



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: Iceland

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 03/ 07/ 2014

National correspondent:

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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: No such process in effect

Name of NFP or similar process	Name: n.a. Internet Link: "	Starting year:
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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:

Significant changes related to the NFP process or similar since 2011

Yes No

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

Key lessons learned on the NFP process or similar

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:

Comments on the NFP or similar process

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

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: Forests in Iceland: Policy for the 21st Century
Internet Link: <http://www.skogur.is/forsida/nr/1877>

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

February 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]:

No comparable general forestry policy document existed before 2013.

Comments on the main forest policy document

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

The forest policy document of 2013 is seen as the first step towards a NFP process.

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:

A goal of 12% forest and woodland cover by 2100.

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

Up from a goal of 5% forest cover of lowlands mandated by the regional afforestation projects act of 2006. Also includes likely natural extension of woodlands due to land-use change.

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:

B2. Carbon balance

Afforestation is important for carbon sequestration. Forestry must adapt to climate change

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

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:

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

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:

Promote greater use of wood. Develop a steady source of wood as raw material through tree improvement and forest management.

B4. Production and use of wood

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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

Yes No

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

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

Promote development of small industry utilizing non-wood products. Promote development of forest based tourism.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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:

Reclaim and rehabilitate native woodlands. Improve scientific knowledge of forest biodiversity. Fully consider biodiversity issues in afforestation.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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:

Increase use of afforestation in land reclamation and erosion control. Increased use of afforestation to improve fresh water habitats.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

B8. Economic viability

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:

Develop wood supply chains. Promote forestry as a factor in sustainable rural development.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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:

Promote development of a variety of forest based industry.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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

Promote forests as venues for both recreation and social participation. Inform on the public health benefits of forests.

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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:

Research training and education are essential to achieving goals.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

No specific policy existed before.

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:

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes No

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

B12. Cultural and spiritual values

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

If yes, please specify

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B2. Carbon balance

Agreement with the EU for Iceland to include afforestation and land reclamation in carbon accounting. see: <http://www.umhverfisraduneyti.is/frettir/nr/2610>

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B3. Health and vitality

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B4. Production and use of wood

Work on developing wood supply chains in connection with increased harvesting and sales of wood from thinning of plantations.

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

Access to information from experts in other countries is essential. Nordic and European co-operation in a variety of projects helps greatly.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

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

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B6. Biodiversity

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B7. Protective 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

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

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

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

B10. Public awareness and participation

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

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

B11. Research, training and education

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

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

B12. Cultural and spiritual values

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

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

Comments

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

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- support to private forest management
- management of public forests
- Other. Please specify: State agency not directly part of ministry

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Comments [max. 100 words]

Subnational governments are responsible for official planning, which is required for some aspects of forestry.

Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests

Name or group/type ¹ :	Forest-related staff ² (2013, Full time equivalent)
Total [estimate]	70
...of which forest administration ³	24
...of which management of public forests	33
...of which public forest research, education and training institutions	13
... of which others	

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

Yes No

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

Comments

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

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 vitality

Yes No

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

B4. Production and use of wood

Yes No

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

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

Yes No

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

B6. Biodiversity

Yes No

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

B7. Protective forests

Yes No

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

B8. Economic viability

Yes No

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

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

B12. Cultural and spiritual values

Yes No

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

Comments

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

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
 in legislation enacted by parliament
 in administrative decrees / regulations only

at central government level
 at federal level
 other

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
Forestry Act 3/1955

Main changes from previous legal act
Issues dealing with protection of forests from grazing.

Date of enactment
March 1955

Date of latest amendment
1990

		Yes/fully	No
Are the following FOREST EUROPE instruments explicitly referred to in the [national?] legal/regulatory framework?	FOREST EUROPE Definition of SFM	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	FOREST EUROPE C&I for SFM	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2011

Yes No

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

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]
The general forest policy document (see part I)

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

The policy document is the first step in initiating a National Forestry Program process which is according to Iceland's commitments within Forest Europe.

Legal/regulatory 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 balanceYes 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

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

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

B8. Economic viabilityYes No If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes

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

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 and provide reference documents where relevant:

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

A4. Financial instruments and economic policy

Economic policy

Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests	<p>Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of <u>publicly owned forests</u></p> <p>The state budget for forestry has been cut drastically since 2009 and attempts are made to divert part of the Iceland Forest Service's other income to non-forestry related matters.</p> <p>Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of <u>privately owned forests</u> or other</p> <p>The state budget for grants to afforestation on farms has been cut drastically since 2009.</p>
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Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2011	<p>Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> <p>If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p>
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Comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>State financing for forestry has been cut by roughly 50% in real terms since 2009. There is no indication that this trend will be reversed any time soon.</p>
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Financial instruments

State/federal forest management, act or code)	<p>Please specify financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management [max. 100 words]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Profit/financially self-sufficient forest management</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional financial support from government to forest management</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify</p>
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Government financial instruments: private forest management	<p>Please specify the use of financial instruments for private forests and their management, incl. main objectives [max. 100 words]. <i>For the EU Member States, please specify apart from the EU Rural Development Programme Funds.</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grants/subsidies. Please elaborate:</p> <p>Grants covering 97% of establishment costs are offered for afforestation on farms. Grants in the form of seedlings are offered to participants in "Land Reclamation Forests", which mostly entail afforestation on publicly owned land by volunteers.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tax measures. Please elaborate:</p> <p>Forest owners can reclaim value added tax on seedling purchases and other establishment costs in afforestation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incentives. Please elaborate:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public funds. Please elaborate:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Investment support. Please elaborate:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Loans. Please elaborate:</p>
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Other. Please specify:

Yes No

Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2011

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

Continuing budget cuts. The reason is said to be the financial crash of 2008. But forestry is among the areas that have sustained the greatest budget cuts, so lack of political support/interest must be included among the reasons.

Year: 2014	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding ⁴ (mil€)	Total (mil€)
Operational expenditure	1.9		1.9
Transfer payments (support to private forest management)	2.8		2.8
Total public expenditure	4.7		4.7
Of which...	For forest administration		0.6
	For management of public forests		0.8
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		0.5
	For other institutions. Please specify:		

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

		Estimate of resources %
Please specify the allocation of total public expenditures among the six criteria	C1. Forest resources and carbon	60
	C2. Health and vitality	0
	C3. Productive functions	20
	C4. Biodiversity	5
	C5. Protective functions	10
	C6. Socio-economic functions	5
	Note: the total must be 100 %	

Comments and lessons learnt

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

Financial instruments per policy area

Significant changes in financial instruments since 2011

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

If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
Significant budget cuts in grants for afforestation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yes No **B10. Public awareness and participation**

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

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

education

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

Comments

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

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:

On the Iceland Forest Service website www.skogur.is**Main characteristics of informational means**

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

Yes No

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

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

Yes No

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

Informational meansYes No

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

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]

Comments

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

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

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

B2. Carbon balanceYes 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

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

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

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

B8. Economic viabilityYes No

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

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

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

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

Comments

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant: