



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: Latvia

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 15/ 10/ 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: Policy Baselines for Forest and Related Sectors Development  
 Internet Link: <http://polsis.mk.gov.lv/view.do?id=1917> Starting year: 2006

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

**Significant changes related to the NFP process or similar since 2011**

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

According to the decision of the government, the revision of existing policy guidelines was started. It is foreseen that revised guidelines will be accepted until the end of 2014 and will cover the period 2014-2020

**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:

New policy baselines are developed on the basis of previous document as from 2006, for example the main policy objectives are the same. The main changes relate to policy results (these are established for the period of 2014 – 2020). Principles for calculation of maximum allowed timber harvesting volumes also were included

**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: Latvian Forest Policy  
Internet Link: <https://www.zm.gov.lv/mezi/statiskas-lapas/nozares-strategijas-politikas-dokumenti/latvijas-meza-politika?nid=328#jump>**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  
1998**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 Yes  No 

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

**Significant changes related to main**

Basis for reporting on achievement of forest policy goals is established in the Forest Law. It is stated

**forest policy document since 2011**

in the Forest Law that the report should be prepared at least once in the period of five years and submitted to the government. The report should focus especially on evaluation on forest as a capital and its changes, conservation of biodiversity in forest environment and consideration of the interests of society and forest owners when using forest social values.

**Comments on the main forest policy document**

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

The main forest policy document is not changed as the goals and principles included in it are still valid

**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:

**B1. Land use and forest area**

To prevent reduction of forest cover by setting limits on the transformation of forest lands

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:

**B2. Carbon balance**

The ability of forest to absorb carbon dioxide and to stabilize carbon cycle should be taken into account in forest management. There are indirect policy objectives related to this policy area - prevent reduction of forest cover, enhance afforestation of unusable land in other sectors

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**

Forest monitoring should be carried out

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:

**B4. Production and use of wood**

Increase utilization of timber resources through promotion of wider use of wood as an environmentally friendly material. The level of forest use is regulated by the state, taking into account ecosystem productivity, regeneration capacity and other essential elements of forest structure

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:

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

There are separate statements regarding access to forest, state role for social infrastructure in forest, regulation of hunting

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**

The goal of the forest policy in environment protection is conservation of and maintenance at current levels of biodiversity. Conservation of forest habitats and their characteristic species diversity should be ensured

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**

The ability of forest to protect water bodies, water courses, soil and landscape should be taken into account

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**

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)**

The goal of the forest policy in the social sphere is to balance the interests of society and forest owners in the use of the forest's social values and in the development of labor relations in the forest sector

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

Forest sector advisory board should be established.

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:

The goal of forest science is to obtain scientifically founded information for the development of sustainable and multifunctional forest management. Forest-related ecological, technological, economic and social research must be relevant to the forest environment and resources of Latvia. The goal of Latvian forestry education is to prepare forest sector specialists whose knowledge and skills ensure the competitiveness and dynamic development of the Latvian forest sector and whose credentials are internationally recognized.

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**

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:

Protection of cultural-historical values and landscapes is taken into account in forest management.

Are there any significant changes in main policy objectives since 2011

Yes  No

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

**Comments**

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant:

Three main policy objectives included in Policy Baselines for Forest and Related Sectors Development - management of Latvian forests is sustainable and Internationally recognized, production of the Latvian forest sector is competitive with a high added value and complies with the needs of the client, level of education and scientific potential and the skills of the human resources is adequate for the development of the forest sector. Policy results are more detailed under these objectives

**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 <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/>	

**B1. Land use and forest area**

If yes, please specify

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

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**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.

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**B3. Health and vitality**

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

Responsibility for forest monitoring is fully delegated to forest research institute Silava through Forest law

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

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**B4. Production and use of wood**

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

Research project on modelling of sustainable and economically based use and forecast of forest resources was carried out

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

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

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

Hunting legislation was amended

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

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**B6. Biodiversity**

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

Research project on criteria for biotope identification was carried out.

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

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**B7. Protective forests**

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

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

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**B8. Economic viability**

Key measures taken on implementing the policy since 2011

Yes  No

**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 

Conference on evaluation of forest sector was organized involving stakeholders in discussion on future development

**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 

Research project on effectiveness of professional education was carried out

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

- management of public forests     
 Other. Please specify: State Forest Service Limited liability company Joint stock company

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- legislative supervision & enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- support to private forest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- management of public forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments [max. 100 words]				
State Forest service Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Agriculture				

<b>Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests</b>	Name or group/type <sup>1</sup> :	Forest-related staff <sup>2</sup> (2013, Full time equivalent)
	Total [estimate]	1055
	...of which forest administration <sup>3</sup>	709
	...of which management of public forests	
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions	346
	... 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]

Framework was not changed. Reorganization of State Forest Service was carried out to improve effectiveness.

**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

Function of forest monitoring fully was delegated to forestry research instituteSilava



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### **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

Forest Law

Main changes from previous legal act

Forest Law was legal basis for implementation of Forest Policy

Date of enactment

17.03.2000

Date of latest amendment

Major amendments done on 13.10.2011

**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

Reporting on fulfillment of goals defined by Forest Policy, reference to Pan European criteria and indicators for SFM, legal basis for park and forest park establishment and management was established, specific details were amended regarding forest management requirements, some definitions were amended

**Comments**

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant.

In Forest law Pan European Operational level Guidelines of Sustainable Forest Management are taken into account.

**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]

**Comments**

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

**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

Deforestation "definition and procedures were amended, but in general substance remained the same

**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

As forest monitoring was delegated to forestry research institute, new regulations were adopted

**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

Basis for reporting on implementation of SFM was established

**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:

## 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

Principle defined by the Forest Policy regarding state forest management is the following: the state manages state forest as private actor, as far as state public functions are not restricted â€” environment protection and social sector. Economic activity takes place in state forests and it must be profitable

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

Basic principle - the development of a market economy and free competition in the forest sector through creation of an appropriate legal system and reduction of state intervention in economic activity. If due to the ecological or social functions economic activities in forest are restricted, then forest owners have right for compensation.

#### Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (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.

#### 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

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:

There are land tax reductions for young forest stands and for areas with forest management restrictions

#### Government financial instruments: private forest management

Incentives. Please elaborate:

Public funds. Please elaborate:

Investment support. Please elaborate:

Loans. Please elaborate:

Other. Please specify:

Compensation for forest management restrictions

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 <sup>4</sup> (mil€)

Total (mil€)

Operational expenditure

Transfer payments (support to private forest management)

Total public expenditure

For forest administration

Of which...

For management of public forests

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

- C1. Forest resources and carbon
- C2. Health and vitality
- C3. Productive functions
- C4. Biodiversity
- C5. Protective functions
- C6. Socio-economic functions

Estimate of resources %

**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

Yes  No

education

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 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:

There is access to national and regional level forest inventory data. But there is no public access to inventory data at forest property level due to private data protection restrictions.

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 means

Yes  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.

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**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 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

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**B12. Cultural and spiritual values**

Yes  No

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

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**Comments**

Please explain and provide reference documents where relevant: