



Country:	Bulgaria
Date of submission:	November 2019

Format for reporting on progress towards the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, the United Nations forest instrument and voluntary national contributions¹

1. The format is structured around the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and builds on the format previously used for reporting to the United Nations Forum on Forests at its eleventh session. It is largely narrative, reflecting the qualitative nature of many of the targets.

2. Only information that is not currently provided to the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests or that is not in other international databases is requested. The information submitted will be supplemented with quantitative data, among other things, from the following international data providers:

(a) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment/collaborative forest resources questionnaires, Forest Europe, Economic Commission for Europe, International Tropical Timber Organization, Montreal Process and Observatory for the Forests of Central Africa;

(b) Reports on the state of the world's forests, produced every two years by FAO;

(c) Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat;

(d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

(e) Other data sources, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification.

3. Members are kindly requested:

(a) To submit their completed national reports electronically (in Microsoft Word format) in English, French or Spanish to unff@un.org by mid-November 2019, bearing in mind that early submissions will greatly facilitate the secretariat's preparation of the report on progress towards the goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 [title and focus to be determined] to be presented to the Forum in 2021 [to be confirmed];

(b) To submit, in a separate electronic file, a scanned version of the official signed letter conveying their submission from the respective ministry, or a note verbale from their permanent mission to the United Nations in New York;

Please submit the completed format to: unff@un.org by 15 November 2019.

¹ Detailed guidelines will be prepared and discussed and will, among other things, state the purpose of reporting and how the data will be used. References to voluntary national contributions will be harmonized with the process to be put in place for announcing voluntary national contributions.

(c) In view of the cross-cutting nature of issues relating to forests and sustainable forest management, to consult experts from relevant national ministries, such as those of the environment, economic development, finance and agriculture, in completing the reporting format and to consult the national focal points for the forest resources assessments, the Rio Conventions secretariats, other member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, criteria and indicators processes, and relevant stakeholders, where applicable. Members may also wish to consult stakeholders when preparing their report.

4. The year 2015 is used as a baseline.
5. Where possible, all terms used herein are consistent with the terms and definitions used by the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment.
6. Wherever possible, please indicate the source of information or provide a weblink.

General information

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Global forest goal 1 and associated targets²

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change

Associated targets

- 1.1 Forest area is increased by 3 per cent worldwide³
- 1.2 The world's forest carbon stocks are maintained or enhanced
- 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 1.4 The resilience and adaptive capacity of all types of forests to natural disasters and the impact of climate change is significantly strengthened worldwide

Questions on goal 1

1. (a) Since 2015,⁴ what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 1.1–1.4?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

² Goal 1 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 6.6, 12.2, 13.1, 13.3, 14.2, 15.1–15.4 and 15.8 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 9, 11, 14 and 15, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (o) and 7 (d) and (e) of the United Nations forest instrument.

³ Based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015.

⁴ Or earlier, where relevant to capturing important action. The same applies hereafter.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

Targets 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3

The following ordinances to the Forest Law were amended:

Ordinance № 8 regulating the fellings in forests

Ordinance № 12 for protection of forest territories from diseases, pests and other damages

Ordinance № 21 on the terms and procedure for the identification, approval, registration of forest reproductive materials

Adopted ordinances:

Ordinance on the terms and procedure for assigning the implementation of activities in forests –23.04.2019;

Ordinance on the control and protection of the forests - 01.09.2016

Ordinance № 18 on inventory and planning in forest - 7.10.2015

The Law for mitigating of climate change amended

Target 1.4.

National Action plan for energy from forest wood biomass for 2018-2027 was adopted;

In October 2019 the government approved National strategy for adaptation to climate change and an Action plan.

Description of actions:

Targets 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3

The Forest Law ensures conditions for sustainable management of all types of forests; protection and extension of the forest territory; maintaining and improving the state of forests; guaranteeing and maintaining the ecosystem, social and economic functions of forests. The decrease of the forest cover in Bulgaria is not allowed and the activities in forests should be performed in a way that does not cause damages on plant and animal species and their habitats.

Target 1.4

The adopted ordinances to the Forest Law regulate the implementation of forestry practices and systems of environmentally friendly, multifunctional and sustainable management of all types of forests that increase their resilience to natural disasters and their adaptability to climate change.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

Targets 1.1 and 1.2

Forest territories and respectively the potential for carbon sequestration expand in the last decade.

Target 1.3

Sustainable forest management is ensured by implementation of management plans or programs for all forests.

Target 1.4

To improve the resilience and adaptation of forests to climate change the planning and implementation of the following forestry activities are refined:

- types of fellings and methods, conditions and procedures for their performance;
- rules for marking the stands for felling and preparation of the accompanying documents;
- terms and procedure for issuing permission for felling;
- the system of regimes and measures for management of forests included in the European ecological network NATURA 2000;
- terms and procedures for performing fellings in the river beds;
- sanitary and coercive fellings.

Description of actions:

Targets 1.1 and 1.2

For the period 2015-2018 the total forest territory increased with 34 326 ha and the afforested area with 35 738 ha. This is due to transformation of abundant agricultural lands to forests and natural afforestation of open areas in forest territory. Totally 8 485 ha were afforested.

Targets 1.3 and 1.4

Main principle in forestry is performing of regenerative fellings in order to ensure natural regeneration of the stands. Due to prevention measures forest areas affected by fires and other natural disasters stably decreases. Processes of irreversible degradation of forest ecosystems and/or deforestation due to climate change are not observed. Forestry practices guaranteeing resilient and regenerative forest ecosystems are implemented in all types of forests irrespective their ownership.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Financing for:

- protection of forests from pests and diseases
- inventory and planning
- protection of forests from fires
- afforestation of forest territories without natural regeneration

Description of actions:

Financing from the state budget and from forest owners of preventive and quarantine activities and control of pests, diseases and other damages.

Annually 1/10 of the total forest territory is assigned for inventory and development of management plans.

In 2017 the elaboration of 3 Regional plans for development of forest territories was assigned. The plans were developed in 2019 and are in process of public consultation. Their adoption is forthcoming. The financing is ensured mainly by the State forest companies managing the state forests and the state budget.

With the financial support of the Rural Development Program (RDP) of European Union (EU) a unified national system for monitoring, early detection and notification of forest fires was developed. Five project proposals for construction of automatic systems for monitoring and detection of forest fires are submitted for financial support by RDP 2014-2020.

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Scientific works and development of scenarios for the expected climate change and their impact on forest ecosystems by the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the University of Forestry- Sofia
Zonation of forest-tree vegetation in accordance with climatic and environmental conditions in order to apply appropriate local and regional silvicultural systems and preserve the local vegetation.
Research on the species variability and gene pool of the forest ecosystems and the impact of climate change on them.
Studies on the state of forests and their functions, financed by Operational programs(OP) of EU.
Implementation of specific fellings, measures on regeneration and protection of the stands from diseases and pests, firefighting activities.

Description of actions:

For the period 2015-2018 were successfully implemented or are under implementation more than 25 projects financed by EU programs (LIFE, INTERREG, OP Environment, OP Good Governance), European Economic Area (EEA) and other international donors. Four research works recommending specific measures for the management of coppice oak stands at regional level were developed with the financial support of the state forest companies.
The forest protection from diseases, pests and other damages ensures establishment and cultivation of healthy, resilient and highly productive forests and includes:

- assessment of the health status of forests
- forecast on the distribution of pests and diseases
- monitoring of other damages in forests

(b) How do the actions listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest

The national policy and legislation in the Bulgarian forestry sector are aimed at preventing the degradation of forest ecosystems caused by adverse climate change.

An appropriate strategic framework has been adopted with measures and activities implemented and envisaged to increase the forest area in Bulgaria, the growing stock and carbon sink in the forest territories.

Improvement of forest management through appropriate forestry systems is also envisaged, all of which aim to optimize the development of the forestry sector by increasing the economic value of forest products and services and enhancing their social and environmental functions.

All this contributes to the achievement of the Global Objectives 1 and 2 of the UN Forest instrument?

instrument?

(c) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 1 in your country?

Insufficient financing for introduction of new technologies and innovations in the forest sector.

(d) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 1, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

(e) Any additional comments on goal 1:

Global forest goal 2 and associated targets⁵

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people

Associated targets

- 2.1 Extreme poverty for all forest-dependent people is eradicated
- 2.2 Increase the access of small-scale forest enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 2.3 The contribution of forests and trees to food security is significantly increased
- 2.4 The contribution of forest industry, other forest-based enterprises and forest ecosystem services to social, economic and environmental development, among other things, is significantly increased
- 2.5 The contribution of all types of forests to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation is enhanced, taking into account the mandates and ongoing work of relevant conventions and instruments

Questions on goal 2

2. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 2.1–2.5?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

⁵ Goal 2 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 1.1, 1.4, 2.4, 4.4, 5.a, 6.6, 8.3, 9.3, 12.2, 12.5, 15.6 and 15.c of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 4, 14 and 18, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (d)–(f), (h), (j), (p), (q), (t)–(v) and (y) and 7 (k) of the United Nations forest instrument.

i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

Target 2.3

To guarantee the protective functions of forests, the Forest Law (art. 5 para1) defines special category "protective forests" which area towards 31.12.2018 is totally 423 138 ha.

A system of forest shelterbelts has been established and maintained, aiming the protection of agricultural land from erosion and loss of soil fertility.

Target 2.4

Chapter 17 of the Forest Law defines the types of ecosystem services from forests and introduces terms for their payment when favor business activities.

The governmental program for the period 2017-2021 foresees the implementation of measure 657: "Payment for ecosystem services and ensuring of finances for compensation of forest owners in NATURA 2000".

Description of actions:

Target 2.3

Ordinance № 18 from 7 October 2015 defines the forest territories of protective importance for conservation of soil and water resources (art. 42 and art. 43).

A Strategy for strengthening the role of the agricultural sector in the bioeconomy was developed in the period 2018-2019, the forest sector recognized as essential in it.

Target 2.4

Methodology for determination of benefits to use of ecosystem services from forests, terms and conditions for their payment is under development.

Target 2.5

In implementation of Council Directive 92/43/EEC a process of establishing old-growth forests, seed gardens, protected territories, protected zones in NATURA 2000 and development of corresponding management plans, etc. is in progress.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

Target 2.1

Annually the state and the municipalities supply at preferential prices the local population with more than 300 000 m³ wood, mainly firewood.

Target 2.3.

Maintaining of the existing and establishing of new forest shelterbelts with the financial support of RDP 2014-2020 and LIFE program.

Target 2.4

The annual harvesting of more than 7 million m³ round timber from forests increase the role of forest industry for the economic and social development of the society in the country.

In the period 2015-2017 two projects were implemented with the financial support of EEA for development of Methodology for identification, mapping and assessment of the state of forest ecosystems and the services they provide, for the forests outside NATURA 2000 network.

In 2018 a Methodology for measuring the quantity and characteristics of the forest litter and biotope trees in the forest ecosystems was adopted.

Target 2.5

In implementation of Council Directives 92/43/EEC and 79/409/ EEC procedures for declaring of protected zones are in progress, as well as measure to maintain their appropriate status.

Description of actions:

Target 2.3. Control, prescriptions, sanctions, methodological guidance

Target 2.4. An Ordinance and Methodology for determining the compensation for ecosystem benefits, the terms and procedure for the payment of ecosystem services and the distribution of the funds collected in the municipalities are under preparation.

List of actions:

Description of actions:

ii) Financial actions

(iv) Technical and scientific actions

List of actions:

Target 2.3

Maintaining of the existing forest shelterbelts and establishment of new ones.

Target 2.4

Assigning the development of Regional plans for development of the forest territories

Target 2.5

Active participation of the scientific community in the implementation of EU regulations related to conservation of biodiversity.

Description of actions:

Target 2.3

Maintaining the good condition of forest shelterbelts by implementation of technical and regeneration fellings in case of bad state of the main stand.

Target 2.4

In 2018 three Regional plans for development of forest territories were developed and are in process of public consultations. They define:

- specific forest areas and the zones outside them where the ecosystem services are charged
- types of economic activities which benefit from ecosystem services and should pay for them

Target 2.5

Workshops, discussions

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 2?

Project "Development and Model Application of Sectoral Policies Targeting Ecosystem Services" – PoliciES, within the program BG03 Program "Biodiversity and Ecosystems" supported by the EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, was implemented. Beneficiaries were WWF - Danube - Carpathian Program - Bulgaria and the Executive Forest Agency. The project aims to present the concept of payment for forest ecosystem services through development and testing of a pilot regional plan for development of forest territories, in the region of Berkovitza town in Western Balkan mountain.

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest instrument?

Increasing the area of protected forests and the activities to develop a system of forest shelterbelts contributes to enhancing the role of forests for food security. Legislative activities on mapping, assessment and evaluation of forest ecosystem services aim to mobilize additional financial resources for the protection of forest ecosystems, their adaptation to climate change and enrichment of forest resources. These activities contribute to achieving the Global Objectives 1 and 2 of the Forest Instrument

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 2 in your country?

Attracting the attention of private landowners to the possibilities of applying agroforestry systems, one of which are forest shelterbelts. The maintenance and reconstruction of the existing forest shelterbelts, which are mainly on state territories and the creation of new ones, as well as the establishment of forest plantations on relatively less fertile arable land, require the appropriate will of the landowners and considerable financial resources.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 2, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 2:

Global forest goal 3 and associated targets⁶

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests

Associated targets

- 3.1 The area of forests worldwide designated as protected areas or conserved through other effective area-based conservation measures is significantly increased
- 3.2 The area of forests under long-term forest management plans is significantly increased
- 3.3 The proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests is significantly increased

Questions on goal 3

3. (a) Since 2015, what types of action have been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to advance or contribute to the achievement of targets 3.1–3.3?

Please indicate to which targets the actions relate and briefly describe the results to date (in a maximum of 250 words). For each action, please indicate whether it is continuous, planned, in progress or completed.

⁶ Goal 3 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 7.2, 12.2, 12.6, 12.7, 14.2, 14.5, 15.2 and 15.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 7, 11, 12 and 16, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (p), (q) and (x) and 7 (f) and (g) of the United Nations forest instrument.

(i) Legislative and policy actions

List of actions:

Target 3.1

The following laws were amended:

Law for the protected territories - 03.01.2019;

Law for protection of the environment – 08.10. 2019;

The Law for biological diversity defines that 55% of the forest territories as part of ecological network NATURA 2000, in accordance with Council Directives 92/43/EEC and 79/409/ EEC Regimes for sustainable management of the forests in NATURA 2000 were adopted.

Target 3.2

Ordinance No18 for inventory and planning in forest territories was adopted

Target 3.3

According to the Forest Law, forest certification is a voluntary instrument and is performed by independent, non-government certification bodies.

Description of actions:

Target 3.1

Ordinance No18 defines that the planning and execution of forestry activities in habitats included in NATURA 2000 are performed according to System of regimes, measures and standards for sustainable management.

Target 3.2

Ordinance No18 defines the terms and procedures for preparation, adoption and amendment of:

- Forest inventory;
- Forest management plans and programs;
- Game management plans;
- Planned activities on protection of forests from fires.

Target 3.3

The forest territories up to now are certified by Forest stewardship council (FSC) Specially developed for Bulgaria national standard for responsible forest management was approved by FSC and is applied from August 2017.

National standards for certification of forests by Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) are developed. The approval of the Bulgarian scheme for forest certification by the General assembly of PEFC is expected.

(ii) Institutional actions

List of actions:

Target 3.1

National Council on biodiversity to the Ministry of Environment and Waters was established in order to designate or review the areas in NATURA 2000.

In 2015 in category "protective forests" new 109 000 ha state forests were included. In 2016 state forests with an area of 107 000 ha were defined as old-growth forests.

Target 3.2

Execution of control on the implementation of the forest management plans and programs, game management plans, plans and activities related to prevention of forest fires.

Target 3.3

Periodic audit of the certified forests and continuation of the certification process in state forests.

Description of actions:

Target 3.1

1. Long-term protection of the biodiversity, geological and landscape diversity;
2. Provision of sufficient in area and quality habitats for breeding, feeding and resting of the wildlife;
3. Establishment of conditions for gene flow between divided populations and species;
5. Reducing the negative anthropogenic effect on the protected sites.

Target 3.2

Permanent control on forest activities (fellings, afforestation, restoration, protection) in all types of forests, regardless of their ownership. Expansion of forest territories with a more strict management regime

Target 3.3

The area of the certified forest territories towards December 2018 is 459 577 ha or 34% of the total forest area. The certified units are 27. FSC Chain of custody certificate is issued to 456 units.

The area of the certified state forests is 1 444 204 ha or 50% of the state forests. The certified units are 25.

PEFC Chain of custody certificate is issued to 20 units.

(iii) Financial actions

List of actions:

Since 2016 the state has been purchasing small private forest estates in order to improve the organization of their long-term management, utilization and conservation. With priority are properties in vicinity to state forests, have protective or special functions and have an area of 0.1ha to 1ha

Description of actions:

In 2016 about 100 ha of private forests were purchased on a price of about 600 000 BGN.
For 2020 the state has set about 1million BGN for purchasing private forests

List of actions:

Target 3.1

University of Forestry – Sofia and the Forest Research Institute to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences maintain permanent experimental stations for research and study of the biodiversity and adaptation of the main types of forests to climate change.

Description of actions:

Target 3.1

There are publications of scientific studies and PhD theses are developed on biodiversity and the dynamics in development of forest ecosystems, genetic variability and adaptability of the main forest tree species, the risks of invasion of new pests and diseases and implementation of corresponding preventive measures.

iv) Technical and scientific actions

(b) What other action is being taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in support of the achievement of goal 3?

(c) How does the action listed above support the implementation of the United Nations forest

The significant share of forest territories included in the NATURA 2000 ecological network and the designation of new forest territories as protective and old-age forests contributes to the achievement of Global Objective 3 of the Forest Instrument.

instrument?

(d) What are the main challenges in achieving goal 3 in your country?

Introducing appropriate incentives to increase the interest and engagement of forest owners in certification of forests and their products. Development of markets for certified timber and products from certified forest areas.

(e) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 3, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

(f) Any additional comments on goal 3:

Global forest goal 4 and associated targets⁷

Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships

Associated targets

4.1 Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

4.2 Forest-related financing from all sources at all levels, including public (national, bilateral, multilateral and triangular), private and philanthropic financing, is significantly increased

4.3 North-South, South-South, North-North and triangular cooperation and public-private partnerships on science, technology and innovation in the forest sector are significantly enhanced and increased

4.4 The number of countries that have developed and implemented forest financing strategies and have access to financing from all sources is significantly increased

⁷ Goal 4 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, targets 12.a, 15.7, 15.a, 15.b, 17.1–17.3, 17.6, 17.7 and 17.16–17.19 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 19, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (h), (i), (m), (r) and (s) and 7 (a)–(c) and (l)–(q) of the United Nations forest instrument.

4.5 The collection, availability and accessibility of forest-related information is improved through, for example, multidisciplinary scientific assessments

Questions on goal 4

4. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 4 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Target 4.4

According to art. 178 and art. 178 of the Forest Law in order to ensure its financial stability and generate funds for the targeted investments necessary to perform their activities the state forest companies form a Forest Investments Fund and a Reserve Fund.

Forest Investments Fund accumulates from part of the sale price of timber and non-timber products harvested from state owned forests. The finances in this fund should be spend on afforestation, purchasing of wooded areas, design and construction of forest roads and technical transport infrastructure, design and construction of terrain reinforcements, as well as for implementation of projects, co-financed by European programs.

For the period 2015-2018 additional financial resources of about 1 200 000 EURO were attracted from EU programs, EEA and other international donor for scientific studies and research activities, increasing the qualification of forest workers, improving the conservation status of protected species of priority importance for European Community.

Target 4.5

Since 01.01.2016 a new electronic system for tracing the timber was introduced. It includes issuing of electronic permissions for felling and electronic transportation tickets. Since 01.01.2017 the system has been obligatory also for storages and wood processing workshops. Its implementation significantly reduces the opportunities for illegal harvesting of timber and makes easier the processing of information related to harvesting and transport of timber and timber products.

In 2017 finished a project of the World Bank for development of methodology for National Forest Inventory in Bulgaria

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 4, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

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Progress towards targets 4.1 and 4.2

(c) Since 2015, has your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the sources:

- Public domestic funding
- Private domestic funding
- Public international funding, including official development assistance
- Private international funding
- Blended financing

Please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds in a maximum of 250 words:

Weak interest for investments from the private sector; Low priority of the forest sector in national economy which impedes the attraction of additional public financing.
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Progress towards target 4.3

(d) Is your country (the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) engaged in international cooperation to promote sustainable forest management?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the entity or entities with which your country is cooperating:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations/processes
- Private sector
- Non-governmental organizations
- Other

Types of cooperation:

- North-South
- South-South
- North-North
- Triangular
- Technical
- Financial
- Other (please specify):

Areas of cooperation:

- Forests and climate change
- Forest biodiversity
- Valuation of the ecosystem services provided by forests
- Socioeconomic issues, including livelihoods
- Forest degradation and rehabilitation
- Scientific cooperation
- Forest monitoring/data collection
- Technology transfer and capacity development
- Production of timber or non-timber products
- Other (please specify):

Progress towards target 4.4

(e) Since 2015, has your Government developed or implemented financing strategies to achieve sustainable forest management and to implement the United Nations forest instrument?

Yes No

If yes, what is the time frame for these strategies (multiple answers possible, if there is more than one strategy)?

- 2–5 years
- 5–10 years
- 10–20 years
- More than 20 years

Global forest goal 5 and associated targets⁸

Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the United Nations forest instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Associated targets

5.1 Number of countries that have integrated forests into their national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies is significantly increased

5.2 Forest law enforcement and governance are enhanced, including through significantly strengthening national and subnational forest authorities, and illegal logging and associated trade are significantly reduced worldwide

5.3 National and subnational forest-related policies and programmes are coherent, coordinated and complementary across ministries, departments and authorities, consistent with national laws, and engage relevant stakeholders, local communities and indigenous peoples, fully recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

5.4 Forest-related issues and the forest sector are fully integrated into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development

Questions on goal 5

5. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 5 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

⁸ Goal 5 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement, among other things, of targets 1.4, 2.4, 5.a, 15.9, 15.c, 16.3, 16.5–16.7, 16.10 and 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2 and 3, and are supported by paragraphs 6 (a), (c), (k), (l), (n) and (w) and 7 (c) and (h)–(j) of the United Nations forest instrument.

Target 5.1.

The Governmental program for the period 2017-2021 foresees support for the development of forest regions through improving the conditions for development of small and middle forest enterprises (timber harvesting and timber processing industries), with two measures:

- Continuation of measures for preferential provision of raw material to Bulgarian and local processors in order to support the national forest industry. Stimulating of long-term contracts.
- Increasing the share of timber sales from public forests through electronic auction.

To support the local forest dependent population the Forest Law allows free collection of non-timber products for personal consumption, while the state and the municipalities provide firewood at preferential prices for the local population and for socially vulnerable people.

Target 5.2.

The electronic system for issuing of transport tickets and tracing the timber, introduced at the beginning of 2016, has strengthened the control on trade with timber and timber products.

Target 5.3

The National plan for energy from forest biomass reflects the strategic priorities related to the use of forest biomass as renewable energy source. Its implementation is ensured by coordinate actions of several ministries responsible for different sectors –agriculture, food and forestry; energy; environment; economy etc.

Target 5.4

The integration of the forest sector into decision-making processes concerning land use planning and development is guaranteed through the Regional plans for development of forest territories. They include all forest territories regardless of their ownership and aim to: identify and involve all stakeholders in the planning process; designation of areas protected of urbanization; identify the specific forest areas in which the ecosystem services are payed.

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 5, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

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Progress towards target 5.1

(c) In your country, have forests been integrated into national sustainable development plans and/or poverty reduction strategies?

Yes No

If yes, please specify if integrated into:

National sustainable development plans and/or

Poverty reduction strategies

Progress towards target 5.2

(d) Since 2015, has your Government taken steps to prevent and reduce illegal international trafficking in forest products, wildlife and other biological resources?

Yes No

If yes, please specify the type of action:

New legislation

Improved enforcement of existing legislation

Export controls

Import controls

Bilateral agreements between exporting/importing countries

Other action, for example, public procurement policies and public-private partnerships. Please list below:

Progress towards target 5.3

(e) Are mechanisms in place to ensure cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies?

Yes No

<p>The Executive Forest Agency periodically concludes agreements for cooperation and data exchange with the Ministry of the Interior, the Customs Agency, the National Revenue Agency, the Executive Agency "Roads", the General Labour Inspectorate, etc.</p> <p>Interinstitutional groups have been established with the Ministry of Environment and Waters, the Ministry of Energy and other government and scientific institutions</p>
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If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

(f) What types of mechanism are in place to involve stakeholders in forest/ sustainable forest management policy formulation, planning and implementation?

Working groups in participation of all stakeholders are set up for the development and / or adoption of strategic documents in the forestry sector by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (for the National Forest Strategy) or by order of the Executive Director of the Executive Forest Agency (for the National Strategic Plan). The strategic documents outline all responsible institutions involved in implementing the relevant measures and actions. Subsequently, committees / working groups are set up with the involvement of all stakeholders to monitor the implementation of the relevant document.

All drafts of legal and strategic documents are published on a Portal for public consultations (Strategy.bg) before their adoption.

Please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Progress towards target 5.4

(g) Are mechanisms in place to involve the forest sector in cross-sectoral coordination among government agencies in charge of land use planning and development?

X Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words

Participation of all stakeholders in the development, implementation and monitoring of the strategic documents for the forest sector – National strategy for the development of the forest sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013-2020 and Strategic plan for the development of the forest sector 2014-2023 (art. 9 para 1 of the Forest Law)

Public consultation of the Regional plans for the development of forest territories (art. 9 para 2 of the Forest Law)

Global forest goal 6 and associated targets⁹

Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the United Nations system and across member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders

Note: targets 6.1 and 6.2 are not included in this section of the reporting format as they address actions taken by the international community, and not those taken at the national level

Associated targets

⁹ Goal 6 and its targets support and contribute to the achievement of, among other things, target 17.14 of the Sustainable Development Goals and are supported by paragraphs 6 (b), (c), (g), (m) and (w) and 7 (f) and (s) of the United Nations forest instrument.

6.3 Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation to promote sustainable forest management and halt deforestation and forest degradation are significantly enhanced at all levels

6.4 A greater common understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management is achieved and an associated set of indicators is identified

6.5 The input and involvement of major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the strategic plan and in the work of the Forum, including intersessional work, is strengthened

Questions on goal 6

6. (a) Please describe major actions taken in your country to move towards goal 6 and its associated targets. More detailed information on actions for each target may be supplied below.

Target 6.3

Bulgaria actively participates in the following international initiatives:

- Forest Europe – Bulgaria is a signatory to this political process
- Coordination Mechanism for the Cooperation in Forestry between the People’s Republic of China and Central and Eastern European Countries (17+1) – since the signing of Memorandum for its establishment in 2015 Bulgaria is a member of this Mechanism
- European Forest Institute – Bulgaria has ratified the Convention on EFI
- Forum Balkan Forests – in 2015 Memorandum between 5 Balkan countries was signed for establishment of international institutional organization in the forest sector. The aim of the Forum is to contribute to the improvement of bilateral and regional cooperation by exchange of experience, information and good practices regarding the sustainable and multifunctional management and protection of forests; joint development and implementation of projects in the field of forestry; establishment of better communication between the forest administrations of the Balkan countries at management and expert levels. In 2016 the members of the Forum increased to 6.

Target 6.4

Bulgaria participates in the process of improving the indicators for sustainable management in the frames of Forest Europe in order to achieve more unified approach and understanding of the concept of sustainable forest management

(b) If your Government has announced a voluntary national contribution or contributions relating to goal 6, please provide brief information, including target dates and the progress made thus far.

Progress towards target 6.4 (criteria and indicators)

(c) Are criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management used in your country?

Yes No

If yes, please specify which sets are used:

- National or subnational
- Regional or international¹⁰
- Other (please specify):

For which of the following purposes are they used? (Multiple answers possible)

- To generate information for national reports on forest conditions and management
- To monitor and assess forest conditions and management
- To review and develop national forest policies and tools for sustainable forest management
- To communicate with society and carry out dialogue with stakeholders
- To report on forests to regional and international organizations (please specify):

¹⁰ For instance, those used by the International Tropical Timber Organization, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the Tarapoto Proposal on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of Amazonian Forests.

Progress towards target 6.4 (communication and awareness)

(d) Since 2015, have actions been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country to communicate and promote a greater understanding and awareness of sustainable forest management?

X Yes No

If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words

<p>Communication campaign: Forest week, International exhibition "Nature, hunting and fishing", Nature parks Day, "Clean Bulgaria for one day", "Christmas trees", Forest pedagogy, "Forester for one day".</p> <p>Campaigns for raising awareness on the national TV concerning protection of forests from fires, preventive measures on African swine fever, illegal trade with firewood, etc.</p> <p>Enhanced work with pupils and students, introduction of Forest pedagogy as a separate discipline in the University of Forestry.</p> <p>Daily information on the web side of the Executive Forest Agency related to current forestry issues.</p>

Progress towards target 6.5

(e) Have actions been taken by your Government to involve major groups and other relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?

X Yes No

<p>Public consultations are conducted for all legal and strategic documents in the forest sector. Forming of working and expert groups ensures the participation of all stakeholders in the activities related to protection and sustainable management of forests. In the process of preparation of Regional plans for development of forest territories the active participation of local communities is ensured regarding the decisions for efficient utilization of forest resources and products.</p>
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If yes, please specify in a maximum of 250 words:

Other questions

7. (a) Since 2015, has your country taken action to promote gender equality in the forest sector?

Yes No

If yes, please indicate action taken with regard to the following:

- Women's effective access to the control and use of forest resources
- Women's effective participation in decision-making at the household and community levels
- Women's effective participation and representation in forest management institutions
- Other

Please provide a brief description:

(b) What action has been taken (by the Government, the private sector, communities, civil society or others) in your country in observance of the International Day of Forests?

- Cultural activities (for example, art, music, film and theatre)
- Educational activities (for example, workshops and symposiums)
- Media activities (for example, newspapers, magazines, television and radio)
- Social media activities
- Other

Please provide two to three examples and, if possible, a weblink or weblinks to relevant documentation:

In 2018 the celebration of the International day of forests, 21 March, became national event. Foresters all over the country organized events for children entitled "Let's learn to love the forests." Through games and forest pedagogy methods, hundreds of children across the country were familiar with forest dwellers, tree species and how they can be managed sustainably.

Following is a small part of the press releases on the topic.

<http://www.iag.bg/news/lang/1/id/13257/display>

<http://www.iag.bg/news/lang/1/id/13266/display>

<http://www.iag.bg/news/lang/1/id/13250/display>

Success stories

8. Do you have any success stories relating to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 in your country? If so, please provide a brief description, with references (such as weblinks, publications and articles), showing how the action contributed to achieving the goals and targets and specifying which goals and targets are relevant. Please provide a maximum of three success stories.

<p>Success story 1</p> <p>Action taken:</p> <p>Goals and targets addressed:</p> <p>Outcome and results achieved</p> <p>How did this action contribute to the implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030?</p> <p>References:</p>	
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Annex II

Draft global core set of forest-related indicators

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals and global forest goal 1. Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.1.1
2. Forest area annual net change rate	1. Extent of forest resources	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and target 1.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
3. Net greenhouse gas emissions (source)/ removals (sink) of forests, and carbon balance of harvested wood products	1. Extent of forest resources 4. Productive functions of forest resources	Kilotons of carbon dioxide emissions per year	2	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat	Measures progress towards targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 13 and measuring, reporting and verifying requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. Proportion of forest area located within legally established protected areas	2. Forest biological diversity	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 2.5 and 3.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
5. Change in area of primary forests	2. Forest biological diversity	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. Linkages with Sustainable Development Goal 15
6. Proportion of forest area disturbed	3. Forest health and vitality	Percentage of forest area	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
7. Area of	3. Forest health and vitality	Hectares	3	FAO Global Forest	Measures progress towards target 1.3 of the United Nations strategic

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
degraded forest vitality				Resources Assessment	plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. Linkages to strategic objective 1 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (2008–2018), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
8. Above-ground biomass stock in forest	4. Productive function of forest resources	Tons per hectare	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.2 and 2.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, as well as Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
9. Volume of wood removals	4. Productive function of forest resources	Cubic metres	1	ECE/FAO/International Tropical Timber Organization/Eurostat joint forest sector questionnaire	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
10. Wood-based energy share of total final energy consumption	4. Productive function of forest resources	Percentage	2	ECE and FAO	Linked to target 7.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals
11. Forest area with a designated management objective to maintain and enhance its protective functions	5. Protective function of forest resources	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Linked to target 1.4 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
12. Employment related to the	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest	Number of full-time	2	FAO Global Forest	Measures progress towards target 2.4 of the United Nations strategic

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
forest sector	resources	equivalents		Resources Assessment	plan for forests 2017–2030
13. Number of forest-dependent people in extreme poverty	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	Number	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.1 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
14. Contribution of forests to food security	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	To be decided	3	FAO and United Nations Forum on Forests	Measures progress towards global forest goal 2 and target 2.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
15. Financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management	6. Socioeconomic functions of forest resources	United States dollars	3	OECD, World Bank	Measures progress towards global forest goal 4 and targets 4.1 and 4.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Linkages with targets 15.a and 15.b of the Sustainable Development Goals
16. Existence of national or subnational policies, strategies, legislation, regulations and institutions that explicitly encourage sustainable forest management	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards global forest goal 5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
17. Existence of national or subnational forest assessment process	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030
18. Existence of national or subnational stakeholder platform for participation in forest policy development	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments	Measures progress towards target 4.5 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Thematic element</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Tiera</i>	<i>Data supplier</i>	<i>Linkages to globally agreed goals and targets</i>
19. Proportion of forest area under a long-term forest management plan	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Percentage	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, targets 1.3 and 3.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030 and Aichi Biodiversity Target 7. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
20. Forest area under an independently verified forest management certification scheme	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	Hectares	1	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards target 15.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets 1.3 and 3.3 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030. Subindicator of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 15.2.1
21. Existence of traceability system(s) for wood products	7. Legal, policy and institutional framework	References	2	FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment	Measures progress towards targets 3.3 and 5.2 of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030

Abbreviations: ECE, Economic Commission for Europe; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; OECD, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

^a Tier 1: methodology and data in place. Tier 2: methodology in place, data challenges. Tier 3: methodology and data both present challenges.

