



**Reporting on the  
pan-European Qualitative Indicators  
for Sustainable Forest Management  
and  
National Implementation of  
Commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the  
Protection of Forests in Europe**

**COUNTRY:**

Republic of Belarus

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## Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
ha	Hectares
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (abbreviation replaced by brand name FOREST EUROPE, November 2009)
Nfp	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests

# Introduction

In preparation for the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, planned to be held in Norway in June 2011, FOREST EUROPE<sup>1</sup> correspondents are asked to provide information to assess progress made since the reporting for the fifth Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, Poland 2007. This enquiry intends to enable signatory countries and the European Union to provide information on progress made towards sustainable forest management and implementation of commitments in the period 2007-2011. Countries which did not report for the fifth Ministerial Conference in 2007 may consider reporting also more in-depth on the current status of indicators, not only on changes.

This enquiry consists of two parts.

Part 1 contains the pan-European qualitative indicators for sustainable forest management. Results from this part will be combined with the results of the reporting on pan-European quantitative indicators (sent to the FRA national correspondents on 19.02.10), and will be presented in the next report on the State of Europe's Forests.

Part 2 contains reporting of implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments since 2007. It asks for national implementation of the Warsaw commitments and provides the opportunity to report on any major national activities since 2007 in implementing former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. National responses to this part of the enquiry will be published in a report on implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments 2007-2011, together with reporting on pan-European implementation of Warsaw commitments and former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The reports "State of Europe's Forests 2011" and "Implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments 2007-2011" (preliminary names) will serve as background information for the political discussions of future opportunities and challenges, and political responses to these, at the sixth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

The structure of this questionnaire was improved, compared to the 2007 version by learning from previous experience. The main change from the previous version is that reporting on national implementation of former commitments is separated and simplified. The change is meant to reduce the reporting burden on countries, while still providing for descriptions of national implementation of Warsaw commitments and former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, if applicable. The questionnaire was prepared in consultation with partners at FAO and FOREST EUROPE, shared with the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM and FOREST EUROPE national focal points, and subsequently improved.

In completing the enquiry, you may wish to consult the following sources of information on policies and institutions:

MCPFE 2007 qualitative indicators: <http://www.unece.org/timber/fra/mcpfe07qualcountryreport.htm>

FRA 2010<sup>2</sup>: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/44375/en>

FAO-LEX: <http://faolex.fao.org/faolex>

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<sup>1</sup> "FOREST EUROPE" has recently replaced the abbreviation "MCPFE" as the brand name of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

<sup>2</sup> Country data not yet available

# 1. Reporting on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators

Reporting on pan-European Qualitative Indicators consists of parts A and B. The five indicators in **Part A**: “Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM” aim to describe overall policy approaches for a sustainable forest management. **Part B**: “Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area” contains twelve indicators aiming to provide information in addition to the information provided in Part A. This concerns the specific policy objectives, the main institutions relevant to achieve the objective as well as the main policy instruments used. Under both A and B, significant changes since the last reporting process in 2007 should be reported. There is no need to repeat information already supplied in 2007<sup>3</sup>. This part will be used for the report on the *State of Europe’s Forests 2011*. Please see Annex 1 for Terms and definitions, and Annex 2 for an overview of the pan-European qualitative indicators.

For reporting, please note the following:

1. In the tables all requests for responses are marked by [     ], visible on computer screens (not necessarily on print-outs). All requests for responses are limited to approximately 100 words or 650 letters (including blank spaces) automatically in order to keep the analytical efforts within reasonable bounds.
2. The sum of texts provided per indicator in Parts A and B should not exceed 2 pages, and be around 1 page, if possible.
3. Changes since the reporting in 2007 will be analyzed systematically, first by determining whether or not such changes were reported. No information is interpreted as “no significant change”.
4. The main indicator related to climate change is B.2 (carbon balance). Please include information related to climate change policies under this indicator. Where relevant, you can also include information related to climate change under B.3 (health and vitality) and B.4 (production and use of wood).
5. Please provide further information on the measures taken, as deemed relevant, e.g. major partners in implementation, time period, budget involved experiences made (lessons learned, obstacles encountered and solutions).
6. Please provide the latest information available unless otherwise specified
7. Please specify reference documents as follows: - Author or institution. Year of publication (if published). Title. Reference Number. Publisher.

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<sup>3</sup> Country Reports submitted in 2007 are available at:  
<http://www.unece.org/timber/fra/mcpfe07qualcountryreport.htm>

## A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM

A.1. 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Nfp process <sup>1</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process explicitly guided by Nfp principles <input type="checkbox"/> Similar process <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above				
Name of Nfp or similar process	Name: Forestry Development Programme of the Republic of Belarus for 2007-2011 Internet link: No	Starting year:	2007		
Main formal decision making body of the process	<input type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministry responsible for forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:				
Characteristics of Nfp or similar process, including Nfp principles as defined by MCPFE					
Commitment to iterative process		Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who is regularly participating in the Nfp or similar process?	Administration responsible for forestry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest owners representatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Representatives from other sectors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest-related environmental and social groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest based industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Forest education and/or research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are other sectors actively involved in the Nfp or similar process?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	If yes, which:		How are the key sectors involved:	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> tourism	<input type="checkbox"/> energy	<input type="checkbox"/> others:
		<input type="checkbox"/> mostly formal arrangements <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/> mostly informal arrangements	-----	
		<input type="checkbox"/> mostly participation in Nfp workshops	<input type="checkbox"/> mostly separate consultation processes	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
Are other policies and international commitments <sup>4</sup> explicitly referred to in the Nfp or similar process?		Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
	National development policy/strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	International forest-related commitments <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How is policy implementation monitored and evaluated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-specified periodic monitoring <input type="checkbox"/> Periodically, but not pre-determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input type="checkbox"/> Other:				
	Are MCPFE criteria & indicators for SFM used in monitoring and evaluation policies?	Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Significant changes related to the Nfp process or similar since 2007	There have been no significant changes connected with the national forestry process				
Major results of the Nfp or similar process and key lessons learned	Improved forestry legislation Increased forest coverage Increased forest productivity, growth of general reserves of forest resources, a source of renewable energy Increased timber harvesting Increased the role of forests in water conservation and soil protection				

	Protection of biodiversity				
Comments on the Nfp or similar process					
<b>Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)</b>					
Existence of forest policy document (other than law)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No			
Title of main forest policy document <sup>4</sup> and internet links	<p>Title: Strategic plan for the development of forestry management of the Republic of Belarus (1997)          Framework for the sustainable development of forestry management of the Republic of Belarus until 2015          State programme for overcoming the effects of the Chernobyl catastrophe, 2006-2010          State programme for the development of a national environment monitoring system in the Republic of Belarus, 2006-2010</p> <p>Internet links: No</p>				
Forest policy document development process	<input type="checkbox"/> formal Nfp process or process explicitly guided by Nfp principles <input type="checkbox"/> process similar to Nfp or other process				
Name of endorsing/authorizing /enacting institution of the forest policy document		Date of endorsement			
Current status of the forest policy document	<input type="checkbox"/> in development <input type="checkbox"/> in implementation <input type="checkbox"/> in review				
Is there explicit reference to / uptake of MCPFE instruments in the forest policy document?	MCPFE definition of SFM	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/fully	<input type="checkbox"/> Partly	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
	MCPFE criteria and indicators for SFM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE guidelines for Nfps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>If the responsibility for forest policy is decentralized:</i> Existence of formally endorsed subnational forest policy document(s)			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Significant changes related to main forest policy document since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words]				
Comments on the forest policy document					
<b>Reporting notes</b>					
<p>1. Formal Nfp process means formally and explicitly acknowledged and referred to as "Nfp process"</p> <p>2. Formal arrangements comprise e.g. steering committees or other decision making bodies, consultative bodies, sector-specific working groups, etc.</p>					

3. You may wish to refer for instance to UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, CBD, UNFCCC, etc.

4. The main forest policy document can be a national forest programme document, a forest policy statement, a forest strategy or other. Forest legislation is covered separately under A3.

A.2. Institutional frameworks				
Government bodies	Please specify the type of forest-related institutional arrangements - forest policy administration - legislative supervision & enforcement - general support to forest management - management of public forests	Part of Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Separate body <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Please specify the level of main responsibility - forest policy administration. - legislative supervision & enforcement - general support to forest management - management of public forests	Central government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Subnational governments <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words] The Ministry of Forestry is responsible for the development of forestry policy in the Republic of Belarus. Other government institutions and organizations also participate in the development and implementation of forestry policy. Forest management organization structure: Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Belarus, regional territorial bodies for forestry management, Institutes of forest management. Monitoring is conducted by the Ministry of Forestry.			
Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests	Name or group/type <sup>1</sup> :	Forest-related staff <sup>2</sup> (2008,FTE)		
	Total [estimate]			
	...of which forest administration <sup>3</sup>			
	...of which management of public forests			
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions			
	... of which others			
Main private sector organizations relevant for forest policy (interest groups, associations and NGOs etc.)	Name			
	NGO Belorussian Foresters' Society			
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes since 2007.			
Comments on the institutional framework				
Reporting notes				
<p>1. Please provide aggregated figures for each group/type of organizations, including all levels of government. Publicly owned business entities should be excluded. Where it is impossible or inappropriate to separate the activities of publicly owned business entities from other public sector activities in forest sector, this should be noted and staff of the entities should be included in the table. Please specify in the space left for comments which institutions are included (or not) in the figures you provide.</p> <p>2. Forest-related staff in public organizations includes human resources within public forest institutions at subnational level. This refers to professionals as well as administrative staff.</p> <p>3. "Forest administration" includes the first three sub-categories mentioned in the previous part of the table, i.e. forest policy administration, legislative supervision &amp; enforcement, and general support to forest management.</p>				

### A.3. Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments

<b>Legal/regulatory frameworks</b>		
General characteristics of legal/regulatory framework: formal authority on main forest matters is laid down... [multiple answers possible]	<input type="checkbox"/> in constitution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in legislation enacted by parliament <input type="checkbox"/> in administrative decrees / regulations only <input type="checkbox"/> other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at central government level <input type="checkbox"/> at federal level <input type="checkbox"/> 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 Code of the Republic of Belarus
	Main changes from previous legal act	The Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus, adopted in 2000, is the first legislative enactment regulating forest management relations in the sovereign republic of Belarus. Until the Code entered into force, forestry in Belarus was governed by the Forest Code of the Soviet Union.
	Date of enactment	
	Date of latest amendment	28 December 2009
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes since 2007.	
Comments		
<b>International commitments</b>		
Significant changes in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes in international commitments related to forests since 2007.	
Comments		

A.4. Financial instruments and economic policy			
<b>Economic policy</b>			
Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests	Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related economic policy. [max. 100 words] Forest management in Belarus is a centrally managed budget line. Financial support for forestry comes from the State budget (up to 70 per cent) and funds and revenue from the sale of timber and other forest trade and services (30 per cent). The economic policy for forestry aims to establish conditions that are favourable for sustainable management of forests in accordance with the requirements of their continuous, rational and inexhaustible use, increasing forest revenue, quality forest regeneration, protection of their ecological potential and biodiversity.		
Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2007	The forest management policy aims at a gradual transfer to become a self-funding sector and the establishment of market relations in forestry are continuing.		
Comments			
<b>Financial instruments</b>			
Public forest management	Please describe financial arrangements related to public forests and their management [max. 100 words] Forest management in Belarus is financed by targeted funding from the State budget, as well as extra-budgetary income from forestry activities. Targeted funding is regulated annually under the Budget Act. Forest income consists of income from forest management, income from the use of forest lands and other extra-budgetary revenue (sale of timber, sale of seeds and planting materials, provision of paid services, food production, etc.)		
Government financial instruments: private forest management	Please specify the use of financial instruments, including fiscal measures, subsidies, loans etc. for private forests and their management, incl. main objectives [max. 100 words]		
Public expenditure <sup>1</sup>			
Year:	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding (mil€)	<b>Total (mil€)</b>
Operational expenditure <sup>3</sup>	35.3	0	35.3
Transfer payments (support to private forest management) <sup>4</sup>			
<b>Total public expenditure<sup>1</sup></b>	35.3	0	35.3
Of which <sup>5</sup> ...	For forest administration		n/a
	For management of public forests		n/a
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		n/a
	For other institutions. Please specify:		n/a
Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words]		
Comments			
<b>Reporting notes</b>			

1. Data on operational expenditure, transfer payments and total public expenditure for the year 2009 has been reported to **FRA 2010** (<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra>) in local currency. FRA definitions and reporting guidelines, also specified in these reporting notes, apply. Please indicate figures based on FRA data, or **updated figures when available**. Please specify the **year** which the data refers to in the intended box.

**Public expenditure** refers to all government expenditures on forest related activities. It corresponds to the total budget allocated and spent by all concerned institutions. It includes expenditures for administrative functions, reforestation funds, direct support to forest sector (e.g. grants and subsidies) and support to other institutions (e.g. training and research centers). It excludes expenditures in publicly owned business entities. Where it is impossible or inappropriate to separate the activities of publicly owned business entities from other public sector activities in forest sector, this should be noted and expenditure of the entities should be included in the table. In this case, please specify in the space left for comments which institutions you included (or not).

2. **Operational expenditure** is all government expenditure on public institutions solely engaged in the forest sector. Where the forest administration is part of a larger public agency (e.g. department or ministry), this should only include the forest sector component of the agency's total expenditure. As far as possible, this should also include other institutions (e.g. in research, training and marketing) solely engaged in the forest sector, but it should exclude the expenditure of publicly owned business entities. Where it is impossible or inappropriate to separate the activities of publicly owned business entities from other public sector activities in forest sector, this should be noted and expenditure of the entities should be included in the table. In this case, please specify in the space left for comments which institutions you included (or not). Operational expenditure includes expenditure on: personnel; materials; operating costs; and capital investment (e.g. buildings, equipment, tools, vehicles and machinery), whether funded by domestic or external sources of finance. It includes expenditure on contract or outsourced activities. It also includes the operating costs associated with any forest sector incentive schemes. It excludes expenditure on: marketing; trade facilitation; general research, education, training; or development projects, where forest is not the main focus of activities.
3. **Transfer payments** refer to all government expenditure on direct financial incentives paid to non-government and private-sector institutions, enterprises communities or individuals operating in the forest sector to implement forest related activities. It includes cash grants and subsidies. It excludes tax incentives; government loans; benefits in kind (free or subsidized materials and/or advice). It also excludes direct financial incentives available to all individuals and enterprises or not specifically related to forest related activities (e.g. relocation grants, employment subsidies, general training grant schemes).
4. See A2 reporting notes.

<b>A.5. Informational means</b>	
Main characteristics of informational policies	<p>Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related informational policy. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Information on forest management in the Republic of Belarus is based on data by organizations and institutions of the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry for Statistics and others. The main objectives of the provision of information on sustainable forest management are: to develop a State forestry policy, and support the long term and medium term State and regional programmes for the management of forest resources, implementation of monitoring and the distribution of information at the various levels of forestry production.</p>
	<p>Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If so, please provide reference:</p>
Significant changes in informational means / forest related communication since 2007	<p>Please specify [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes</p>
Comments	

## B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

B.1. Land use and forest area & other wooded land		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words]	
	Policy objectives / targets related to forest area: <input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by        ha within / until        (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> to limit decreasing to        ha within / until        (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: <i>There have been no significant changes in targets since 2007. There has been to the 10-year cycle of forest inventory taking (basic forestry)</i>	
	Policy objective / targets related to short rotation forestry area: <input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input type="checkbox"/> to increase by        ha within / until        (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:	
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] There have been no changes	
Other comments		

<b>B.2. Carbon balance</b>		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words]	
	Policy objectives / targets related to carbon sequestration by forests: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe objectives: [max 100 words]	
	Existence of specific policy / measures for forests adaptation to climate change: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe objectives: [max 100 words]	
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%;">Name/reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. In the context of the Kyoto Protocol a new forest has been established on degraded agricultural lands. Measures have been taken to reduce the area of forest fires. Some forest areas prone to waterlogging have been reclaimed. The production of biofuels from timber cutting and wood processing has been increased.	

<b>B.3. Health and vitality</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Environmentally friendly systems have been developed and introduced to protect plants from predators and diseases in forest nurseries. A comprehensive system of measures has been introduced to reduce the number and harmfulness of insect predators in pine plantations.

B.4. Production and use of wood	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Market approaches to timber harvesting have been developed in preparation for the use of exchange trading mechanisms and a gradual reduction in the release of standing timber.
	Policy objectives / targets related to the harvesting of wood: <input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to increase by 13.5 million m <sup>3</sup> of marketable timber in 2006 to 15 million in 2008. <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:
	Policy objectives / targets related to the use of wood: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumption of energy from wood: from 2.1 million tonnes of conventional fuel in 2007 to 2.2 in 2009. <input type="checkbox"/> Use of forest products in construction: to [please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by           within/until           (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> Other uses: [please specify]: to [please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by           within/until           (period or year)
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Logging aims to increase the coverage of calculated felling areas. Sale of standing timber by auction, taking account of supply and demand, is proposed in order to ensure fuller coverage of calculated felling areas in forest plots that are difficult to access. Forest roads are being constructed. The logging sector is being re-equipped with locally manufactures multifunctional logging equipment. The main task is to establish favourable conditions for building up the export of production from Belorussian enterprises, with intensive processing.

<b>B.5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services, especially provision of recreation</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. A specific means of increasing the economic effectiveness of forestry is to develop secondary uses for wood and increase its profitability. The main priorities for developing secondary uses for wood in forest management are: dividing wooded areas into specialized resource zones for industrial harvesting of non-wood products; Establishing specialized enterprises for the harvesting and processing of wild mushrooms and fruits, and conserving and increasing the productivity of land, including plantations.

<b>B.6. Biodiversity</b>			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <hr/> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to protected forest areas:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> to increase by        ha within / until        (period or year)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain:</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below)        <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	
Name/reference			
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. A system of specific measures and activities for the conservation of biodiversity has been developed.</p> <p>The basis for a plan for specifically protected areas has been developed, which will run until 2015. As of 1 January 2010 specifically protected areas amounted to 1.3 million hectares, which is equal to 13.8 per cent of the total wooded land in Belarus.</p>		
<b>Reporting notes</b>			
<p>Please refer to the following levels/dimensions of biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ecosystem, habitat, protected areas, landscape patterns</li> <li>2. Species diversity, especially tree species composition and threatened forest species</li> <li>3. Genetic diversity, especially in situ and ex situ gene conservation and seed production</li> </ol>			

<b>B.7. Protective services</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] A new statute has been issued regulating the division of forests into groups and categories of level of protection, the transfer of forests from one protection category to another, and the demarcation of specifically protected forest plots. In order to optimize the separate functions of forests, the following are not counted as specifically protected areas: areas of forest along riverbanks inhabited by beavers and areas of forest in otherwise unforested expanses of land.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Efforts to improve the legislative framework are continuing, with the drafting of economic and ecological regulations for the management and direction of forestry, forest management, reforestation, and forest protection and conservation. Plans have also been developed for the comprehensive rehabilitation of wooded lands destroyed by intensive human activity.
<b>Reporting notes</b>	
Protective services cover services as specified in pan-European indicators 5.1 "Protective forests – soil, water and other ecosystem functions" and 5.2 "Protective forests – infrastructure and managed natural resources"	

<b>B.8. Economic viability</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.

<b>B.9. Employment (including safety and health)</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] The Professional Pensions Act has entered into force, which changes the composition of the pension fund for those working under particular labour conditions.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Activities in respect of employment have been aimed at improving working conditions for forest workers, implementing measures for job security and occupational safety, as well as job creation.

<b>B.10. Public awareness</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] Since 2008 "Forest Week" has been held annually in Belarus. Participants in the activities include not only workers from the forestry sector, but also from other sectors, State and local government representatives, and students. The main activities are: planting, cleaning the roadsides and maintaining the land.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.

<b>B.11. Research, training and education</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] More effective forest management and use of forest resources through the development of forest infrastructure, and the adoption of new economics-based ecological methods of regenerating, conserving and protecting forests, felling, timber transport, increasing the contribution of forestry to GDP.
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] Information systems have rapidly come into use in forest management. There is a sectoral programme for electronic document production, new methods for fighting forest fires, diseases and predators. Biotechnologies are used, with new methods for forest genetics, selection and seed production. National standards for forest certification have been adopted, and locally-manufactured multi-operational forestry machinery and mechanisms are used.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.

<b>B.12. Cultural and spiritual values</b>	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no
	Name/reference
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] There have been no changes
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] There have been no significant changes
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.

## **2. Reporting on National<sup>5</sup> Implementation of Warsaw commitments and activities since 2007 in implementing former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe**

Please report on national implementation of Warsaw commitments, and major activities since 2007 in implementing commitments from former Ministerial Conferences, if applicable. Note that responses to this part of the enquiry will be published in the next report on implementation of FOREST EUROPE Commitments (2007-2011), together with information on pan-European implementation of Warsaw commitments and former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

We ask that the report on national implementation of FOREST EUROPE commitments since 2007 be kept to maximum 4 pages. Please do not report on participation in international cooperative efforts, but focus on implementation within your country

### **National implementation of Warsaw Declaration**

Please give a description of national implementation of the commitments, including major achievements and remaining challenges.

The practical implementation of the principles of sustainable forest management and use is guaranteed in Belarus through the annual increase in felled timber, the economic and environmental security of the State, the stability of the national economy, maximizing the revenue from other uses of forest resources, strengthening the environmental role of forests as the most important factor in nature conservation.

From 2007 to 2010, the quality of forested areas in the Republic of Belarus improved: the total wooded area (forested land) increased from 8.5 to 8.6 million hectares; forest coverage of republic increased from 38 per cent to 38.5 per cent; average timber per hectare – from 186 to 196 cubic metres.

The forests of the Republic play an increasingly active role in meeting the basic needs of the population of rural areas and cities, and in reducing factors that have a negative impact on the climate.

Owing to the implementation of development programmes for specifically protected forest areas, forest biodiversity, including genetic resources, is being supported, regenerated and increased.

The increase in wood supplies and the development of new technologies are enabling an increase in the importance of the use of timber as a renewable raw material for energy production.

Improvement of forestry legislation with regard to forest water conservation is strengthening the role of forests in conserving and increasing the quantity and quality of water resources, and enabling a decrease in natural flooding, drought and other unfavourable natural phenomena.

With regard to international cooperation, a system has been developed for international, intergovernmental, NGO processes in respect of forest management and use, forestry research, staff training, forest certification etc. Positive foreign

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<sup>5</sup> Note that the European Commission is asked to report on EU relevant implementation activities

experiences in forestry reforms have served as guidance for reorganizing the forestry sector in Belarus.

The Ministry of Forestry is gradually developing cooperation with forestry departments in other countries. International interdepartmental agreements have been concluded with the Russian Federation, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and Sweden, and under the aegis of international organizations (the social forestry movement, the Pan-European Forest Certification Council, the FAO Committee on Forestry) and States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (in the context of the Inter-Governmental Council for Timber Processing and Forestry).

Despite the positive trends in forestry dynamics in Belarus, there are still problems that are impeding the increase in the effectiveness of forest management and State revenue from forest resources;

Small proportion of mature standing timber, especially conifer and hardwood varieties;

Inappropriate species structure of forests;

Lack of an effective structure for forest management, including grouping together into one management category all functions related to planning and carrying out timber felling and functions related to forestry maintenance;

Low level of revenue capability from forestry owing to low timber prices;

Lack of up-to-date technology for forest regeneration, timber harvesting and forest maintenance activities.

#### **National implementation of Warsaw Resolution 1 Forests, Wood and Energy**

Please give a description of national implementation of the commitments, including major achievements and remaining challenges

Timber use is the economic basis of forestry and its level of intensity. There are various uses, with a main focus on timber stocking.

The total timber stock for the period 2007-2010 increased from 1.47 to 1.57 billion cubic metres. The proportion of mature and overmature timber increased from 11.6 per cent to 12.6 per cent. As a result, it is possible to maintain the increase in all types of cut timber in order to meet the timber needs of the national economy, the local population and that required for export to European countries. In 2008, the total timber harvest amounted to 15 million cubic metres. Problems that remain to be solved include:

Incomplete use of all fellable areas, owing to a lack of forest roads that can be used year-round;

Lack of demand for significant amounts of softwood timber owing to a lack of technology and equipment for advanced timber manufacturing.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the forestry sector, as well as to diversify sources of heating and electrical energy, from 2007 – 2010 steps were taken to increase the use of previously unused timber fuel resources, and to develop the infrastructure for the storage and transport of timber fuel supplies to direct consumers, including mini thermal power stations that are either already in use or under construction.

The proportion of timber fuel used is increasing owing to the following programmes adopted by the State:

Targeted programme to guarantee that no less than 25 per cent of heating and electrical energy is produced using local fuels and alternative sources of energy until 2012;

The State comprehensive programme for modernizing the main production facilities of the Belorussian energy system, energy efficiency and increasing the proportion of local fuel resources used from 2006-2010.

Timber fuel stocks include:  
Waste from timber cutting;  
Wood from planned felling;  
Forest waste;  
Fallen timber and dead wood.

In order to introduce the use of state of the art technology and techniques for the collection, transportation and processing of forest waste and dead wood, technical projects have been developed entitled "Comprehensive technology for the storage and processing of timber supplies for progressive techniques in energy use", and "Technical requirements for machinery for the production of wood chips and their transportation". In line with these requirements, the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus has developed mobile and stationary drum chippers and trailer-mounted wood-chippers with engines. The storage and transport of wood fuel supplies for each power producer is conducted through individually developed projects.

One continuing problem is the lack of demand for large quantities of wood fuel owing to the lack of techniques for the collection, transportation and chipping of timber and wooden waste materials from timber felling and wood processing for use as a type of wood fuel for heating and electrical energy.

#### **National implementation of Warsaw Resolution 2 Forests and Water**

Please give a description of national implementation of the commitments, including major achievements and remaining challenges

Under the Forest Code of the Republic of Belarus, forest coverage in the Republic includes designated water conservation zones (highly protected forest zones, and forests bordering water conservation areas on the banks of rivers, lakes, reservoirs and other bodies of water). The area of water conservation forests totaled 1.51 million hectares on 1 January 2010, which was an increase from 0.04 million hectares in 2007. Specially designated water conservation forests account for 16 per cent of forested land in the Republic. Furthermore, all forests in the Republic contribute to some degree to water conservation.

In order to optimize forest coverage and hence increase the water conservation functions of forests a sectoral programme is currently being developed for forest regeneration, forest cultivation and increasing forest coverage in the Republic of Belarus until 2020.

In order to incorporate the principles of sustainable land use into national policy, a programme to overcome land degradation has been established. The following measures will be taken with a view to overcoming land degradation and optimizing land use in forest management:

Improvement of legal provisions;  
Implementation of a system to increase the proportion of partial felling to 25 per cent;  
Planting forests on unforested lands;  
Recultivation of forests on lands destroyed by quarrying of non-metallic minerals;  
Planting forests on land used for peat excavation in order to prevent erosion;

Integrate sectoral principles for sustainable management into national plans and programmes, and develop mechanisms for the implementation of these principles in land use for economic purposes;  
Improve scientific, informational, educational and technological support for conservation and sustainable land use.

**Major activities since 2007 in implementing former commitments of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, if applicable**

Please describe any major national activities since 2007 in implementing commitments from former Ministerial Conferences, if applicable. Please specify the Commitment (Ministerial Conference and Declaration/Resolution) to which the activity relates

In order to implement the Strasbourg Resolution (S1), forest monitoring has been conducted exclusively on the European system of 16 x 16 km since 2007.

In order to implement the Helsinki Resolution (H1) a programme for the development of forest management in the Republic of Belarus from 2007-2011 was developed and is being implemented. The programme for 2011-2015 is currently being drafted.

In order to conserve the biodiversity of European forests (Helsinki Resolution H2), a new schema for specifically protected natural areas is being developed.

## Annex 1: Terms and definitions

<b>Forest</b>	<p>Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 0.5 ha. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i>. May consist <u>either</u> of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground; <u>or</u> of open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes, which have yet to reach a crown density of 10 percent or tree height of 5m, are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area, which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.</p> <p><u>Includes:</u> Forest nurseries and seed orchards that constitute an integral part of the forest; forest roads, cleared tracts, firebreaks and other small open areas within the forest; forest in national parks, nature reserves and other protected areas such as those of special environmental, scientific, historical, cultural or spiritual interest; windbreaks and shelterbelts of trees with an area of more than 0.5 ha and a width of more than 20 m. Rubberwood plantations and cork oak stands are included.</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> Land predominantly used for agricultural practices.</p>
<b>Other wooded land</b>	<p>Land either with a tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of 5-10 percent of trees able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i>; or a crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent of trees not able to reach a height of 5 m at maturity <i>in situ</i> (e.g. dwarf or stunted trees) and shrub or bush cover.</p> <p><u>Excludes:</u> Areas having the tree, shrub or bush cover specified above but of less than 0.5 ha and width of 20 m, which are classed under "other land"; Land predominantly used for agricultural practices.</p>
<b>Forest institutional framework</b>	<p>It refers mainly to the organizational set-up of forest policy in the country. It further comprises formal coordinating mechanisms between these (including e.g. national forest programme process)</p>
<b>Forest policy</b>	<p>A set of orientations and principles of actions adopted by public authorities in harmony with national socio-economic and environmental policies in a given country to guide future decisions in relation to the management, use and conservation of forest and tree resources for the benefit of the society.</p>
<b>National forest policy/strategy document or statement</b>	<p>It describes the objectives, priorities and means for implementation of the forest policy.</p>
<b>Subnational forest policy/strategy documents or statements</b>	<p>Forest policy document or statement which refers to subnational administrative units, e.g. States in a Federation or Autonomous Regions or Provinces.</p>

<p><b>“National forest programme” (Nfp)</b></p>	<p>According to the MCPFE approach (Vienna resolution 1), a national forest programme (Nfp) is a participatory, holistic, inter-sectoral and iterative process of policy planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at the national and/or subnational level in order to proceed towards the further improvement of sustainable forest management as defined in Helsinki Resolution H1, and to contribute to sustainable development.</p> <p>The principles of Nfps in Europe are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation</li> <li>- Holistic and inter-sectoral approach</li> <li>- Iterative process with long-term commitment</li> <li>- Capacity building</li> <li>- Consistency with national legislation and policies</li> <li>- Integration with national sustainable development strategies</li> <li>- Consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest related initiatives and conventions</li> <li>- Institutional and policy reform</li> <li>- Ecosystem approach</li> <li>- Partnership for implementation</li> <li>- Raising awareness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Law (or Act or Code) on forest</b></p>	<p>Set of rules enacted by the legislative authority of a country regulating the access, management, conservation and use of forest resources.</p>
<p><b>Institutional framework</b></p>	<p>Institutional framework is understood to refer mainly to the organizational set-up of forest policy in the country. It further comprises formal coordinating mechanisms between these (including e.g. national forest programme process).</p>
<p><b>Forest management</b></p>	<p>The processes of planning and implementing practices for the stewardship and use of forests and other wooded land aimed at achieving specific environmental, economic, social and /or cultural objectives. It includes management at all scales such as normative, strategic, tactical and operational level management.</p>
<p><b>Forms of ownership</b></p>	<p>Generally refers to the legal right to freely and exclusively use, control, transfer, or otherwise benefit from a forest. Ownership can be acquired through transfers such as sales, donations, and inheritance.</p> <p><u>Explanatory notes:</u> In this questionnaire, forest ownership refers to the ownership of the trees growing on land classified as forest, regardless of whether or not the ownership of these trees coincides with the ownership of the land itself.</p>
<p><b>Publicly owned forest</b></p>	<p>Forest owned by the State; or administrative units of the Public Administration; or by institutions or corporations owned by the Public Administration.</p> <p><u>Explanatory notes:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Includes all the hierarchical levels of Public Administration within a country, e.g. State, Province and Municipality.</li> <li>2. Shareholder corporations that are partially State-owned, are considered as under public ownership when the State holds a majority of the shares.</li> <li>3. Public ownership may exclude the possibility to transfer.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Privately owned forest</b></p>	<p>Forest owned by individuals, families, communities, private cooperatives, corporations and other business entities, private religious and educational institutions, pension or investment funds, NGOs, nature conservation associations and other private institutions.</p>

## Annex 2: Pan-European qualitative indicators

### A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for sustainable forest management

A.1 National forest programmes or similar

A.2 Institutional frameworks

A.3 Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments

A.4 Financial instruments/economic policy

A.5 Informational means

### B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

Ind. No.	Crit.	Policy area	Main objectives	Relevant institutions	Main policy instruments used			Signific. changes since last Ministerial Conference
					Legal/regulatory	Financial/economic	Informational	
B.1	C1	Land use and forest area and OWL <sup>2</sup>						
B.2	C1	Carbon balance						
B.3	C2	Health and vitality						
B.4	C3	Production and use of wood						
B.5	C3	Production and use of non-wood goods and services, provision of especially recreation						
B.6	C4	Biodiversity						
B.7	C5	Protective forests and OWL						
B.8	C6	Economic viability						
B.9	C6	Employment (incl. safety and health)						
B.10	C6	Public awareness and participation						
B.11	C6	Research, training and education						
B.12	C6	Cultural and spiritual values						