



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: Ireland

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 12/ 01/ 2015

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:

Name of NFP or similar process	Name: Forestry Programme 2014-2020 Internet Link: http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests/service/publicconsultation/newforestryprogramme2014-2020/	Starting year: 2014
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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:

The draft Forestry Programme 2014-2020 has been completed and an applicaiton for State Aid approval has recently been submitted to the European Commission. During the development a wide range of stakeholders were consulted and two rounds of public consultation were carried out.

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: Growing for the Future
Internet Link:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publications/growingforthe-future/>

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

1996

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 <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| FOREST EUROPE criteria and indicators for SFM | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| FOREST EUROPE guidelines for NFPs | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| FOREST EUROPE Classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation | Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> |

If the responsibility for forest policy is decentralized:

Existence of formally endorsed subnational forest policy document(s)

Yes No

Yes No

Significant changes related to main forest policy document since 2011

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

A review of national forest policy, undertaken by the Forest Policy Review Group, consisting of various stakeholders in the forestry sector, was submitted to the Minsiter in July 2014. The recommendations contained in the report are being considered by the Minister and some have already been adopted and

Comments on the main forest policy document

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

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:

To achieve 18% forest cover by 2046

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

The previous policy objective was to reach 17% forest cover by 2030 but this objective is unlikely to be achieved at current planting rates. The new policy, which was recommended in the report of the Forest Policy Review Group in July 2014, aims to achieve increased forest cover at a slower rate, reflecting the reduction in new forest planting in recent years.

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

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

To maintain a healthy forest environment by ensuring good management, identifying risks and maintaining a sustained commitment to measures which prevent the entry and establishment of destructive forest pests and diseases

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:

To increase the forest area, in accordance with SFM principles, in order to support a long term sustainable roundwood supply of 7 to 8 million cubic metres per annum.

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

This new objective was recommended in the report of the Forest Policy Review Group in July 2014. It is considered that the previous policy objective to achieve a critical mass of 12 million cubic metres per annum (set out in 1996) is no longer realistic.

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:

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

To ensure that forests are managed in a manner that enhances their contribution to the environment and their capacity for the provision of public goods and services. During the period 2015-2020 the Forestry Programme will support the development of up to 60 community NeighbourWoods.

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:

B6. Biodiversity

During the period 2015-2020 the Forestry Programme will support the establishment of 2,700 hectares of conservation woodlands comprised solely of native species and the conservation and enhancement of 1,950 hectares of existing native woodland.

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:

B7. Protective forests

In the period 2015-2020, to convert of up to 1,000 hectares of commercial forest to native conservation woodland in order to protect sensitive water systems.

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:

B8. Economic viability

To support the construction of 690 kilometres of new forest roads from 2015-2020 in order to increase the volume of timber from private sector forests and thereby improve the economic viability of private woodlands

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:

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health)

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:

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

The Forest Service provides support to organisations which promote the awareness of forests, and their provision of public goods. Policy will be implemented through ongoing monitoring and reporting of progress in consultation with stakeholders, and the policy will be updated to meet changing needs and circumstances.

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:

To ensure the availability of suitable programmes of education and training across the sector and research programmes targeted at identified needs. In October 2014 the Department launched Forest Research Ireland (FARI) to guide the content of the competitive public good forest research programme (CoFoRD Programme) up to 2017

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

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:

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.

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

B1. Land use and forest area

If yes, please specify

The provision of grants and annual premiums to encourage and increase in the national forest area and to encourage the sustainable management of existing forests.

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

B2. Carbon balance

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

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

B3. Health and vitality

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

Ongoing monitoring for forest pests and disease, with a particular emphasis on Chalara Ash Dieback disease and Phytophthora ramorum (Sudden oak Death) in Japanese Larch trees and other species

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

B4. Production and use of wood

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

The provision of grants to increase forest infrastructure to increase timber supply from private sector forests and to assist in the sustainable management of forests.

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

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

The provision of grants to encourage public use of woodlands for recreation and amenity purposes.

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

B6. Biodiversity

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

The provision of grants to conserve and enhance existing native woodlands and to increase the area of biodiversity-rich native woodlands.

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

B7. Protective forests

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

In recent years, as some older forests reach harvesting stage, opportunities have been identified to convert and restructure commercial forests to low intensity native woodland in order to protect sensitive water systems and habitats.

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

B8. Economic viability

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes No

To provision of grants to improvement tree quality (e.g. re-spacing and formative shaping of broadleaves) and to support the development of forest infrastructure to increase timber supply from private sector forests and improve the viability of those forests

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

In February 2012 work commenced on the development of a new national forest research strategy. The strategy, which is called "Forest Research Ireland" (FARI) was launched in October 2014 following wide stakeholder involvement and public consultation. It will guide the content of the competitive public good forest research programme (CoFoRD Programme) up to 2017

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- support to private forest management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- management of public forests
 Other. Please specify:

Government bodies

Please specify the level of main responsibility

Central government

Subnational governments

Other. (please specify in comments below)

- administering forest policy development and implementation

- legislative supervision & enforcement

- support to private forest management

- management of public forests

Comments [max. 100 words]

Management of public commercial forests is vested in Coillte Teoranta, a state owned commercial company. Management of public conservation forests is vested in the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests

Name or group/type ¹ : Forest-related staff ² (2013, Full time equivalent)

Total [estimate] 105

...of which forest administration ³ 83

...of which management of public forests 0

...of which public forest research, education and training institutions 0

... of which others 0

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 in constitution

at central government level

legal/regulatory framework:
formal authority on main forest
matters is laid down...
[multiple answers possible]

- in legislation enacted by parliament
 in administrative decrees / regulations only

- 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 1946 Forestry Act 1988 Forestry Act 2014 (not enacted yet)

Main changes from previous legal act

Forestry Act 2014. This Act has not yet been commenced. When it is commenced, the Forestry Act 1946 will be revoked.

Date of enactment

October 2014

Date of latest amendment

N/A

**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

The new Forestry Act 2014 will replace the Forestry Act 1946

Comments

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

The Forestry Act 2014 was signed by the President in October 2014 but the Act will not become operative until supporting Regulations are finalized, during 2015. When the Act is commenced and becomes operative, the Forestry Act 1946 will be revoked.

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]

Implementation of Regulation (EU) 995/2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market (EUTR)

Comments

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

The national legislation supporting the Directive was introduced in July 2014 by the European Union (Timber and Timber Products) (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 316 of 2014)

Legal/regulatory frameworks per policy area

Significant changes in institutional frameworks since 2011

Yes No

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

B1. Land use and forest area

The Forestry Act 2014 updates the legislative framework government forestry and grants the Minister wide ranging powers to regulate all aspects of forestry, including the policy areas B1 to B12

B2. Carbon balance Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B3. Health and vitality Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B4. Production and use of wood Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B6. Biodiversity Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B7. Protective forests Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B8. Economic viability Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B9. Employment (incl. safety and health) Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B10. Public awareness and participation Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

B11. Research, training and education Yes No
If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes
As B1

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:

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

Publicly owned forests are owned and managed by Coillte Teoranta, a publicly owned business entity.

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

The objectives of the main measures taken to address aspects of privately owned forests are, inter alia, to (i) increase the national forest area, (ii) support and encourage the sustainable management of existing forests, (iii) increase the level of output of forest goods and services, and (iv) support the economic viability, of privately owned forests.

Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2011Yes 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**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 managementPlease 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:

The Forestry Programme provides grants to private land owners to plant new forests. Grants are also available to encourage the sustainable management of private forests

- Tax measures. Please elaborate:

Profits from woodland are generally exempt from income tax subject to certain income limits.

- Incentives. Please elaborate:

- Public funds. Please elaborate:

Government grants are provided to private forest owners to encourage the sustainable management of private forests

Investment support. Please elaborate:

Loans. Please elaborate:

Other. Please specify:

Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2011

Yes No

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

Year:	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding ⁴ (mil€)	Total (mil€)
Operational expenditure	9.75		9.75
Transfer payments (support to private forest management)	113.25		113.25
Total public expenditure	123.00		123.00
Of which...	For forest administration		6.30
	For management of public forests		3.45
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		
	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

Please specify the allocation of total public expenditures among the six criteria	Estimate of resources %
C1. Forest resources and carbon	93%
C2. Health and vitality	1%
C3. Productive functions	4%
C4. Biodiversity	1%
C5. Protective functions	0
C6. Socio-economic functions	1%
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

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 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 [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:

Ireland's 2nd National Forest Inventory (NFI) was completed in 2012. The data can be viewed at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/nfi/nfisecondcycle2012/>**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 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 and provide reference documents where relevant: