-processed in details mainly in the Forest Development Strategy

In Slovakia, protective functions of forests for water and soil are traditionally secured through protective forests. Thanks to long existing site survey, the process of designation of protective forests is almost finished and it is possible to say that majority of vulnerable forest soils are managed as protective soils. However, our concept of water protection does not include riparian buffer zones of water bodies, which results in lower efficiency of our water protection from the point of view of sediment loads in streams.

Forest cover of Slovakia is continuously increasing and thus, the afforestation or reforestation programmes are, under normal circumstances, not necessary. Forest cover of vast majority of mountain watersheds is sufficient from the water viewpoint. Degraded forests in the areas important for water protection are extremely rare in Slovakia and thus we do not need special programs for their restoration.

Coordination between forest and water management is still not satisfactory in Slovakia. Forests and water management belongs under different ministries. There was an attempt to merge both these ministries together, which could improve the situation, however, because of recent parliament elections, both ministries will remain independent. It will be necessary to search for new ways of cooperation and communication improvement.

In the field of research, the project on forest functions was completed (at National Forest centre – Forestry research institute), which was focused also at water-related forest functions, as well as payments for water-related services. Now it is prepared for implementation into forestry practices.

A recent approval of the National Water Plan (Government Decree No 109 from 10 February 2010) should improve the situation in the cooperation between both sectors. The plan directly implements the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy (the EU Water Framework Directive - WFD).

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

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						