



Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Reporting on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

A special request is related to any foreseen changes related to policies, institutions and instruments until December 2014. Please select the button to provide such information.

Yes No

COUNTRY: Bulgairia

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 04/ 08/ 2014

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Deadline for submission :

PART I: Policies for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

A1. 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

Formal NFP process
 Process explicitly guided by the FOREST EUROPE NFP principles
 Similar process
 Other. Please specify:

Name of NFP or similar process

Name: National Strategy for development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013-2020
 Internet Link: <http://www.iag.bg/docs/lang/1/cat/5/index> Starting year: 2013

Main formal decision making body of the process

Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry
 Ministry responsible for forestry
 Similar process
 Other. Please specify:

Yes No

If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max. 100 words]

Significant changes related to the NFP process or similar since 2011

In 2001 a brand new Law on Forests (LF, published in SJ19 on 8.03.2011) was adopted. In order to face the reconsidered goals and priorities and in accordance with art. 10, par. 3 and par. 4 of LF, in the beginning of June 2012 the Ministry of Agriculture and Food started a process of preparation of a National Strategy for development of the forest sector in Bulgaria with a vision till 2020 (NSDFS). It is important that the NSDFS is based on the pan European criteria and indicators for SFM. In order to implement NSDFS, a draft of a Strategic Plan for development of the forest sector 2014 – 2023 was elaborated and is under approval.

Please specify [max. 100 words], particularly on the NFP principles related to NFP as iterative process, stakeholder participation and approaches to inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration:

Key lessons learned on the NFP process or similar

While developing NSDFS 2013 – 2020 number of European and national strategic documents have been taken into account, the results of the conducted analyses of the state of the forest sector within the period 2006 – 2011, as well as the draft EU Forest Strategy. The results from analyses of the implementation of the pan European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management for the period 2003 – 2011 showed progress in the process of enhancement the viability of the sector. The institutional reform in 2011 and the clear division of the control and management functions are basis for new responsibilities and opportunities.

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant:

Comments on the NFP or similar process

During the period 2006 – 2011, the National strategy for sustainable development of the forest sector (2006-2015) was under implementation. It was an updated version of the National forest policy and strategy, adopted by the Council of Ministers with Decision № 651 (15.09.2003). In the end of 2006, the Strategic plan for development of the forest sector 2007 – 2011 was adopted with a total budget of 211,5 mln. BGN (appr. 108 mln. Euro). Only a small part of the foreseen measures had been financed. In 2009 a new update of the NSDFS was conducted within the framework of a project, financed by Operational Programme – Administrative capacity.

Main Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)

Existence of forest policy document (other than law)

Yes No

Title of main forest policy document and internet links

Name: National Strategy for development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013-2020
Internet Link: <http://www.iag.bg/docs/lang/1/cat/5/index>

Forest policy document development process

- formal NFP process or process explicitly guided by NFP principles
 process similar to NFP or other process

Name of endorsing/authorizing /enacting institution of the main forest policy document

- Parliament
 Council of Ministers or similar
 Minister responsible for forestry
 Forestry Department or similar
 Other. Please specify:

Date of endorsement / authorization / enactment

27.11.2013

Evaluation of policy implementation

- Periodically, pre-specified in the NFP document
 Periodically, but not pre-specified
 Not specified, not planned
 Other

Is there explicit reference to FOREST EUROPE instruments in the forest policy document?

FOREST EUROPE definition of SFM

Yes No

FOREST EUROPE criteria and indicators for SFM

Yes No

FOREST EUROPE guidelines for NFPs

Yes No

FOREST EUROPE Classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land

Yes No

FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management

Yes No

FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation

Yes No

If the responsibility for forest policy is decentralized:

Existence of formally endorsed subnational forest policy document(s)

Yes No

Significant changes related to main forest policy document since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max. 100 words]:

With the last Law on forests (publ. SJ 19 on 8.03.2011) a restructuring of the forest sector was conducted and separation of the control-and-administrative functions from the management ones was performed. Afterwards, in accordance of art. 10 of the Law on forests a new National Strategy for development of the forest sector 2013 – 2020 was elaborated, which was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 27.11.2013

Comments on the main forest policy document

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

Necessity of an united mechanism (fund) at EU level for financial support regarding the implementation of defined common European and national forest policies, related to the sustainable forest management and protection.

Policy objectives by policy area

Policy areas

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Strategic goal from NSDFS 2013-2020 Secure the sustainable development of the forest sector via achievement of optimal balance between the ecologic function of the forests and their capability to ensure in the long term material benefits and services Measure 1.1. Increase of the forest area, of the timber stock and the carbon stock in the forest territories.

B1. Land use and forest area

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

In the National Climate changes Action Plan 2013-2020 for sector "Land use, land use changes and forestry" there are measures for restoration and maintenance of the forest shelter belts and plantation of new anti-erosion stands and for utilization of the non-forested lands via afforestation. These measures are relevant to D2 too.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Obligatory goal for increasing up to 20 % the share of RES within the total EU energy utilization till 2020. Obligatory goal of 10 % for all EU MS for a minimal share of the biofuels within the whole utilization of petrol and diesel fuel for the transport sector of EU till 2020 to be achieved via most effective economic way, incl. increase of the share of wood biomass for energy production. SG 1 from NSDFS 2013-2020 Measure 1.1. See above Measure 1.4. Enhancement of the sustainability and capability for adaptation of the forest ecosystems in terms of climate change.

B2. Carbon balance

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

The policy goals remain the same: Increasing the energy efficiency as a major factor for enhancement of the economy competitiveness, stable supply of energy and environment protection. Programme of measures for adaptation of the forests in the Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative effect of the climate change on them.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

SG 1 from NSDFS 2013-2020 Measure 1.2. Improvement of the forest management Measure 1.3. Improvement of the effectiveness of forest fires prevention and fight with illegal activities

B3. Health and vitality

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

In order to maintain the good health status of the game in Bulgaria, a draft Strategy for development of the hunting and game management in Bulgaria 2012 - 2027 has been elaborated. Due to prolonged public consultation and respectively the delayed process of adoption, the period will be respectively changed.

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

SG 1, Measures 1.1., 1.2. See above SG 2 Strengthening the role of the forests to secure the economic growth of the country and more even (balanced) territorial social-and-economic development" Measure 3.2. Effective governance and sustainable development of the State Forest Enterprises according to art. 163 from the Law on Forests SG 3 Increasing the contribution of the forest sector to the green economy Measure 4.1. Sustainable production and utilization of biomass as

B4. Production and use of wood

a RES.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

6 State Forest Enterprises have been established with the main goal governance (management, utilization, etc.) of the state forest territories. The other forest owners have been also granted rights to produce, utilize and sale timber, in accordance to their forest management plans/programmes

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Measure 3.2. Effective governance and sustainable development of the State Forest Enterprises according to art. 163 from the Law on Forests Measure 4.3. Effective and sustainable utilization of the tourist potential of the forests and development of recreational activities in them Measure 4.4. Establishment of conditions for sustainable and commercial utilization of the ecosystems services provided by the forest territories

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Measure 2.1 . Improvement of the system for planning and implementation of activities, related to biodiversity and landscape conservation within the forest territories Measure 2.2. Development of protected territories network, incl. via enlargement of the scope of financial mechanisms for improvement of forest management in Natura 2000 protected zones. Measure 2.3. Maintenance and development of system for protection of forest genetic resources

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

According to the Law on Forests (2011) planning of the activities is based on the following principles: - maintenance of the ecosystem integrity of the forests and implementation of the ecological principles in forestry development; - steady and permanent utilization of timber and non-timber forest products; - introduction of a system of measures and activities for conservation and protection of the forest territories;

B6. Biodiversity

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Measure 1.1. see above Measure 2.2. see above

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

B7. Protective forests

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Measure 3.2. see above Measure 3. 4. Effective utilization of financial resources from EU and international funds and programmes. Measure 3.5. Encouragement of employment and

B8. Economic viability

entrepreneurship in the forests and improvement the quality of professional qualification of the workers in the forest sector Measure 4.2. Encouragement the process of forest territories certification Measure 4.1. see above Measure 4.4. see above

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Long term programme of EFA for improvement of the utilization of EU funds in the new programme period 2014-2020 and of other financial instruments

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

SG 2 Measure 3.5 see above

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

B10. Public awareness and participation

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

SG 2 Measure 3.8. Provision of information and transparency and implementation of the principle of partnership in sustainable governance of the forest sector

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

B11. Research, training and education

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

SG 2 Measure 3.6. Development of scientific and research activities and linkage with the necessities of the forest business Measure 3.5. See above

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

Concept for education, enhancement of the qualification and re-qualification of the working force in the forestry according to Chapter 15 of the Law on Forestsâ€™™

B12. Cultural and spiritual values

Are there any specifically stated policy objectives in relation to each policy area:

Yes No

If yes, please specify and provide quantified targets, if any:

SG 3 Measure 4.3. See above

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes

The National Strategy for sustainable development of tourism in the Republic of Bulgaria encompasses the period 2014-2030 and systematizes the vision, strategic goals, priorities and activities which implementation will lead to endorsement of sustainable schemes for development and

management of the touristic activities. The document is adopted with Protocol № 22 of the Council of Ministers, 04.06.2014.

Comments

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant:

Key measures and lessons learnt per policy area

Policy areas	Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011	Key lessons learnt
	If yes, please specify [max. 100 words]	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.
B1. Land use and forest area	<p>Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p> <p>If yes, please specify</p> <p>see above</p>	<p>Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>The new Law on Forests from 2011 gives more opportunities for utilization of the forest territories "land lending, leasing, right for utilization, servitude, etc, as increase of the usage of these territories is considered as an addition to the determined so far goals.</p>
B2. Carbon balance	<p>Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>As first measure under NSDFR 2013-2020 points out the following: increase of the forest resources of the country, improvement of their state and enhancing their potential in terms of carbon sequestration. The Energy strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria till 2020 was elaborated by Ministry of economy and energy and was approved by the Council of Ministers according to art. 4, par. 2, p. 1 of the Law on energy (1.06.2011). The Strategy foresees achievement of the national goals as for Bulgaria the indicative goal is 16% energy from RES.</p> <p>Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>For the very first time, the new Law on Forests postulates a new forest function - 6. Climate regulation and carbon sequestration. In the National Climate changes Action Plan 2013-2020 for sector "Land use, land use changes and forestry" there are measures for restoration and maintenance of the forest shelter belts and plantation of new anti-erosion stands and for utilization of the non-forest lands via afforestation. These measures are relevant to D'2 too. A Programme of measures for adaptation of the forests of Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative impact of the climate change was adopted.</p>
B3. Health and vitality	<p>Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>Responsible for firefighting is General Directorate "Fires safety and protection of the population" at the Ministry of Interior.</p> <p>Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>In the frames of INTERREG IV C project of the EU "European monitoring of forest fires using information systems" an Action plan, aimed to improve the usage of information systems for protection from the forest fires prevention in the forest territories was developed. A Programme of measures for adaptation of the forests of Republic of Bulgaria and mitigation of the negative impact of the climate change was elaborated and approved by the Minister of Agriculture and Food during the implementation of an INTERREG IVC Project "FUTUREforest". This result is directly linked also with D'2, D'7 and D'8.</p>

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No **B4. Production and use of wood**

Timber utilization is according the Law on Forests. The management activities are responsibility of the 6 SFE and their 165 territorial units (SFU and SHU).

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Opportunities for long term contracting of the entrusting of the harvesting and timber sales (LF).

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

The new LF regulates the types of non-timber forest products as well as the ways of their commercial utilization. The ecosystem benefits from the forests are also postulated.

B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

There is a Working group established incl. major NGO's, for elaboration of a Regulation for the conditions and order for payment and distribution of the compensations for utilization of the ecosystem benefits from forest territories according to art. 249, par. 8 from the LF. A Methodology for evaluation of the ecosystem service "supply of clean drinking water" from forests has been elaborated and adopted on an expert level by EFA during the implementation of a CC-WARE project "Mitigation vulnerability of water resources under climate change" financed by OPSEE, ERDF.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

Issued Orders for announcement of Protected Birds zones according the Law on biological diversity; Announced new Protected zones according the Law on biological diversity; Updated borders of several Protected zones; Mapping of the ecological network Natura 2000; Introduced regimes and measures for forest management in Natura 2000. The draft of a Regulation for forest inventory and planning according to art. 18 from the LF consists a text for biodiversity inventory in the forest territories. Pilot implementation is already in action, in the frames of Life + project "Preserve Key Forest Habitats of the Lesser Spotted Eagle (Aq. pomarina)

B6. Biodiversity

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

The Ministry of Environment and Waters and nature protection organizations announced that the number of vulnerable and critically threatened forest birds species, mammals and other vertebrate and invertebrate is increasing. In 2011 special regimes for sustainable management of forest territories in protected zones of Natura 2000 have been introduced in terms of restoration and conservation of forest habitats related to the protection of threatened plant and animal species, incl. conservation of reserves with high conservation importance.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No **B7. Protective forests**

The categories of protected forests are defined in art. 5, par.1, p.1 from the Law on Forests.

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No **B8. Economic viability**

See above D'4 and D'5

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No **B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)**

Annual programmes for development and education of the personnel of EFA

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B10. Public awareness and participation

Communication strategy of EFA for provision of transparency and information for the citizens and the business 2010 – 2013

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B11. Research, training and education

Concept for education, enhancement of the qualification and re-qualification of the employees in the forestry according to Chapter 15 of the Law on Forests. The 3 Research stations at EFA are on a budget line. In addition, EFA annually finances scientific researches, announced by a competition for their implementation

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B12. Cultural and spiritual values

Key lessons learnt. Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

Comments

As there is no legislative base for conservation and management of landscapes and a method for defining the landscape structure (landscape model) is lacking, so far, on a national level the state and development tendencies of the landscape model and the impact of the dynamic changes in the landscape over major forest ecosystem processes have not been evaluated. Such activity is foreseen in the draft Strategic plan for DFS 2014-2023. Nota bene - not all information related to B6 was included above.

PART II: Overall institutional frameworks and by policy area

A2. Institutional frameworks

Please specify the type of forest-related institutional arrangements	Part of Ministry	Sub-national ministries or bodies	Other body. Please specify
- forest policy administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- legislative supervision & enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- support to private forest management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- management of public forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other. Please specify: Public/state/ owned forests are managed by 6 State Forest Enterprises and their 165 territorial units.			

Government bodies	Please specify the level of main responsibility	Central government	Subnational governments	Other. (please specify in comments below)
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- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| - administering forest policy development and implementation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - legislative supervision & enforcement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - support to private forest management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - management of public forests | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Comments [max. 100 words]

The management of the public /state/ forests is performed by the established 6 State Forest Enterprises and their 165 territorial units.

Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests

Name or group/type ¹ :	Forest-related staff ² (2013, Full time equivalent)
Total [estimate]	2752
...of which forest administration ³	151 (EFA) + 1227 (Regional Forest Directorates, specialized territorial structures)
...of which management of public forests	565 Association of Municipal Forests, incl. the personnel of municipal enterprises and other similar structures)
...of which public forest research, education and training institutions	68 (Forest Institute) + 453 (Forest University) + 63 (Trail Station Barziya - for students) + 103 (Trail Station Yundola)
... of which others	1 (Union of Foresters)+ 41 (Union of Hunters and Fisherman in Bulgaria)+ 80 (Agrolesproekt - company for forest management planning under the Ministry of Agriculture)

Yes No

Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2011

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

The adoption of a brand new LF determined the division of functions between MAF and EFA. The state forest administration EFA performs control functions and the 6 State Forest Enterprises according to art. 163 of the LF implement the management activities in the forest territories that are state owned. EFA is organized on two levels "central and 16 Regional Forest Directorates and other specialized territorial structures like 11 Directorates of the Nature parks, 3 research stations, 2 seed control stations, 3 forest protection stations, 1 poplar management unit and "Gora" magazine.

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

Comments

The activities, structure, functions and number of the personnel of EFA and its structures and specialized territorial units are defined by Rules of organization. EFA is a juridical body on a budget line - secondary users of budget credits at the Minister of agriculture and food, with a headquarters in Sofia. The pointed out figures exclude the personnel of the 6 SFE and 165 SFU and SHU that accounts to appr. 7000 people permanent staff.

Institutional frameworks per policy area

Significant changes in institutional frameworks since 2011

B1. Land use and forest area

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B2. Carbon balance

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B3. Health and vitalityYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B4. Production and use of woodYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

The new Law on Forests from 2011 established a control body "EFA, and the State Forest Enterprises as performers of the forest management functions within the state forest territories. See the explanation above.

B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and servicesYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

see above

B6. BiodiversityYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B7. Protective forestsYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

see above

B8. Economic viabilityYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

see above

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

see above

B10. Public awareness and participationYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B11. Research, training and educationYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B12. Cultural and spiritual valuesYes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

Comments

The forest territories "state ownership are managed by 6 State Forest Enterprises with a central administration each, encompassing the territory of the whole country, including 165 State Forest and Hunting Units on a local level. Directorate "Trade partnerships and state participation" at the MAF supports the Minister of AF in conduction of his/her rights as a management body of the SFE according to

the Law on Forests.

PART III: Overall legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments and by policy area

A3. 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]

- in constitution
 at central government level
 in legislation enacted by parliament
 at federal level
 in administrative decrees / regulations only
 other
 Other:

Name and reference to legal document

Law on Forests publ. SJ 19 from 08.03.2011, in force since 09.04.2011, last amm. SJ 61 since 25.07.2014
<http://iag.bg/docs/lang/1/cat/1/index>

Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act with national scope (e.g. Forest law, act or code)

Main changes from previous legal act

see below

Date of enactment

09.04.2011

Date of latest amendment

25.07.2014

Are the following FOREST EUROPE instruments explicitly referred to in the [national?] legal/regulatory framework?

FOREST EUROPE Definition of SFM

Yes/fully No

FOREST EUROPE C&I for SFM

Other

Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

See A2. The brand new Law on Forests from 2011 regulates the elaboration and adoption of 18 secondary legislative documents. So far, 15 of them are adopted and at force.

Comments

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

International commitments

Significant initiatives undertaken since 2011 in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country

Yes No

If yes, please specify [max. 100 words]

Voluntary reporting under MCPFE â€” Forest Europe and UNFF. On 3 of March 2013 started the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market. (Law on forests, art. 126, art. 271(2), art. 273(11)).

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

Comments

Legal/regulatory frameworks per policy area

Significant changes in institutional frameworks since 2011

Yes No **B1. Land use and forest area**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Servitude, right for utilization, right for construction, lending, leasing "â€" according to the new LF.

Yes No **B2. Carbon balance**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Law on RES publ. SJ 35 of 03.05.2011, in force since 03.05.2011. last amm. SJ 33 of 11.04.2014.
 Ordinance of the Minister of economy and energy, RD-16-869 of 02.08.2011 for calculation of the total share of energy from RS within the framework of the total end usage of energy and the usage of bio fuels and RES in the transport sector. Ordinance of the Minister of economy, and energy "â€" RD-16-558 of 08.05.2012 for collection and provision of information via the National information system for the potential, production and usage of energy of RS in the Republic of Bulgaria.

Yes No **B3. Health and vitality**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Ordinance "â€" 2 of the Minister of AF "â€"f 3.01.2012 for the condition and order for utilization of plant protection products in the forest territories. Ordinance "â€" 12 of the Minister of AF "â€"f 16.12.2011 for protection forest territories against deceases, pests and other damages

Yes No **B4. Production and use of wood**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

The new LW and the Ordinance according art.95, par. 1 from LF regulates: - long term contracting of the timber sales and right for harvesting, - payment for forest ecosystem services and benefits.

Yes No **B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

The new LW and the Ordinance according to art.95, par. 1 from LF regulates: - payment for forest ecosystem services and benefits. - new mechanisms for utilization of non-timber forest products via entrusting the harvesting and sale of the products - raw and/or processed; leasing of certain forest territories

Yes No **B6. Biodiversity**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

No major changes since 2011. Main changes in the Law on biological diversity and Law on protected territories related to the forestry are connected with updating those two laws with the new Law on Forests (2011) Law on biological diversity am. and suppl. SJ 19 "â€"f 8.03.2011, in force since 9.04.2011, last am. 66 "â€"f 26.07.2013 in force since 26.07.2013. The period of announcement of protected zone has been changed, resp. prolonged from 4 to 6 years after having an endorsement of the list of protected zones. Law on protected territories am. and suppl. SJ 19 "â€"f 8.03.2011, in force since 9.04.2011, last am. SJ 66 of 26.07.2013

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B7. Protective forests

Law on Forests (2011) Ordinance of the Minister of AF â„– 4 Ð¼f 19.02.2013 for protection of the forest territories against erosion and floods and construction of anti-erosion equipment, publ. SJ 21 Ð¼f 01.03.2013

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B8. Economic viability

Major goal in the new Law on Forests and also in the secondary legislation, as well as in the NSDFS 2013-2023 is the conservation of Bulgarian forests as a national wealth â€œ main environmental forming factor, via reproduction and sustainable development and multipurpose utilization, in line with the owners and society.

Yes No

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Law on healthy and safe labor conditions, publ. 124 Ð¼f 23.12.1997, last am. and suppl. SJ 27 Ð¼f 25.03.2014 The amendments are not linked to the sector.

Yes No

B10. Public awareness and participation

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Public consultations of the NSDFS 2013-2020 and SPDFS 2014 â€œ 2023 in accordance to the Standards of Council of Ministers for public consultations.

Yes No

B11. Research, training and education

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Main laws and ordinances related to the education as a whole have been frequently changed with no impact on the sector. In the new LF from 2011 there is a Chapter 15 that regulates the education, qualification and re-qualification of the employees in the sector

Yes No

B12. Cultural and spiritual values

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Law for amendment and supplementation of the law on cultural heritage publ. on 15.07.2011 changes related to protected territories and protected zones.

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant:

Comments

in addition to B6: Law on environment protection, publ. SJ 91 Ð¼f 25.09.2002, last amm. SJ 22 Ð¼f 11.03.2014 in force since 11.03.2014. Ordinance of the Minister of AF â„– 2 Ð¼f 7.02.2013 for the condition and order for forestation and afforestation of forest territories and agricultural lands, used for establishment of special, protective and productive/industrial forests and of forests in protected territories, inventory of the established plantations, their reporting and registering, publ. SJ 16 Ð¼f 19.02.2013. Ordinance of the Minister of AF â„– 21 of 12.11.2012 publ. SJ 93 Ð¼f 27.11.2012

PART IV: Overall financial instruments/economic policy and by policy area

A4. Financial instruments and economic policy**Economic policy**

Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of publicly owned forests

Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests

Planning and reporting of the budget implementation according to the United budget classification. Methodical directives of the Ministry of finances and of the first user of budget credits â€œ the Ministry of agriculture and food (MAF) are implemented. The programme budget of MAF defines the programme budget of EFA â€œ secondary user of budget credits, where target values and indicators for implementations are at place.

Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of privately owned forests or other

NA

Yes No

Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2011

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

The programme budget of MAF defines the programme budget of EFA " secondary user of budget credits, where target values and indicators for implementations are at place. In addition, a forecast 3-years budget for the forest administration is also elaborated. See the explanation below

Comments

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

The 6 State Forest Enterprises and their 165 territorial units (State hunting and forest units) are self-funded and form funds "Investments in the forests" and "Reserved fund" in order to secure the defined in the Law on forests activities.

Financial instruments

State/federal forest management, act or code)

Please specify financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management [max. 100 words]

- Profit/financially self-sufficient forest management
 Additional financial support from government to forest management
 Other. Please specify

Government financial instruments: private forest management

Please specify the use of financial instruments for private forests and their management, incl. main objectives [max. 100 words]. *For the EU Member States, please specify apart from the EU Rural Development Programme Funds.*

Grants/subsidies. Please elaborate:

Tax measures. Please elaborate:

Incentives. Please elaborate:

Public funds. Please elaborate:

Investment support. Please elaborate:

Loans. Please elaborate:

Other. Please specify:

- consultation of non-state forest owners, forest entrepreneurs, practicing foresters; - training of mayors of towns and villages, owners and experts from the municipal forest structures, State hunting and forest units, Park Directorates and Regional directorates; - training of practicing foresters and forest entrepreneurs; - methodical support and control of elaboration, adoption and implementation of forest management plans and programmes through participation in expert-technical councils, forest management meetings and investors supervision; - methodical assistance for usage of the module system.iag.bg

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2011

The new Law on Forests (09.04.2011) established 6 (six) State Forest Enterprises under MAF. The local State Hunting and Forest units have been detached from the structure of EFA and form the territorial units of the new 6 SFC. To ensure the financial stability of the enterprises, according art. 163 of the LF and in terms of securing target investments for implementation of the activities entrusted to the SFC by the Law, two financial funds "Investments in the forests" and "Reserved fund" were established. The finances for implementation of the activities of the central SFC and their

territorial units are formed by sales of timber, FRM, etc.

Year: 2013	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding ⁴ (mil€)	Total (mil€)
Operational expenditure	15,43.	0	15,43
Transfer payments (support to private forest management)	0	0	0
Total public expenditure	15,43	0	15,43
	For forest administration		6,24
Of which...	For management of public forests		9,16
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		0,03
	For other institutions. Please specify:		0

If transfer payments are made for forest management and conservation, indicate for what specific objective(s) - Please tick all that apply.

- Reforestation
- Afforestation
- Forest inventory and/or planning
- Conservation of forest biodiversity
- Protection, of soil and water
- Forest stand improvement
- Establishment or maintenance of protected areas
- Other

Please specify the allocation of total public expenditures among the six criteria

	Estimate of resources %
C1. Forest resources and carbon	NA
C2. Health and vitality	NA
C3. Productive functions	NA
C4. Biodiversity	0,7
C5. Protective functions	NA
C6. Socio-economic functions	

Note: the total must be 100 %

Comments and lessons learnt

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

EFA can only provide data for utilized financial resources only in terms of Biodiversity.

Financial instruments per policy area

Significant changes in financial instruments since 2011

B1. Land use and forest area

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B2. Carbon balance Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B3. Health and vitality Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
see below

B4. Production and use of wood Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
see below

B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
see below

B6. Biodiversity Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
Apart of budget finances, also number of EU programmes are used like EEA, OP Environment, OP Administrative Capacity, Life +

B7. Protective forests Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
see below

B8. Economic viability Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
see below

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health) Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B10. Public awareness and participation Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B11. Research, training and education Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
EFA implements number of projects under EU OPAC programme, related to enhancement of the qualification and competences of the personnel of the agency on central and regional level. The 3 Research stations at EFA are on a budget line. In addition, EFA annu

B12. Cultural and spiritual values Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant:

Comments

See the explanation in the beginning of the table. In addition, there is also a forecast budget within the draft Strategic plan for development of the forest sector 2014-2023, which will implement the adopted National strategy for development of the forest sector 2013-2020.

PART V: Overall informational means and by policy area

A5. Informational means

Is there public access to forest inventory data ?

Yes No

If yes, please specify:

The State Forest and Hunting Units are the owners of the Forest Management Plans. They can provide data after approval on the basis of grounded request for the information. There is no on-line tool for that.

Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist?

Yes No

If yes, please provide reference: [max. 100 words]

Communication strategy of EFA for provision of transparency and information for the citizens and the business 2010 – 2013

Does a national report on the status of sustainable forest management exist?

Yes No

If yes, please provide reference/link: [max. 100 words]

Annual report of EFA with main information related to the SFM and different activities that EFA is responsible for. In addition, EFA reports also the implementation of an Annual programme with goals and activities for the respective year <http://iag.bg/docs/lang/1/cat/5/index>

Main characteristics of informational means

Informational means

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

Media comfort is achieved via mainstreamed actions, in order to enhance the interest through clearly defined media partners and provision of valuable information. Our communication channels are the internet web page of EFA, press releases, press conferences, briefings, interviews, radio and TV-clips, etc.

Significant changes in informational means / forest related communication since 2011

Forest related communication Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]

The Communication strategy of EFA for provision of transparency and information for the citizens and the business 2010 – 2013 has been elaborated in implementation of Activity 7 under project – “Enhancing the transparency and reporting of the State forest agency” financed by the EU Social Fund – OPAC (Contract – 08-12-47-06.02.2009). Annual Media-plans are also elaborated as main communication instrument.

Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

Comments

Communication campaigns: Forest week, International exhibition – “Nature, hunting and fishing”, – “Nature Parks” Day, – “Lets clean Bulgaria for one day”, – “Christmas trees”, and campaigns for protection of the forests from fires and safety in terms of hunting.

Financial instruments per policy area**Significant changes in informational instruments since 2011**Yes No **B1. Land use and forest area**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Reporting of forest data in the module of the information system: system.iag.bg

Yes No **B2. Carbon balance**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes No **B3. Health and vitality**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

In 2011 there was a pilot project of information system for the forest health and safety monitoring which allows more exact status of the forests. The systems started its work in 2012.

Yes No **B4. Production and use of wood**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Reporting and statistics in the module of system.iag.bg

Yes No **B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Reporting and statistics in the module of system.iag.bg

Yes No **B6. Biodiversity**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes No **B7. Protective forests**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes No **B8. Economic viability**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Yes No **B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

Contact details, including positions of all personnel of EFA, including those working for the State Hunting and Forest Enterprises are uploaded on the information system of EFA

Yes No

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

B10. Public awareness and participation

The main goal was to elaborate and adopt a Communication strategy that will ensure raising the awareness within the main target groups via positive materials and unobtrusive presence in the media:

- ensure transparency of the activities of EFA in the conditions of market economy;
- promotion of the measures and activities of EFA on major problems related to protection and increase of the forest and game richness;
- working together with the society in terms of forest related problems " forest fires combat, illegal harvesting, poaching, etc.;
- making more clear the perspectives and development of the forest sector; etc.

Yes No **B11. Research, training and education**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

EFA implements OPAC projects related to education and enhancement of the qualification of its personnel. According to the rules of the Programme, every single result must be publicly announced.

Yes No **B12. Cultural and spiritual values**

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

The 11 Directorates of the Nature Parks that are within the structure of EFA have information centers in service of the tourists and the visitors of the respective parks.

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant:

Comments

The acting information system is a one-way flow of information. The established conditions for exchange of information are not fully used. The forest ownership data is hard for access. There is no united forest cadastre (GIS for the forests).