



**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: SLOVENIA

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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 EUROPE¹ 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 2010²: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/44375/en>

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

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

² 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 2007³. 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.

³ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Nfp process ¹ <input 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: Resolution on National Forest Programme Internet link: http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/GOZD/NFP_RS.pdf	Starting year:	1997, 2007		
Main formal decision making body of the process	<input type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry responsible for forestry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify: Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia				
Characteristics of Nfp or similar process, including Nfp principles as defined by MCPFE					
Commitment to iterative process		Yes/fully <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partly <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
Who is regularly participating in the Nfp or similar process?	Administration responsible for forestry Forest owners representatives Representatives from other sectors Forest-related environmental and social groups Forest based industry Forest education and/or research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are other sectors actively involved in the Nfp or similar process?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, which: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> tourism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> energy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> others: <i>environment</i>	How are the key sectors involved: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly formal arrangements ² <input type="checkbox"/> mostly informal arrangements ----- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mostly participation in Nfp workshops <input type="checkbox"/> mostly separate consultation processes <input type="checkbox"/> other:		
Are other policies and international commitments ⁴ explicitly referred to in the Nfp or similar process?	National development policy/strategy International forest-related commitments ³ Other: CBD Other: UNFCCC	Yes/fully <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partly <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
How is policy implementation monitored and evaluated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-specified periodic monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodically, but not pre-determined <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Yes/fully <input type="checkbox"/>	Partly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know <input type="checkbox"/>
Significant changes related to the Nfp process or similar since 2007	Governmental Operational plan for implementation of the National forest programme in progress				
Major results of the Nfp or similar process and key lessons learned	Nfp workshops were successful and efficient for balancing decisions concerning environmental, economic and social forest functions.				

Comments on the Nfp or similar process	Regular evaluation of the implementation of the programme with participation of the stakeholders is essential.				
Forest policy document (national forest programme document, forest policy statement, strategy or other)					
Existence of forest policy document (other than law)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes		<input type="checkbox"/> No		
Title of main forest policy document ⁴ and internet links	Title: Resolution on National Forest Programme Internet links: http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/GOZD/NFP_RS.pdf				
Forest policy document development process	<input checked="" 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	Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia	Date of endorsement	20 November 2007		
Current status of the forest policy document	<input type="checkbox"/> in development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in implementation <input type="checkbox"/> in review				
Is there explicit reference to / uptake of MCPFE instruments in the forest policy document?		Yes/fully	Partly	No	Don't know
	MCPFE definition of SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE criteria and indicators for SFM	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MCPFE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Significant changes related to main forest policy document since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] The Resolution on National Forest Programme is meant to be valid for approximately ten years. In 2010 the Government is going to adopt Operational plan for implementation of the NFP, where the responsible governmental and semi-governmental institutions for implementation of the NFP will be specified and the required public finance determined.				
Comments on the forest policy document	The goals, content and procedure for adopting the NFP is laid down in the Law on Forests. The first National forest programme was adopted already in 1996. The second NFP from 2007 is based on broad participation process of stakeholders, while the first was not so widely discussed.				
Reporting notes					
<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> <p>3. You may wish to refer for instance to UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, CBD, UNFCCC, etc.</p> <p>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.</p>					

Comment [TB1]: Could you please specify - "yes" or "no"? Thank you.

A.2. Institutional frameworks				
Government bodies	Please specify the type of forest-related institutional arrangements	Part of Ministry	Separate body	other
	- forest policy administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- legislative supervision & enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- general support to forest management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- management of public forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Please specify the level of main responsibility	Central government	Subnational governments	other
	- forest policy administration.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- legislative supervision & enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- general support to forest management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	- management of public forests	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words] General forest policy is prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and co-ordinated with other sectors, especially with environment and finance. Legislative supervision and enforcement is conducted by the Forestry Inspectorate acting under the ministry. General support to forest management is provided for all forests, regardless of ownership, by Slovenian Forest Service (SFS), a separate legal entity established by the Government. The core activity of the SFS is preparation of forest management plans, where both the guidelines of the NFP are respected and requests and interests of forest owners and other interest groups.			
Resources and capacity of public organizations related to forests	Name or group/type ¹ :	Forest-related staff ² (2008,FTE)		
	Total [estimate]	891		
	...of which forest administration ³	777		
	...of which management of public forests	14		
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions	100		
	... of which others			
Main private sector organizations relevant for forest policy (interest groups, associations and NGOs etc.)	Name			
	Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry			
	Association of Slovenian Forest Owners			
	Companies which own concessions for exploitation of State-owned forests			
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] There have not been any significant changes in institutional framework since 2007.			
Comments on the institutional framework	Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry is semi-governmental organization and is not particularly active in forestry. Concessions on exploitation of state-owned forests run out in 2016, when considerable changes in institutional framework are expected.			
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 & enforcement, and general</p>				

support to forest management.

A.3. Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments		
Legal/regulatory frameworks		
General characteristics of legal/regulatory framework: formal authority on main forest matters is laid down... [multiple answers possible]	<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 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 Act, OGRS 30/1993, http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/Act_on_forests.pdf
	Main changes from previous legal act	According to this act, forests are managed by forest owners and not by forest enterprises as was the case in socialist period
	Date of enactment	10.6.1993
	Date of latest amendment	5.12.2007
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Definition of forest and other wooded land has been harmonised with FAO definition; provision concerning national forest programmes has been modified, regional forest management and hunting plans have been merged, procedures for adoption of the plans and approval of clearing the forest for other purposes have been changed; usage and maintenance of forest roads has been modified; consent of forest owners is now required for declaring forests-with-a-special purpose; conditions for purchasing and selling the forests were changed and for co-financing forestry activities from the State budget, including support for forest owners associations.	
Comments	The above changes have had only a minor influence on the forestry system established by the Forest Act of 1993.	
International commitments		
Significant changes in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country, since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Sustainable forest management is now explicitly mentioned in Article 1 of the Forest Act as the leading principle of forest management in addition to close-to-nature and multifunctional management. Procedure for adopting the National forest programme now requires participation of stakeholders and a wide public consultation.	
Comments		

Comment [TB2]: Could you please specify if the legal documents (except for the Forest Act) mentioned in your 2007 answer are still relevant?
Thanks.

Comment [B3]: Could you please specify to which international commitments these changes refer to?
Many thanks.

A.4. Financial instruments and economic policy			
Economic policy			
Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests	Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related economic policy. [max. 100 words] The main objective is to ensure sustainable management of all forests in terms of complexity of all forest functions. To achieve this objective the State finances the public forest service as a general support to forest management, preventive forest protection measures against forest fires, insects and diseases as well as planned measures in protection forests. The State co-finances forest environmental measures as laid down in EU rural development regulation, silviculture and protection measures in private forests, restoration measures required after natural disasters, construction and maintenance of forest roads, and forestry research.		
Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) since 2007	Please specify [max. 100 words] Changes in economic policy since 2007 enabled co-financing of forest environmental measures as laid down in EU rural development regulation as well as co-financing of skidding tracks.		
Comments	The main philosophy of economic policy related to forests has not changed since 1993.		
Financial instruments			
Public forest management	Please describe financial arrangements related to public forests and their management [max. 100 words] State forests are managed by the Farmland and Forest Fund of the Republic of Slovenia, who has concession contracts for 20 years with a number of private companies. The contracts have to respect governmental decree on forest concessions. Concessionaires have to follow an annual plan adopted by the Fund and pay a fee calculated on the bases of expected income and costs. Public forest service paid from the State budget is offered also in public forests.		
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] The State offers private forest owners support for management in the form of public forest service for free. Private forest owners also have access to co-financing forest regeneration and tending of young forest stands, protection measures, forest biodiversity measures as well as investments in forestry machinery and forest roads and skidding tracks.		
Public expenditure ¹			
Year: 2009	Domestic funding (mil€)	External funding (mil€)	Total (mil€)
Operational expenditure ³	24,73	0,41	25,14
Transfer payments (support to private forest management) ⁴	5,52	4,58	10,10
Total public expenditure¹	30,25	4,99	35,24
Of which ⁵ ...	For forest administration		23,6
	For management of public forests		0,42
	For public forest research, education and training institutions		0,50
	For other institutions. Please specify: Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry		0,24
Significant changes in financial instruments related to forests	Please specify [max. 100 words] Rural Development Programme 2007 - 2013 (includes expenditures for forest mechanization and forest infrastructure)		

Comment [TB4]: Could you please elaborate on the changes in economic policy since 2007? Thank you.

since 2007	FutMon LIFE 07ENV/D/000218 (EU Level of Forest Monitoring System)
Comments	
Reporting notes	
<p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>4. See A2 reporting notes.</p>	

A.5. Informational means	
Main characteristics of informational policies	<p>Please describe the main objectives and instruments used in forest-related informational policy. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>There are three main pillars of forest-related informational policy: (1) education of forestry personnel and workers, including life-long learning, (2) education and training of forest owners, (3) raising awareness of the general public and ensuring participation of stakeholders in decision making. For the implementation are responsible the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Forestry Faculty, Forestry Secondary School and Training Centre and Slovenian Forest Service.</p>
	<p>Does a written (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist?</p> <p>If so, please provide reference: Communication strategy is part of the NFP, particularly sections 11, 12 and 13.</p>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Significant changes in informational means / forest related communication since 2007	<p>Please specify [max. 100 words] Changes in informational means are particularly directed towards participation of stakeholders in forest management planning process and improvement of forestry professional skills, especially among forest owners because of numerous accidents at work in forests.</p>
Comments	<p>We try to achieve multifunctional forest management especially through encouraging participation of stakeholders which represent particular forest functions.</p>

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] Forest cover in Slovenia has reached 60 percent of the land area and should in general not increase further. Large complexes of forests should not be fragmented. In erosion sensitive areas forest cover should increase, in some other landscapes, where forests do not play so important environmental functions, they could be partly cleared for agriculture and other uses, if so decided in land use plans.
	Policy objectives / targets related to forest area: <input checked="" 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:
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: There is no national objective for short rotation plantations, which are not even considered forests in Slovenia. Their area is otherwise very small.
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
	Name/reference Resolution on NFP - see above
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Legal responsibility for forest area is now more at the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and local communities, which are responsible for land use planning, respecting national strategies and priorities.
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 forest sector (Slovenian Forest Service) enters the land-use planning process with a layer of forests and assessment of its functions. Decisions for possible clearing or enlarging the forest area depend on the forest functions evaluation in a land-use planning negotiation process. Areas declared forests with a special purpose or protection forests cannot be negotiated.
Other comments	

B.2. Carbon balance			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Objectives concerning climate change and carbon balance are specifically elaborated in the NFP of 2007 (chapter 6.3.2), which earlier was not the case.</p> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to carbon sequestration by forests: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe objectives: The objective is to sequester at least 1.3 MT of CO₂ annually, which is a quantity of a cap determined under the Kyoto protocol for Slovenia. The accumulation of annual increment should continue until the optimal standing volume is reached from economic, environmental and social point of view. Forest area remains more or less stable. [max 100 words]</p> <p>Existence of specific policy / measures for forests adaptation to climate change: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes. <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe objectives: Climate change forest related mitigation and adaptation measures are: conservation of relatively high growing stocks, favoring native species that are adapted to various sites, ensuring natural regeneration, prevention of forest fires, continuous cover of forest soils with vegetation and prevention of litter gathering, prompt restoration of forests damaged in natural disasters in order to prevent bark beetles outbreaks.[max 100 words]</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; padding: 2px;">Name/reference</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">NFP 2007</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	NFP 2007
Name/reference	NFP 2007		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia of Climate Change was established in 2009, which is generally responsible for climate change policy, including LULUCF and adaptation to climate change.</p>		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] In 2008 Government Strategy for Adaptation of Agriculture and Forestry was adopted, followed by an action plan. The main policy instruments for implementation are still NFP and regional forest management plans.</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. The strategy is only available in Slovene: http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/saSSo/Sektor_za_naravne_nesrece/Strategija_prilagajanja_slovenskega_kmetijstva_in_gozdarstva_podnebnim_spremembam.pdf</p>		

Comment [TB5]: Could you please specify these objectives concerning climate change and carbon balance?
 Thank you very much in advance

B.3. Health and vitality	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Objectives and guidelines concerning health and vitality of forests are specifically elaborated in the NFP of 2007 (chapter 6.3.4). Basic orientation is to maintain natural regeneration capacity and resilience of forests, but also to restore forests damaged by natural disturbances as quickly as possible.
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
	Name/reference NFP 2007
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 in most relevant institutions, which are still the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and Slovenian Forest Service.
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 main policy instruments are still NFP and regional forest management plans.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Slovenia followed the ICP Forests guidelines under the Convention on Transboundary Air Pollution, although the EU Forest Focus Regulation that provided support for monitoring and forest fires prevention does not exist any more. Slovenian Forestry Research Institute is a partner in the EU LIFE FutMon project.

B.4. Production and use of wood	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] The NFP of 2007 clearly stipulates that allowable cut on the national level should attain 75 percent of the increment and that actual harvest rate should approach this figure as much as possible.
	Policy objectives / targets related to the harvesting of wood: <input type="checkbox"/> to remain about the same <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> to increase by 2 million m ³ within / until 10 years (period or year) <input type="checkbox"/> no objective / other. Please explain: Actual harvesting rate is less than 4 million m ³ and increment is 8 million m ³ . The objective is thus to increase harvesting of wood by 50 %, but still accumulate increment by 2 million m ³ annually.
	Policy objectives / targets related to the use of wood: <u>see comments</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Consumption of energy from wood: to [please specify: remain the same/increase/decrease] by within/until (period or year) <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] There have been no changes in most relevant organisations, however Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development plays more important role because of EU funding.
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
	Name/reference NFP 2007, chapter 7.3.1
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] Measures for improving competitiveness of forestry on the basis of the EU Rural Development Directive have been applied, particularly for investments in equipment and forest infrastructure.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. There are no specific objectives related to the use of wood, which is left to the market to decide. The objective however is that the use of wood should be promoted generally and in particular in the country side as well as in terms of green public procurement. A specific objective is also to increase the share of wood-based energy production and to establish a market for low quality wood and wood residuals for energy production.

Comment [B6]: Considering your comments below, you may wish to indicate "increase", even though there are no specific targets

B.5. Production and use of non-wood goods and services, especially provision of recreation			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] There are now specific objectives and guidelines for forest related hunting, bee-keeping, berry and mushroom picking, tourism and recreation and grazing in the forest.		
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"> <tr> <td>Name/reference</td> <td>NFP 2007, chapters 7.3.1.7-11 and 18, Regulation on forest protection, OGRS, 114/2009</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapters 7.3.1.7-11 and 18, Regulation on forest protection, OGRS, 114/2009
Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapters 7.3.1.7-11 and 18, Regulation on forest protection, OGRS, 114/2009		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] With the amendment of the Forest Act of 2007, not only forest inspectors, but also Slovenian Forest Service is empowered to supervise non-wood usage of forest.		
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] Regulation on forest protection now more clearly lists cases when forest functions are endangered due to the use of non-wood goods and services.		
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. In addition to the Regulation on forest protection, issued under the Forest Act, Decree on protection of naturally growing fungi and Decree on prohibition of usage of motor vehicles in natural environment are also relevant.		

Comment [TB7]: Could you please specify some of the objectives, especially those related to recreation? Thank you.

Comment [TB8]: Is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food still relevant?

B.6. Biodiversity			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words] NFP of 2007 explicitly provides guidelines for conservation of biological diversity on ecosystem, species and gene levels as well as on the landscape level and in the context of preserving natural heritage. Natura 2000 Site Management Programme 2007-2013 stipulates that favourable conservation status of forest habitats and forest related species shall be maintained and enhanced through forest management plans.</p> <p>Policy objectives / targets related to protected forest areas: <input checked="" 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: Slovenia is leading EU member state in terms of proportion of forests that are part of Natura 2000 sites (50% of forests are inside Natura 2000 sites). Natura 2000 sites correspond to IUCN category IV and can in this sense be treated as protected areas.</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; vertical-align: top;">Name/reference</td> <td>NFP 2007, chapter 6.3.1, Natura 2000 Site Management Programme: http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx_library/NATURA_2000-ANG-01.pdf</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 6.3.1, Natura 2000 Site Management Programme: http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx_library/NATURA_2000-ANG-01.pdf
Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 6.3.1, Natura 2000 Site Management Programme: http://www.natura2000.gov.si/uploads/tx_library/NATURA_2000-ANG-01.pdf		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Legal responsibility for forest biodiversity remains with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Implementing bodies are Slovenian Forest Service that draws up forest management plans and Slovenian Nature Conservation Institute, which provides guidelines to be integrated into forest management plans.</p>		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words] The main achievement was integration of Natura 2000 and other forest biodiversity requirements into forest management practice.</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Requirements for management of forests in Natura 2000 sites did not require such a change because of general and traditional orientation to close-to-nature forest management (publication on close-to-nature forestry in Slovenia can be send on request).</p>		
Reporting notes			
<p>Please refer to the following levels/dimensions of biodiversity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecosystem, habitat, protected areas, landscape patterns 2. Species diversity, especially tree species composition and threatened forest species 3. Genetic diversity, especially in situ and ex situ gene conservation and seed production 			

B.7. Protective services	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Objectives and corresponding guidelines for protective services of forests are specified in the NFP 2007 for protection of soils against erosion, protection of buildings and infrastructure, favourable status of water, favourable impact of forests on local climate and provision of healthy water sources.
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
	Name/reference NFP 2007, chapter 6.3.3.
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Legal responsibility for protective services remains with the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning. Implementing bodies are Slovenian Forest Service that draws up forest management plans and Slovenian Agency for Environment, which is responsible for waters.
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] Governmental Decree on protection forests and forests with-a-special-purpose was amended. Special limitations for changing the use of such a forest apply as well as guidelines for their management.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Protective services are mapped for all forests in the context of forest functions evaluation.
Reporting notes	
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.8. Economic viability			
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>In the NFP particular objectives and guidelines are set to improve economic viability of public and private forests. For the latter, which are dominant in Slovenia, the goals are to improve organisation of forest owners and to increase their capacity for active management and marketing of their products. The goal is also to increase the added value of wood and to increase the use of wood especially for construction purposes.</p>		
Changes in main legal or reference document(s) since 2007	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes (if yes, please fill in below) <input type="checkbox"/> no</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Name/reference</td> <td>NFP 2007, chapter 7.3.1., amendment of Forest Act of 2007, Slovenian Rural Development Programme 2007-2013</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 7.3.1., amendment of Forest Act of 2007, Slovenian Rural Development Programme 2007-2013
Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 7.3.1., amendment of Forest Act of 2007, Slovenian Rural Development Programme 2007-2013		
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and Ministry of Economic Affairs are legally responsible, Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry, Slovenian Chamber of Economy and Slovenian Forest Service are implementing organisations.</p>		
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Support is provided for organisations of forest owners and investment in forest machinery and infrastructure.</p>		
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p>		

B.9. Employment (including safety and health)		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] Concerning employment related to forests, the objective set in the NFP 2007 is to provide employment and income to people living in rural areas through work in forests and other activities related to wood and forest.	
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"> <tr> <td>Name/reference</td> <td>NFP 2007, chapter 8.3, objective 2, Law on Safety and Health at Work of 2001 has not been changed. Regulation on Minimal Requirements for Conducting Work in Forests was amended in 2006.</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 8.3, objective 2, Law on Safety and Health at Work of 2001 has not been changed. Regulation on Minimal Requirements for Conducting Work in Forests was amended in 2006.	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Slovenian Agency for Agricultural Markets and Rural Development plays more important role because of its responsibility for implementation of the RDP.	
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] Forestry measures in the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007-2013 are the most important change.	
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. Safety at work is especially important in private forests, where most of accidents occur. Slovenian Forest Service organises every year more than 150 courses with participation up to 3000 forest owners to improve their skills for work in the forest.	

Comment [TB9]: Could you please elaborate on the forestry measures (RDP 2007-2013) related to the employment in the forest sector?

Thank you.

B.10. Public awareness		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>The objectives of the NFP 2007 are to increase awareness of forest owners and the public of forests and their functions and actively involve them in the forest management planning process.</p>	
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"> <tr> <td>Name/reference</td> <td>NFP 2007, chapter 8.3, objectives 4 and 5, chapter 13.</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 8.3, objectives 4 and 5, chapter 13.	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Most relevant institution is Slovenian Forest Service (SFS), which has a special unit for contacts with stakeholders and the general public.</p>	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>The SFS prepares a programme of various activities with objective to raise public awareness.</p>	
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. The main activities the SFS mentions in its reports are: public hearings in the adoption process of forest management and hunting plans, expert papers and educational contributions in various media, workshops, excursions, exhibitions, guiding on forest educational trails, activities at the forest week including known politicians and work with school youth.</p>	

B.11. Research, training and education	
Changes in main objectives since 2007	Please describe changes [max. 100 words] The NFP 2007 sets objectives for education of forestry personnel, education and training of forest owners and research and development activities.
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
	Name/reference NFP 2007, chapters 11, 12, 14.
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words] Most relevant institutions remain the same and are: Slovenian Forestry Research Institute, University of Ljubljana, Department for Forestry and Renewable Forest Resources, Slovenian Forest Service, Postojna Forestry Secondary School.
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] Research is based on projects, jointly ordered by the ministry responsible for forestry and the ministry responsible for science, as well as EU and other international projects.
Other comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant. At the University of Ljubljana, the number of students who enter forestry studies is limited to 40.

B.12. Cultural and spiritual values		
Changes in main objectives since 2007	<p>Please describe changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>The objective of NFP 2007 is to create arranged environment to cultural heritage sites, for the sake of heritage and as contribution to the development of tourism.</p>	
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"> <tr> <td>Name/reference</td> <td>NFP 2007, chapter 8.3, objective 3.</td> </tr> </table>	Name/reference
Name/reference	NFP 2007, chapter 8.3, objective 3.	
Changes in most relevant institutions since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main responsible organizations (legal responsibility) and implementing organizations [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Most relevant institutions are Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia and Slovenian Forest Service.</p>	
Changes in main instruments used since 2007	<p>Please describe changes in main policy instruments used for achieving the main policy objectives as described above. [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Objects of cultural and spiritual values in the forest are mapped in the forest management plans, which provide also for adequate guidelines coordinated between the responsible institutions.</p>	
Other comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents when relevant.</p>	

2. Reporting on National⁵ 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.

In 2007, soon after Warsaw Declaration had been signed, the Slovenian Parliament adopted Resolution on National Forest Programme (NFP), which is a fundamental strategic document for ensuring sustainable forest management. The NFP has been prepared in a participatory process in which all major stakeholders were involved and all sectors related to various forest functions represented.

The NFP is the major policy document that ensures adequate balance of all forest functions and thus actively contributes to the quality of life both in rural and urban areas. The objectives and guidelines set in the NFP have to be respected in management plans, which are prerequisite for management in public and in private forests. Forest functions that are important for the quality of life are evaluated and mapped in order to be respected in forest management decisions set in forest management plans. Adequate attention is thus given to tourism and recreation functions of forests, environmental functions as well as production functions that contribute to employment and source of income for forest owners especially in remote rural areas. Forestry measures were thus integrated into Rural Development Programme for the period 2007-2013, whose implementation is also supported by the European Union.

The role of sustainable forest management in combating the negative effects of climate change through both mitigation and adaptation measures has been recognised and ensured through special objectives and guidelines of the NFP as well as the Government Strategy for Adaptation of Agriculture and Forestry, which was adopted in 2008, followed by an action plan.

Forest biological diversity is of particular importance in Slovenia, because forests are represented in Natura 2000 sites by 70 percent, thus causing that half of all forests are part of Natura 2000 network. To ensure that these forests are maintained in

⁵ Note that the European Commission is asked to report on EU relevant implementation activities

favourable conservation status according to the criteria of the EU Habitat and Birds Directives, governmental Natura 2000 Sites Management Programme 2007-2013 stipulates that forest management plans shall act as management plans for forested Natura 2000 sites. This is possible because requirements for habitats and species are similar to what is generally a characteristic of close-to-nature forest management, a way of management of forests requested in the Forest Act as well as the NFP. Another reason to give the forest management plans a status of management plans for Natura 2000 sites is that the procedure for adoption of forest management plans is open to the influence of all stakeholders, including nature conservation representatives and that guidelines produced by Nature Conservation institute have to be integrated in forest management plans.

In terms of enhancing the use of wood as a renewable raw material and source of energy from sustainably managed forests, a governmental Decree on Green Public Procurement has been prepared, which gives advantage to wood.

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

Concerning mobilization of wood resources, there were two major types of activities identified: (1) to increase allowable cut in forest management plans and (2) support forest owners to execute the allowable cut. In the process of adopting the NFP it has been found out that the actual average growing stock of approximate 300 cubic metres per hectare is relatively quickly approaching an optimal average growing stock of the country's forests, which was assessed at 320 to 330 cubic metres per hectare. It was decided that allowable cut should be set at 75 percent of increment for the comparable period, which is considerably higher than the allowable cut that was planned before.

Support for forest owners to implement forest management plans and execute the allowable cut consisted especially of promoting associations of forest owners established for more efficient harvesting and marketing of timber as well as subsidising investments in forestry infrastructure and mechanisation. These measures were together with measures supporting small scale primary processing of wood included in Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 and are co-financed by the EU.

Another more administrative measure was prohibition of fragmentation of forest parcels introduced in the amended Forest Act of 2007.

The Slovenian Forest Service, which provides information, education, training and extension services to forest owners also intensified its activities to increase mobilisation of wood from private forests, especially where forest owners were inactive due to small properties they own.

As far as energy wood is concerned, measures are oriented towards intensifying thinning in pole-stands of broadleaf species, where the prerequisite is good accessibility for improving harvesting conditions. Support for investment in forest roads and skidding tracks as well as subventions for tending in young forests were major measures indirectly supporting availability of wood for energy, but also for

industrial use, where low quality wood is required. Support to micro-undertakings includes production of chips and pelets.

It has been noted that the above measures have been successful to certain extent although market still plays the major role. Real effects are expected in the next mid-term period.

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

Protective function of forests for water and soil and for mitigating water-related natural disasters is probably the most important environmental function that has been recognised long ago in Alpine space and given appropriate attention in oldest forest ordinances. According to the Forest Act and special regulations for forest management planning, all forests are evaluated in relation to their protective function. Where the function is particularly emphasized, special guidelines, which are generally laid down in the NFP of 2007, apply. They aim at preservation and increase of forest cover in areas liable to erosion and landslides and provision and sustainable maintenance of such structure of forests that can optimally fulfil protective function.

Forests that are particularly important in terms of protective functions were declared protection forests by a governmental decree, which is going to be amended in 2010. According to the decree, only the minister responsible for forests can allow a change of use of a protection forest for other purposes while setting special requirements. Another provision of the decree is that the State ensures active management of protective forests to optimise their structure and provides resources to control mountain torrents in forested areas.

In 2008 severe wind-breaks hit Slovenian forests. The Government acted immediately with provision of adequate financial support for implementation of forest restoration plans prepared by the Slovenian Forest Service. Lessons learned while conducting the restoration, including research based findings, were duly noted and some minor changes were made also in forest finance regulations.

Slovenian research institutions participated in the EU funded Interreg projects Forest and Water, Protection Forests and Mountain Forests. An important result of the projects was exchange of information and practical approaches among participating partners. Conclusions from the projects were integrated in relevant policy documents including improved co-operation with Slovenian Agency for Environment, which is responsible for water management.

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 relate

The most important forest policy related activity since 2007 was preparation of the National Forest Programme (NFP), which particularly refers to Vienna Resolution No. 1 on NFP-s and mentions all other MCPFE resolutions signed in Strasbourg 1990, Helsinki 1993, Lisbon 1998 and Vienna 2003. In the course of participatory preparation process of the NFP, operational level guidelines of the Lisbon resolution

L2 were particularly taken into account as were the newly endorsed Pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management.

Annex 1: Terms and definitions

Forest	<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>
Other wooded land	<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>
Forest institutional framework	<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>
Forest policy	<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>
National forest policy/strategy document or statement	<p>It describes the objectives, priorities and means for implementation of the forest policy.</p>
Subnational forest policy/strategy documents or statements	<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>“National forest programme” (Nfp)</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"> - Participation - Holistic and inter-sectoral approach - Iterative process with long-term commitment - Capacity building - Consistency with national legislation and policies - Integration with national sustainable development strategies - Consistency with international commitments recognising synergies between international forest related initiatives and conventions - Institutional and policy reform - Ecosystem approach - Partnership for implementation - Raising awareness
<p>Law (or Act or Code) on forest</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>Institutional framework</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>Forest management</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>Forms of ownership</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>Publicly owned forest</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"> 1. Includes all the hierarchical levels of Public Administration within a country, e.g. State, Province and Municipality. 2. Shareholder corporations that are partially State-owned, are considered as under public ownership when the State holds a majority of the shares. 3. Public ownership may exclude the possibility to transfer.
<p>Privately owned forest</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 ²						
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						