

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE



**Enquiry on the
Implementation of MCPFE commitments
2007**

and

**Reporting on the
MCPFE Qualitative Indicators
for Sustainable Forest Management**

COUNTRY:

Bulgaria

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Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
C&I	Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GCC	General Co-ordinating Committee
ha	Hectares
MCPFE	Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe
NGO	Non-governmental organization
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
VD	Vienna Declaration
V1-5	Vienna Resolutions 1 to 5
L1-2	Lisbon Resolutions 1 and 2
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Abbreviations from Bulgarian side:

NFB – National Forestry Board

MOAF – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

MOEW – Ministry of Environment and Waters

1. Background

In preparation for the Fifth Ministerial Conference (Warsaw, Poland, 5-7 November 2007), the MCPFE decided to review and report on progress in implementing the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Vienna (2003). Also, further progress made since 2003 in implementing commitments made at the Ministerial Conferences in Lisbon (1998), Helsinki (1993), and in Strasbourg (1990) should be reported through this enquiry.

In addition, it was decided to report on the MCPFE qualitative indicators on sustainable forest management (SFM). The reporting format for the improved qualitative Pan-European Indicators for SFM addresses policies, institutions and instruments in general as well as more specifically by policy areas. The improved qualitative indicators comprise a reporting format, which is grouped into:

- A) Overall policies, institutions and instruments for sustainable forest management,
- B) Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area.

The ministers gathered in Vienna reaffirmed that the criteria and indicators for SFM were a tool for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress on sustainable forest management. In consequence, the enquiry should collect the relevant data and information for reporting on the qualitative Pan-European Indicators for SFM in the context of the MCPFE report on the "State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007" to be presented at the forthcoming Fifth Ministerial Conference.

The next Ministerial Conference will also provide an opportunity to assess the implementation of the political commitments on forests made by the European Ministers in Vienna. In order to answer this question and to understand the lessons learned from the work conducted so far, it was decided that the implementation report of the MCPFE commitments for the upcoming Ministerial Conference will be based on the replies by signatory states and the European Commission to the enquiry questions contained in this document and the related evaluation. This will form a part of the report on the implementation of MCPFE commitments to be presented at the forthcoming Fifth Ministerial Conference.

The General Coordinating Committee (GCC) of the MCPFE recommended that one enquiry would cover the MCPFE qualitative indicators as well as the MCPFE commitments. It was further recommended by the Advisory Group on the reporting on the "State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007" to include the enquiry on the quantitative indicator 6.4 "Expenditure for Services" in this enquiry, as the MCPFE country representatives are deemed to be the most appropriate respondents to this particular indicator.

2. General guidance on reporting

This enquiry on the implementation of the MCPFE commitments and on the MCPFE qualitative indicators for SFM should enable responding countries to provide the best possible information for two reports:

1. "State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007"
2. "Implementation of the MCPFE Commitments – pan-European and national Activities 2003-2007".

The main focus of the enquiry is on assessing and reporting the progress on SFM in European forests as well as the progress in the implementation of commitments the signatory states and the European Community made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Vienna, Austria, 2003). The enquiry should also gather the information on the main changes or further developments in the implementation of the Helsinki, Strasbourg and Lisbon Resolutions since 2003.

The enquiry consists of the following parts:

Part A: "Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM" is structured according to the MCPFE qualitative indicators Part A. It comprises:

Section 1: MCPFE qualitative indicators Part A: Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM. These five indicators aim to describe overall policy approaches for a sustainable forest management. Additionally, significant changes since the last Ministerial Conference

should be reported. This part will be used for the report on the *State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*.

Section 2: MCPFE commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference 2003 (Vienna Declaration, Vienna Resolutions V1-5 as well as clearly related MCPFE commitments of the Third Ministerial Conference 1998 (Lisbon Resolution L-2). This part will be used for the *Report on the National Implementation of MCPFE Commitments*.

Section 3: Further measures taken related to the qualitative indicators and comments provide the opportunity to report on further measures under a specific qualitative indicator and to provide data specifications or explanations.

Part B: “Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area” is structured according to the MCPFE qualitative indicators Part B. It comprises:

Section 1: MCPFE qualitative indicators Part B: Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area. Twelve indicators under Part B aim to provide information on specific policies for certain policy areas in addition to the information provided in Part A. This concerns the most specific policy objectives, the main institutions relevant to achieve the objective as well as the main policy instruments used. Additionally, significant changes since the last Ministerial Conference in 2003 should be reported.

Section 2: MCPFE commitments of the Fourth Ministerial Conference 2003 (Vienna Declaration, Vienna Resolutions V1-5) as well as clearly related MCPFE commitments of the Third Ministerial Conference 1998 (Lisbon Resolution L-2)

Section 3: Further measures taken related to the qualitative indicator and comments provide the opportunity to report on further measures under a specific qualitative indicator.

Part C: General reporting on Lisbon, Helsinki and Strasbourg Resolutions

Part D: Enquiry on the quantitative indicator 6.4 “Expenditure for Services”

While the enquiry to signatory states and the European Commission requests reporting on MCPFE qualitative indicators and on MCPFE commitment implementation in an integrated format, both the analysis of responses and of the reporting will be separate. As specified in the previous chapter, this enquiry will result in two separate reports:

1. “State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007”
2. “Implementation of MCPFE commitments 2003-2007”

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 approx. 100 words or 650 letters (incl. blank spaces) automatically.
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. *Section 2 in Parts A and B presents an abbreviated summary of the original commitment text. This should facilitate identifying topics addressed, but not replace the original commitment. Please read the original commitments as specified in the reference numbers. These specify the document as well as the commitment number as numbered in the original commitment. (e.g. VD/7 = Vienna Declaration, para7, V1/9,12 = Vienna Resolution 1, paras 9 and 12) V=Vienna, L=Lisbon*
4. The requests in Section 2 of Parts A and B on the implementation of MCPFE commitments specify to report “**measures**”, i.e. forest policy actions set to implement a commitment. *The responses should, as far as possible, be made in a form that allows identifying the type and magnitude of efforts undertaken.* In the responses, “Measures” should be classified or classifiable into the following categories:

Classes of “magnitude” for measures	Examples of documents related to “measures”
large measures: e.g. major programme	public programme document and/or related lists of projects
medium-size measure: individual projects	list of projects funded
small measures: e.g. individual actions	workshops organized, etc.

Degree of implementation of a reported measure
No measure taken (or blank space)
Measure in planning stage
Measure in implementation
Measure concluded

Degree of fulfillment of commitment through the measure reported
fully
partly
not or rather minor

Each of the responses in Section 2 of Parts A and B will be classified and analysed in these three dimensions.

5. In Part B please concentrate in particular on those indicators that are linked to the Vienna resolutions: B2 (carbon balance), B6 (biodiversity), B8 (economic viability) and B12 (cultural and spiritual values).
6. Please report on “measures” taken in the period 2003-2007 by the main body (Ministry) responsible for forestry, or where this main body played a key role. Countries with a federal structure are requested to focus first on major initiatives on the national level and to provide information on major federal measures, identifying the federal state in which the measure was taken.
7. Reporting on significant changes since 2003 will be analysed systematically, first by determining whether or not such changes were reported. No information is interpreted as “no significant change”.
8. 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, solutions).
9. Please provide the latest information available unless otherwise requested.
10. Please specify reference documents as follows: - Author or institution. Year of publication (if published). Title. Reference Number. Publisher.
11. Information provided on the implementation of MCPFE commitment will be analysed quantitatively across countries according to the specifications as in paras 4 and 7, in addition to the substantive analysis.
12. The report *Implementation of the MCPFE Commitments – pan-European and national Activities 2003-2007* is foreseen to consist of a section on international implementation of the MCPFE commitments (the MCPFE Work Programme 2003-2007) as well as a summary analysis for each of the Parts A and B Section 2 as well as Part C of this enquiry.

A. Overall policies, institutions and instruments for SFM

A.1 National forest programmes or similar								
Main characteristics of nfp or similar	In 2003 a draft of National Forest Policy and Strategy was developed / Decision № 651/15.09.2003/. NFPS is based on the major principles adopted by FAO, IPF/ IFF and MCPFE. Crucial role play the following ones: broad stakeholder participation, intersectoral approach, coordination with national legislation, integration with National Plan for Economic Development, concordance with forest related international commitments, initiatives and conventions, partnership in implementation, raising public awareness. In 2006 National Strategy for sustainable development of the forest sector 2006-2015 and Strategic Plan for development of the forest sector 2007-2011 were developed. In the Strategic Plan are foreseen priorities and key actions in accordance with the EU Forest Action Plan.							
Reference document:								
Status	<input type="checkbox"/> programme in development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> programme in implementation	<input type="checkbox"/> programme in review	<input type="checkbox"/> continuous process or other				
Further information:	In implementation of the Governmental programme and in response to the expectations of the society for the sustainable development of the forest sector, a process of discussion and development of National strategy for sustainable development of the forest sector was initiated. This process is based on the reopened discussion on the management problems within the sector. As a result number of comments and recommendations for supplementation and amendment of the "National Forest Policy and Strategy", adopted by Council of Minister's decision № 651/15.09. 2003 were received. They were focused on the necessity of actualization of the state of the forests and forestry and were a reflection of the outputs of main European and world forest processes.							
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to A.1:								
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:								
a) develop and apply nfps ¹ in line with the MCPFE approach to nfps? (Ref.: V1/ 7)	Main goals of National Forest Strategy are: Sustainable management and multifunctional forest management towards development of economically viable forest sector, supporting the development of the society and rural areas. Enforcement the goals and means for sustainable development of the forest sector in accordance to the international criteria and related commitments. Securing stable conditions for national and international financial resources and support for the sector's development.							
b) identify and address key cross-sectoral dimensions in the context of nfps? (Ref.: VD/13,14; V1/ 5, 8)	In the Strategic plan is shown the necessity of elaboration of more successful mechanisms for intersectoral cooperation in the field of forestry.							
c) use the nfp process as a platform for cross-sectoral coordination, and to feed results into other policies? (Ref.: VD/ 16,19; V1/ 9,10,11)	Bulgarian forest policy is related to the national legislation and international Governmental commitments. The national legislative framework is based on the Forest Act, Regulation for its implementation and other regulations. Of national importance are also programmes, strategies and action plans, projects and regulations by Council of Ministers. Important documents are: National Climate Change Action Plan, National Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan and National Environment Strategy and Action Plan, National Strategy for water development and management, National Strategic Rural Development Plan, National Regional Development Strategy, National Action programme for combating desertification and etc.							
d) Does the nfp address - socio-cultural, - biodiversity, - carbon & climate issues (Ref.: V3/5; V5/ 5; V6/ 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure employment in rural areas; - Contribution to improvement the quality of life through maintaining attractive environment and life and recreational conditions, - Maintenance and improvement of the environment and biodiversity conservation; 							

¹ nfp = national forest programme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preservation of spiritual and cultural forest heritage; - Establishment of timber productive plantations
e) promote participation of stakeholders in forest policy & program development? (Ref.:L1/2)	Encouraging collaboration between forest owners, branch organizations and associations and support in the field of education and sylvicultural qualifications.
Further measures taken related to A.1 and comments:	

Reporting notes:

1. „nfp“ is understood to comprise both nfps or similar documents or processes. If nfps exist, please use this as main reference. If similar documents are used for answering, please specify the document (or process) under “Reference document”.

2. Reporting on general characteristics could include formal status of the document, validity period of current document, duration of process, range of stakeholders involved, major results or key lessons.

A.2 Institutional frameworks

Main characteristics of institutional framework	<p>The activity, structure and organization of the work, functions and number of employees of the National Forestry Board at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry are defined by the Regulation of organization, adopted with Council of Minister's Regulation № 167/14.08.2000, published in State Gazette 69/22.08.2000, in force from 22.08.2000, amended 88/12.10.2001, in force from 15.10.2001, am. 99/20.11.2001, in force from 20.11.2001, 48/23.05.2003, in force from 23.05.2003, 8/21.01.2005, in force from 21.01.2005.</p> <p>The National Forestry Board /NFB/ is a juridical body on a state budget at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, seated in Sofia. NBF implements the Ministry's functions in the field of forestry, hunting and non-profitable fishing. NFB is a secondary administrator of budgetary credits at the Minister of agriculture and forestry. The maintenance of the structural and specialized territorial units of NFB is assured by the budget of the Ministry. NFB works successfully in co-operation with different countries and state and non-state institutions, of which the most important are mentioned below.</p>		
Main public organizations forest policy: - forest administration	Name (full formal name)	Forest-related staff (2005, FTE) in 2005 according to the Regulation of organization of NFB the total number of employees is 7734 /permanent staff/, 120 of which are seated in NFB – Headquarters and 7614 – in the structural and specialized territorial units of NFB	Administrative budget (mil€,2005) 52.510
- public forest agencies (national level)			
- research, education and training institutions	Forestry University, Sofia	165	0.587
	Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	101	0.335
- other (please specify)	Union of Foresters	1/2	0.005
	National Association "Union of Hunters and Anglers in Bulgaria"	22	0.4
	Agrolesproekt JSC – forest management company with state participation	144	0.8
Main private organizations relevant for forest policy: (interest groups and associations)	BULPROFOR – Branch association of private working foresters	1	0.03
	PROLES Engineering JSL – private forest management planning company	28	0.365
	GOROVLADELEC – National Association of the non-state forest owners	2	0.001

	BKDMF – Branch chamber of the timber processing and furniture industry	4	0.220			
other organizations relevant for forest policy (e.g. private-public bodies)						
Main forest policy co-ordination mechanisms	Conduction of meetings, deliberations and discussions with the society on major issues in the field of forestry.					
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to A.2						
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:						
a) support the establishment of associations of private forest owners and forest entrepreneurs? (Ref.: VD/12; V2/18, 19)	Organizational support: material, institutional; trainings – seminars, meetings; informational – written editions, experience exchange, participation in international and national projects.					
b) establish or improve intersectoral co-ordination or communication mechanisms? (Ref.: VD/15, 18; V1/ 6)	Development of communicational and PR strategy is foreseen.					
Further measures taken related to A.2 and comments:						

Reporting notes:

1. Institutional framework is understood to refer mainly to the organizational set-up of forest policy in the country. It further comprises formal co-ordinating mechanisms between these (incl. e.g. nfp).
2. Please describe federal structures and further sub-national level organizational structures under “main characteristics”.
3. Please list organizations with a mandate to develop or implement forest policy on the national level only. Note that all major organizations listed in Part B should also be listed here. Interest groups and associations include e.g. private forest owners, environmental NGOs.
4. In case of public organizations, please specify forest-related staff (number, in full-time equivalent) and budget only. Use the “comments” section for further specification, if needed.
5. Note that mechanisms referred to in A.2 a) and A.2 b) include nfps – please do not repeat from A1 (text there will be taken into account). It also includes public-private partnership initiatives.

A.3 Legal/regulatory frameworks and international commitments			
Main characteristics of legal/regulatory framework	The main legislative forestry framework is defined by the Forest Act /FA/ and the Law on hunting and game protection /LHGP/. FA is from one side an organizational act that determines the structure of the forestry sector, the statute of NFB and its structural and specialized units, as well as the relations between them. From the other side, it defines the relations, related to the forest ownership, their management, regeneration, utilization and protection. LHGP determines the statute of the State Hunting Areas as independent economic bodies, as well as the activities related to game protection and management, organization of the hunting areas of the country, hunting rights and trade with game and game products.		
Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act	(see also Part B) <table border="1"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Forest law, act or code</td><td> Forest Act published State Gazette 125/29.12.1997 Amended and supplemented SG 79/10.07.1998, ad.26/23.03.1999 in force from 23.03.1999, am.&suppl. 29/7.04.2000, 78/26.09.2000 ad. 77/9.08.2002, am.&suppl. 79/16.08.2002, 99/22.10.2002, am.&suppl. 16/18.02.2003 The adoption of new Forest Act is foreseen Regulation for the implementation of the Forest Act published SG 41 10.04.1998, Amended and supplemented SG 74/30.07.2002, corr. 79/16.08.2002, am. 31/4.04.2003, 48/23.05.2003, in force from 23.05.2003, am.&suppl. 101/18.11.2003, am. 39/12.05.2004, am.&suppl. 98/6.12.2005, am. 54/4.07.2006 in force from 1.07.2006 </td></tr> </table>	Forest law, act or code	Forest Act published State Gazette 125/29.12.1997 Amended and supplemented SG 79/10.07.1998, ad.26/23.03.1999 in force from 23.03.1999, am.&suppl. 29/7.04.2000, 78/26.09.2000 ad. 77/9.08.2002, am.&suppl. 79/16.08.2002, 99/22.10.2002, am.&suppl. 16/18.02.2003 The adoption of new Forest Act is foreseen Regulation for the implementation of the Forest Act published SG 41 10.04.1998, Amended and supplemented SG 74/30.07.2002, corr. 79/16.08.2002, am. 31/4.04.2003, 48/23.05.2003, in force from 23.05.2003, am.&suppl. 101/18.11.2003, am. 39/12.05.2004, am.&suppl. 98/6.12.2005, am. 54/4.07.2006 in force from 1.07.2006
Forest law, act or code	Forest Act published State Gazette 125/29.12.1997 Amended and supplemented SG 79/10.07.1998, ad.26/23.03.1999 in force from 23.03.1999, am.&suppl. 29/7.04.2000, 78/26.09.2000 ad. 77/9.08.2002, am.&suppl. 79/16.08.2002, 99/22.10.2002, am.&suppl. 16/18.02.2003 The adoption of new Forest Act is foreseen Regulation for the implementation of the Forest Act published SG 41 10.04.1998, Amended and supplemented SG 74/30.07.2002, corr. 79/16.08.2002, am. 31/4.04.2003, 48/23.05.2003, in force from 23.05.2003, am.&suppl. 101/18.11.2003, am. 39/12.05.2004, am.&suppl. 98/6.12.2005, am. 54/4.07.2006 in force from 1.07.2006		
Main priorities and measures in <i>international</i> forest related commitments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Studying the possibilities for utilization of renewable sources for energy production - Introduction of FSC in 30% of the forest fund in the country till 2011 - Strengthening of the intersectoral relations and collaboration in relation to determination of offences in the forests and imposition of penalties in relation to ENA FLEG 		
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to A.3:			
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:			
a) improve security of property rights (Ref.: V3/7)	The principle on which is established the main legislative forest act – the Forest Act, is the principle for equity of the types of ownership. In this relation, identical rights and obligations of all forest and land /in the forest area/ owners connected with the utilization, management and protection of their properties are defined.		
b) address forest law enforcement (Ref.: VD/20; V4/6, 7)	Real and effective enforcement of the regulations of different legislative acts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Act – since 2003 new controlling mechanisms in timber transportation, processing and trade are introduced. The rights of the control bodies are enhanced. - Change in the organization of guarding and control and the actions of the forest guard's work. - Penalty code – change in the regulations related to non-legal timber harvesting through qualifying such activities as a subject to prosecution. - Joint activities with Ministry of Interior and Prosecutor's office in relation to prevention offences in the forests. - In relation to the administrative penalties – change in the Forest Act - 2003, working meetings with the Agency for State Debts. - Annually a Plan-programme for collaboration between the state bodies and the local authorities, aimed to the implementation of other legislative acts for utilization and trade with forest, game and fish resources. 		

c) support enabling environments for SFM and investment (Ref.: V2/7)	SAPARD programme gave an opportunity to the non-state forest owners to apply and win projects on different measures, related to secondary roads' construction; improvement of forest roads; afforestation of abandoned agricultural and eroded lands; forestations in high and coppice forests with low density; establishment of forest-fruit plantations and/or plantations with high timber value. According to the National Strategic Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 private forest owners are foreseen to receive support for construction and maintenance of forest roads; afforestations on nonproductive agricultural lands; biodiversity protection and etc.
d) support international processes, commitments and their implementation in - UNFF, CPF, IPF/IFF proposals for action, - CBD, - UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol (Ref.: VD/23, 24; V4/4, 14, V5/6, 10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since this year Bulgaria has an UNFF focal point - The Ministry of Environment and Waters is the responsible body for the implementation of these conventions. In this relation, MOEW has developed Strategy and Plan for ensuring the necessary capacity of R of Bulgaria for implementation of the three main UN environmental conventions /2005-2014/. Also, there is a National Environment Strategy /2005-2014/ and Action Plan/2005-2009/, adopted and approved by Council of Ministers and National Assembly of R of Bulgaria - There is a National plan for biodiversity conservation 2005-2010. In relation to the relevant convention, a Clearing House Mechanism is developed. - Since October 2006 there is also a working mechanism for "joint implementation" in the framework of Kioto protocol. - First study on possibilities for establishment and maintenance of National Clima register has been carried out.
Further measures taken related to A.3 and comments:	
(incl. e.g. on UNCCD) National Action programme on UNCCD is foreseen to be approved and adopted by Council of Ministers and National Assembly of R of Bulgaria	

Reporting notes:

1. Commitments, signature and ratification of major international commitments will be collected from the relevant conventions (UNFF, CBD, UNFCCC, CCD, ITTO, CITES, Ramsar, etc.).
2. Under "Main characteristics" please describe situation of legal frameworks with respect to distribution of responsibilities in general (central or federal, the diversity of key legal acts) as well as significant changes related to legal/regulatory frameworks and international characteristics since 2003.

A.4 Financial instruments/economic policy							
Main characteristics of forest-related economic policy	The budget is planned and reported on a “cash base”, according to the Common budgetary classification. A Toolkit for implementation of the Law on accountancy and applicable accounting standards in the budgetary organizations is used.						
Main characteristics of financial instruments	<p>see A.2.</p> <p>Financing of the National programme „Restoration and protection of Bulgarian forests” is executed on a joint contract between Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. MLSP ensures the remuneration of the employed former unemployed people for execution of work in the field of forestry, and MOAF – the resources for material expenditures and this part of the remuneration which is above the minimal one.</p>						
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Main budget line / programme</td><td>Management and control of the forestry activities – total framework implementation of NFB's activities Budget: 166.51 mil. € for 2004-2006</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main budget line / programme</td><td>National programme „Restoration and protection of Bulgarian forests” Ensuring employment of unemployed socially supported people budget 8,089 mil.€ for 2004-2006 –ensured by MLSP</td></tr> <tr> <td>Main budget line / programme</td><td>Name: Target/objective: Forest-related budget: mil € for period</td></tr> </table>	Main budget line / programme	Management and control of the forestry activities – total framework implementation of NFB's activities Budget: 166.51 mil. € for 2004-2006	Main budget line / programme	National programme „Restoration and protection of Bulgarian forests” Ensuring employment of unemployed socially supported people budget 8,089 mil.€ for 2004-2006 –ensured by MLSP	Main budget line / programme	Name: Target/objective: Forest-related budget: mil € for period
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Main budget line / programme	National programme „Restoration and protection of Bulgarian forests” Ensuring employment of unemployed socially supported people budget 8,089 mil.€ for 2004-2006 –ensured by MLSP						
Main budget line / programme	Name: Target/objective: Forest-related budget: mil € for period						
National employment plans 2004 – 2006							
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to A.4:							
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:							
a) set incentives for investment, including innovative economic instruments (Ref.: V2/7, 17)	Determined budgetary framework of the investment expenditures cannot have positive effect.						
Further measures taken related to A.4 and comments:							

Reporting notes:

1. Main budget lines/programmes: please list the top three governmental funding programmes related to forestry, incl. governmental (public) programmes or budget lines with a relevant or significant forestry component. Target group of these budget lines include not only forest owners or state forest enterprises but also research and education institutions.

A.5 Informational means	
Main characteristics of informational policies	There is an official NFB's website which shows major developments in the state forest sector and other related important issues. Annually NFB elaborates a report on its activities which is included in the report on the activities of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to A.5:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) develop and use national level criteria and indicators for SFM, incl. in nfps? (Ref.: VD/25, L2/1)	There are no national SFM criteria and indicators approved. For evaluation of the forests and assessment of their SM, annually an appraisal according to the pan-European C&I is done, as well as the additional analysis. There is a draft FSC national standard for SFM. Toolkit for management of forests with high conservation value is elaborated and its practical implementation is foreseen.
b) improve data-collection on SFM and monitoring of - biodiversity - carbon stock and climate impact? (Ref.: V4/9, 13; V5/7,9,10; L2/2, 4, 6)	Leading institution is Ministry of Environment and Waters. There is National system for monitoring biodiversity and protected areas. ICP Forest I&II monitoring is in implementation. Information system for evaluation and analysis of carbon and climate change is needed.
c) use C&I in assessment, evaluation and reporting? (Ref.: VD/25, L2/3, 4)	Main terms and definitions, though different from the national ones, are adapted when preparing reports for FRA 2005, MCPFE and etc.
Further measures taken related to A.5 and comments:	

Reporting note:

1. A.5. a): this includes the use of the MCPFE Assessment guidelines

B. Policies, institutions and instruments by policy area

B.1: Land use and forest area and OWL	
Main legal or reference document(s):	see A.3.
Main objective	The forest legislative framework aims biodiversity conservation, sustainable and multifunctional forest management, as well as enlarging the forest area towards reduction of green gas emissions.
Most relevant institutions	NFB Ministry of Environment and Waters
Main instruments used	see A.1.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.1: Were measures taken in 2003-2007?	
Please describe	Priority in the forest management is enlarging the forest area. There are experimental Plans for multifunctional forest management developed for 15 regions of the country that give opportunity for the society to participate in the decision-making process in the field of forestry on a communal level. These also help decentralization of the forest management and synchronize the forest planning with other local authorities and organizations.
Further measures taken related to B.1 and comments:	

Reporting note:

- Under "Main characteristics" please also describe whether land use and ownership rights are an issue in specific areas and whether policies exist to increase (or decrease) forest area (or, specifically, forested land, including short rotation forests).

B.2: Carbon balance	
Main legal or reference document(s):	Law on environment protection, Published SG 91/25.09.2002, last am. 30/11.04.2006, in force from 12.07.2006, and relevant regulations Law on energy effectiveness, published SG 18/5.03.2004, am. 74/8.09. 2006, and relative regulations Energy Strategy of R of Bulgaria since 2002 in force
Main objective	Enlarging the share of energy production from renewable resources in the national energy balance with implementation of preferable policy for their development. The Law on Energy effectiveness aims encouragement of the energy effectiveness through system of measures on national, branch, regional and communal level as a major factor of raising the economic competitiveness, security of energy supply and environment preservation.
Most relevant institutions	Ministry of Environment and Waters, Executive Agency on environment, Agency on energy effectiveness, Energy Institute
Main instruments used	Law on promotion of the RES is prepared and is subject of review by the National Assembly. There is a National Long-term programme on energy effectiveness – 2005-2015 in implementation. Second National Action plan on climate change 2005-2008 is in implementation. Annual green gas inventory - see B.4.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.2:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) promote the SFM concept in the Kyoto Protocol context, particularly on afforestation? (Ref.: VD/21, V5/6)	Afforestation on bare lands - 35% of total forestation in the country. Local tree species used, dominating broadleaved ones, in proportion 33/67. Forest reproductive materials for forestation saplings according the requirements of Directive 1999/105/EC are used.
b) promote substitution of non-renewables, particularly bio-energy (see also B.4)? (Ref.: V5/5,6)	Pilot Fuel Switch project was realized according to Kioto "joint implementation" mechanism. Its goal was pilot establishment of heating systems, using wood residues from tendering activities in the forests instead of conventional domestic fuels, in favor of reduction of certain green gas emissions.
Further measures taken related to B.2 and comments:	

B.3: Health and vitality	
Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Regulation № 1/27.05.1998 for phytosanitary control Published SG 82/17.07.1998, in force from 18.10.1998, am. 91/19.10.1999 in force from 1.01.1999 am.&suppl. 8/22.01.2002, 28/28.03.2003 in force from 29.06.2003, 7/24.01.2006 in force from 24.01.2006, 75/12.09.2006 in force from 1.01.2007</p> <p>major changes: Regulation № 56/11.11.2003 for forest protection from pests, diseases and other damages, by the Minister of AF, published 103/25.11.2003</p> <p>Regulation № 25/from 26.10.1999 for the conditions, ways and order for utilization of forest protective detergents and tools in the forests of R of Bulgaria, published SG 95/2.11.1999</p> <p>Regulation № 33/2005 for the types of timber cuttings and means for their execution, published SG 10.08.2004, in force from 01.01.2005</p>
Main objective	<p>Forest act and relevant regulations aim the preservation of Bulgarian forests as a national wealth – major factor for creation of suitable environmental conditions, through regeneration and sustainable development of multipurpose utilization in favour of the owners and society. In the “Strategic plan for development of the forest sector 2007 – 2011” one of the strategic goals is formation and maintenance of viable and sustainable ecosystems.</p> <p>Regulation № 1 – This regulation sets the phytosanitary control and the following measures: introduction of pests on plants, plant and other products in the country or other MS or from third countries; against dissemination of pests in the country and in other MS, while moving the plants, plant and other products; when exporting and without stopping movement of plants, plant and other products; when producing plants, plant and other products.</p> <p>Regulation № 56 – This regulation sets the conditions, order and way for organization and execution of the forest protection from pests, diseases and other damages.</p> <p>Regulation № 25 – This regulation sets the conditions, ways and order for utilization of forest protective detergents and tools in the forests, incl. chemical fertilizers and stimulants for production of reproductive materials, forest tendering and management</p>
Most relevant institutions	MOAF, National service for plant protection, NFB, MOEW
Main instruments used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determination of the occurrence and dissemination of pests, diseases and other damages and evaluation, and monitoring of their effect upon forest health; - Development of forecasts for occurrence and expansion of insects and other pests, diseases and other damages; - Determination of methods and means for forest protection and control of the pests, diseases and other damages; - Development of ecological and forestry issues, related to forest protection.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.3:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) strengthen research, monitoring and impact assessment of climate change and carbon stocks? (Ref.: V5/6)	<p>Finalized Fuel Switch project – see A.4.</p> <p>Annually NFB together with MOEW assigns to the Forestry University and the Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences the evaluation and monitoring of the impact of air pollution over forest ecosystems, related to ICP Forest. According to this monitoring, an evaluation of the dynamics in the forest health in Europe is done. NFB assigns to the Energy Institute and Forest Research Institute the scientific and research task „Method for collection, processing and verification of forest data when making an inventory of the green gases”. It studies scientifically based approaches for correct evaluation of the carbon</p>

	emissions in the forests to be suggested.
b) strengthen adaptability of forests to climate change? (Ref.: V5/7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mainly local and introduced drought-resistant species used for forestations and afforestations; - improvement of the water balance through effective measures for erosion control in forests; - execution of fire prevention measures - utilization of selective forest management; - execution of silvicultural measures for natural forest regeneration; - reduction of the total forest area, affected by climate changes (criteria - defoliation) through 2003 – 2007
Further measures taken related to B.3 and comments:	
Under the NFB three Forest Protection Stations are working in the field of monitoring, health assessment, and undertake health measures and control against the determined pests and diseases.	

B.4: Production and use of wood	
Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Forest Act – see A.3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16/18.02.2003 is providing an opportunity for the State Forestries (SF) and State Hunting Areas /SHA/ to harvest the timber on their own from the state forests or to contract this service and then sell it at temporary warehouses /on the road/. This approach was helpful for the control over the harvesting process and forest management, and raised the incomes from harvesting for the State forest sector. - with the changes from SG 72/2.09.2005 the requirements of Directive 68/89/EEC for the market provision of non processed timber “classified according the EEC rules” have been introduced <p>Regulation for the implementation of the Forest Act – see A.3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with the changes from SG 74/30.07.2002, cor. 79/16.08.2002 the methods of utilization, harvesting and sale of the harvested timber from the State forest fund have been regulated. The same were partly regulated in Instruction №36/02.11.2001 - with the changes from SG 98/6.12.2005 the requirements of Directive 68/89/EEC for the market provision of non processed timber “classified according the EEC rules” have been further developed.
Main objective	Secure sustainable, nature-sound and multifunctional management and utilization of the forest resources
Most relevant institutions	MOA, NFB
Main instruments used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - optimization of actions related to assignment of timber harvesting and timber sale; - achievement of maximum forecasting and transparency of the assignment of the timber harvesting and timber sale; - establishment and secure the maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing forest road network. Encouraging environmental friendly technologies for timber harvesting; - enhancement the total harvesting volume and the incomes from the timber sales in the forest sector, aiming reinvestments for regeneration, forest infrastructure and etc.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.4:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) promote the sound use of wood? (Ref.: VD/9, V2/8, V5/5, L1/7)	<p>Strict control on the implementation of the silvicultural activities foreseen in the forest management plans, projects and programmes, related to the close to nature forest management and harvesting, incl. their correct execution by the harvesting companies.</p> <p>Strict control on the technological harvesting processes, as well as when sawing the harvested timber, aiming its detailed processing and correct usage.</p>
b) promote the use of wood from sustainable sources? (Ref.: V2/8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - initial process of forest certification; - work contacts with timber processing and furniture enterprises in order resource security with timber from sustainable managed stands, as well detailed and non-waste timber processing.
Further measures taken related to B.4 and comments:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support and encouragement for the timber utilization, in particular fuel wood and wood biomass as an energy source; - maintenance of suitable market and price policy for encouragement for the fuel wood and wood biomass as a Renewable energy source /RES/; - assistance in the development of National Long-term programme for RES utilization 2005-2015 ” / Ministry of Economic and Energy and Agency on Energy Effectiveness 	

B.5 Production and use of non-wood goods and services, especially provision of recreation	
Main legal or reference document(s):	see B.4
Main objective	- ensure sustainable, nature-sound and multifunctional management, utilization and supply of non-timber forest products - development of recreational services
Most relevant institutions	MOAF, NFB, MOEW
Main instruments used	Control towards the sensible utilization of non-timber forest products as renewable and nature-sound resources from sustainable managed forests. Harvesting of non-timber products with means and ways, leading to damages or destruction of the populations and habitats or exhausting the resources are limited. Measures for enhancement the total harvesting volume and the incomes from non-timber forest products, related to recreation in the forest sector, aiming reinvestments for regeneration, infrastructure and etc. Achievement of maximum forecasting and transparency of the supply of non-timber forest products and services, due to recreation.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.5:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) improve enabling conditions for the market-based provision for non-wood goods? (Ref.: V2/9)	- Contacts with non-governmental and branch organizations, related to utilization of non-timber forest products. - Enhancing the control on enterprises, processing and trading with non-timber forest products. - Initial forest certification process
b) improve enabling conditions for the market-based provision of services, esp. recreational services? (Ref.: V2/9)	- Contacts and contracts with organizations, experienced in recreation services. Establishment of public-private associations oriented towards recreational services. - Attracting specialists and managers, experienced in recreational service supply.
Further measures taken related to B.5 and comments:	
Development of new niches in harvesting and sale of non-timber forest products, as well as provision of recreational services. Improvement the conditions for bigger diversity of forest products and services from sustainable managed forests through identification and elimination of unwanted obstacles and introduction of suitable incentives.	

B.6 Biodiversity

Ecosystem / habitat / protected areas / landscape patterns	Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Law on protected areas Published SG 133/11.11.1998, am. 98/12.11.1999, in force from 12.11.1999, am.&suppl. 28/4.04.2000, am. 48/13.06.2000, suppl. 78/26.09.2000, am.&suppl. 23/1.03.2002, am.&suppl. 77/9.08.2002, am. 91/25.09.2002, in force from 1.01.2003</p> <p>Law on biological diversity, published SG 77/9.08.2002, am.&suppl. 88/4.11.2005, am. 105/29.12.2005, in force from 1.01.2006, 29/7.04.2006, 30/11.04.2006, in force from 12.07.2006/, am.&suppl. 34/25.04.2006, in force from 1.07.2007(*) – am. related to entering in force, 80/3.10.2006, in force from 3.10.2006.</p>
	Main objective	<p>Law on protected areas aims protection and conservation of the protected areas as a national and human wealth and as a special form of conservation the local nature, assisting to the culture and science development, and being a wealth for the society.</p> <p>Law on biological diversity is focused on conservation of representative for R of Bulgaria and Europe types of nature habitats and habitats of endangered, rare and endemic plant and animal species in the framework of the National eco-network; conservation of protected plant and animal species in Bulgaria, as well as those subject of utilization and trade; conservation of genetic resources and diversity of plant and animal species out of their natural environment; regulation of the introduction of non-local and reintroduction of local plant and animal species in the nature; regulation of the trade with endangered plant and animal species; conservation of ancient and remarkable trees.</p>
	Most relevant institutions	MOEW, MOAF, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works
	Main instruments used	Management plans of the national and nature parks, definition and management of the protected habitats and bird's habitats according to NATURA 2000
Species diversity, incl. tree species composition and threatened forest species	Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Law on environment protection published SG91/25.09.2002, last amendments SG 99/8.12.2006 in force from 9.01.2007, am. 102/19.12.2006, 105/22.12.2006, in force from 1.01.2007</p> <p>Law on biological diversity –see above</p> <p>Regulation № 17/28.07.2000 for forestation and inventory of the forest plantations, published by the Minister of AF in SG 67/5.08.2000</p>
	Main objective	<p>Law on environment protection postulates societal relations, like: environment conservation for the present and future generation and protection humans health; biodiversity conservation in accordance to the biogeographically country characteristics; conservation and utilization of the components of the environment; control and management of factors harming the environment; control over the environment and pollution resources; pollution prevention and limitation; collection of environmental data, etc.</p> <p>Law on biological diversity aims: - see above</p> <p>Regulation № 17 arranges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. conditions and order for forestation of forest and agricultural areas; 2. main rules and requirements related to planning, organization, implementation and control, which has to be followed when executing forestation activities; 3. used tree species, composition and density of the plantations.

	Most relevant institutions	MOEW, Regional inspectorates on environment and waters, MOAF/NFB		
	Main instruments used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - giving priority to the local species for forestation activities; - elaboration of local and regional development programmes, incl. the biodiversity conservation; - Management programme of the Government (2005 – 2008) 		
Genetic diversity, incl. in situ and ex situ gene conservation and seed production	Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Law on GMO, published SG 27/29.03.2005, in force from 1.06.2005, am. 88/4.11.2005, 99/9.12.2005, in force from 10.06.2006, 30/11.04.2006, in force from 12.07.2006</p> <p>Regulation № 5/5.02.2004 on production and marketing of forest reproductive materials, published SG 18/5.03.2004, am.&suppl. 79/29.09.2006, in force from 1.01.2007</p> <p>Regulation № 7/14.06.2005 on the conditions and order for selecting sources from the forest seed resource base, collecting and harvesting of reproductive materials intended for forestry purposes and qualifying such materials including the imported ones, published SG52/24.06.2005, in force</p>		
	Main objective	<p>Law on GMO postulates societal relations, like: controlled work with GMO; release of GMO in the environment; selling GMO or their combination as products or their ingredients; movement of GMO and etc. This Law is oriented towards human health and environment protection, giving priority to their protection when there is a potential danger of unfavorable impacts, though the existing economic interests or lack of enough scientific data.</p> <p>Regulation № 5 aims production and marketing of forest reproductive materials only from approved and registered resources, fulfilling definite requirements.</p> <p>Regulation № 7 sets the principles in tree species' selection; methods for conservation and preservation of gene diversity; establishment of seed gene bank; management of the defined seed resource base.</p>		
	Most relevant institutions	MOEW, MOAF/NFB (Forest seed-control stations)		
	Main instruments used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - establishment of seed gene bank; - conservation of biodiversity in situ; - action undertaken for conservation of gene fund of the endangered species ex situ 		
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.6:				
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:				
a) promote biodiversity strategy development and planning? (Ref.: VD/8,22; V4/6,14,15)	Expert participation in the development of the National Environment Strategy and Action Plan (2005-2014)			
b) improve impact assessments and monitoring of biodiversity? (Ref.: V4/6,13)	Established Information system for the National Biodiversity Monitoring system.			
c) further develop protected forest networks or similar? (Ref.: V4/10,15,16)	Determination of the Natura 2000 places Registration of approved resources for forest reproductive materials and their categorization as special forests.			
d) prevent loss and fragmentation and to restore degraded forests? (Ref.: V4/11,12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reconstruction of forest with worsen state 2003 – 1260, 7 ha; 2004 – 1272,3 ha; 2005 – 1238,5 ha; 2006 – 1098,7 ha. - restoration of burned forests – annually between 1000 и 2000 ha. 			
Further measures taken related to B.6 and comments:				
(incl. e.g. on dead wood, regeneration and naturalness in multi-functional forests)				

B.7 Protective services	
Main legal or reference document(s):	Forest Act, Regulation № 1, Regulation № 25, Regulation № 33 - see B.3.
Main objective	Regulation № 1 defines the conditions and order for combating the erosion and landslides in the forest fund and the construction of fortifications. Raising the quality of life through protection and enhancement of the social and cultural forest functions; Enhancing social forest functions.
Most relevant institutions	MOAF, NFB, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, MOEW
Main instruments used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - elaboration of projects and programmes for erosion combat of national and local level in order protection of vulnerable areas; - state support for private forest owners for construction of fortifications; - application of different methods and technologies for land cultivation and forest utilization, enhancing the sustainable forest management; - training of forest owners and supervisors
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.7:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) strengthen protective services? (Ref.: VD/10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - up-dating forest legislation; - Implementation of project „Establishment of capacity for sustainable land use in Bulgaria”, financed by UNDP - enlarging the area and stock of the water-protection forests and of the forests, protecting engineer facilities. - enlarging the are and the stock of the recreational forests (2003 – 2007)
b) contribute to reduce the impact of climate-related disasters? (Ref.: V5/7)	<p>Participation in INTERREG III B и III C projects: "Mountain forest network" and "Monitor"; realized Fuel Switch Project;</p> <p>Enlarging the forested area in the country</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - construction of barrages – 2003 – 2451,9 m^3 2004 – 1888 m^3 2005 – 99,3 m^3 2006 - 122,5 m^3 - anti-erosion forestations - 2003 – 489,45 ha 2004 – 406,58 ha 2005 – 258,73 ha 2006 – 195,45 ha
Further measures taken related to B.7 and comments:	

Reporting note:

- Reporting Note:

 1. Protective services cover services as specified in MCPFE 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	
Main legal or reference document(s):	Strategic Action plan for development of the forest sector - 2007-2011 Strategy for development of Bulgarian timber processing and furniture industry, December 2006 – till 2013
Main objective	Economic stabilization of the forest sector through improvement of its competitiveness and enhancing the sustainable utilization of forest products and services.
Most relevant institutions	NFB/MOAF, Ministry of Economy and Energy, Branch and scientific organizations
Main instruments used	The following key actions should be implemented: restructuring the state forest management; improvement forest quality and economic value, and realization of sustainable and rational timber utilization; support to research activities and technological development for raising the competitiveness of the forest sector; raising the value of the non-timber forest products and services' encouraging collaboration between forest owners, branch organizations and associations and support to the education and sylvicultural qualifications.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.8:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) promote innovation, entrepreneurship and to encourage investment in the context of SFM? (Ref.: V2/7,11)	Strategic Action plan for development of the forest sector foresees: - development and implementation of competitive mechanisms for harvesting - security of resources for the timber industry and the population, as well as improvement the timber marketing for higher effectiveness - introduction of long-term contracting of timber harvesting and sale
b) include economic viability and livelihood issues in rural development policy? (Ref.: VD/7, V2/16)	Such measure is developed in the National Strategic Rural Development Pan – Axes I – „Improvement the competitiveness of the agriculture and forest sector”
c) promote the voluntary cooperation of forest owners and addressed economic viability challenges? (Ref.: VD/12, V2/15,17)	Legal bases in the Forest Act – support to the group planning and management; establishment of conditions for easy access to the society and establishing management regimes which do not harm the ownership development – minimum legal limitations; consultations; information and etc.
d) promote the valuation of full range of forest goods & services, incorporate results into accounting systems (Ref.: V2/10, L1/9, 10)	see B. 5
Further measures taken related to B.8 and comments:	

B.9 Employment (incl. safety and health)	
Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Law on the civil servant - valid for the NFB headquarters', published SG 67/27.07.1999</p> <p>Labor code – valid for the employees in the structural and specialized territorial units, published 26/01.04.1986</p> <p>Forest act – regarding the order for employment of management personnel</p> <p>Law on hunting and game protection – for employment of management personnel of the State Hunting Areas, published 78/26.09.2000</p> <p>Law on health and safety work conditions, published 124/23.12.1997, last am. 105/22.12.2006 all in force</p>
Main objective	Introduction the competitive beginning when appointing management personnel, secure legislative guarantees for publicity and transparency of the procedure, as well as limitation of the possibility for political pressures.
Most relevant institutions	Council of Ministers – for implementation of Law on the civil servant and Labor code MOAF – for implementation of Forest Act and Law on hunting and game protection
Main instruments used	Adoption of laws and regulation, introducing the competitive beginning when employing personnel and guarantying objectivity and transparency of the procedure: in the Forest act is set the principle of appointment of management personnel in the structural and specialized territorial units only after competition. The regulations of Regulation for holding competitions for the civil servants (adopted in 2004) are implemented when employing civil servants.
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.9:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) enhance workforce safety and improve work environment? (Ref.: V2/14, L1/8)	<p>Annually NFB contracts a Service on labor medicine and adopts a programme for improvement the work conditions. From the beginning of 2004 in NFB – Headquarters and its units, there are Committees or working groups on work conditions, which members are periodically trained.</p> <p>In 2002 in relation to Law on health and safety work conditions was established a Council on work conditions together with Regulation for its activity - its chairman is the Head of NFB.</p> <p>Periodically there are courses on qualifications of the chain-sewers held. The regulation for work safety is in a process of actualization.</p>
Further measures taken related to B.9 and comments:	

B.10 Public awareness	
Main legal or reference document(s):	PR- and communication Strategy is foreseen to be developed.
Main objective	Enhancing the level of information of separate target groups through positive materials and unobtrusive media presence. Secure transparency of NFB's activities in the transition conditions. Promotion of measures and actions undertaken by NFB on major problems, related to conservation and enhancement of nature wealth of Bulgaria. Intensify and attracting the society when taking decisions in the field of forestry – fire prevention, illegal harvesting, poaching. Explaining the forest sector perspectives and development. Improving the image and prestige of the forest authorities.
Most relevant institutions	NFB, MOAF
Main instruments used	Celebration Forestry Week each beginning of April. Under its auspices number of competitions and exhibitions are held, and also the Best Forester of the year is awarded. Annually there are radio- and TV-campaigns for forest fire prevention
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation to B.10: Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) develop dialogue with the public, incl. through awareness raising programmes? (Ref.: L1/1)	The accomplished FAO project on forest fire prevention had a concrete PR-campaign focused on the young generation.
Further measures taken related to B.10 and comments:	

B.11 Research, training and education	
Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Law on Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, published 85/15.10.1991, am. 90/22.10.1993, am.&suppl. 123/22.12.1997, in force from 1.01.1998, published on 15.10.1991, in force from 01.01.1998.</p> <p>Law on vocational training and education, published 68/30.07.1999, am. 1/4.01.2000, 108/29.12.2000, 111/28.12.2001, am.&suppl. 103/5.11.2002, am. 120/29.12.2002, suppl. 29/31.03.2003, am. 28/1.04.2005, 1.04.2005, am.&suppl. 77/27.09.2005, in force from 27.09.2005, am. 94/25.11.2005, in force from 25.11.2005, 30/11.04.2006, in force from 12.07.2006, am.&suppl. 62/1.08.2006, in force from the date of entering in force of the Bulgarian Accession treaty - 1.01.2007, corr. 63/4.08.2006 r. (forest technical schools)</p> <p>Law on high education, published 112/27.12.1995, after changes, in force from 01.01.2007</p>
Main objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientific and research activities; - education in silviculture; - raising qualification through obtaining scientific rank PhD
Most relevant institutions	Forest Research Institute at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Forestry University
Main instruments used	<p>There are scientific themes applicable for the forestry financed by NFB.</p> <p>There are plans for raising the qualification of the NFB employees for 2007 and 2007 – 2009.</p>
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.11:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) strengthen research, increase interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research? (Ref.: VD/17, V3/ 11, V4/17, V5/ 6,7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participation in EUFORGEN in implementation of S2 and V4 - COST actions E-25, E-27, E-87 - participation in ICP "Forest" I&II
b) enhance the quality of education, training and extension and other forms of knowledge dissemination? (Ref.: V2/12,13, V3/6, L1/4,6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coordination between Forestry University and NFB's educational programmes; teaching hours of the subjects and state entrance of students willing to study silviculture - trainings and practices of students and school pupils in the units of NFB; - short – and long-term educational courses for qualifications or enhancing language knowledge; - publishing specialized silvicultural books, toolkits, brochures and etc.
Further measures taken related to B.11 and comments:	

B.12 Cultural and spiritual values	
Main legal or reference document(s):	<p>Law on culture monuments and museums, published SG 29/11.04 1969, am. 29/10.04.1973, am. 36/8.05.1979, am. 87/11.11.1980, am. 102/29.12.1981, am. 45/06.1984, am. 45/13.06.1989, am. 10/2.02.1990, am. 14/16.02.1990, am. 112/27.12.1995, am. 31/12.04.1996, am. 44/21.05.1996, am. 117/10.12.1997, am. 153/23.12.1998, am. 50/1 .06.1999, am.55/25.06.2004, am. 28/1.04.2005, am. 94/25.11.2005</p> <p>Law on tourism, published SG 56/07.06.2002, am. 119/2002, 120/2002, am.&suppl. 39/2004, 28/2005, am. 39/2005, am.&suppl. 94, am. 99, 105/2005, am. 30, 34, 82, 105/2006</p>
Main objective	Conservation and preservation of cultural and natural heritage
Most relevant institutions	Ministry of Culture, MOEW, NFB/MOAF,
Main instruments used	<p>National Strategy and Action plan for ecotourism development – 2004-2008.</p> <p>Compliance with the relevant acts and regulations helps for nature conservation and preservation of the historical and cultural objects in it.</p>
MCPFE Resolution commitment implementation related to B.12:	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) reflect the socio-cultural dimensions in policies? (Ref.: VD/11, V3/5,6,8)	There are measures foreseen in the Strategic plan for development of the forest sector for conservation and enrichment of the landscape. Nature parks under the NFB have information centers for raising the public awareness in relation to the activities executed in the parks and forest values.
b) enhance the landscape attractiveness and their protection, including of traditional knowledge and practices? (V3/9)	There are measures foreseen in the Strategic plan for development of the forest sector for multifunctional planning and enhancing the social forest functions.
c) conserve and manage significant historical and cultural objects? (V3/10)	In the network of protected areas and nature parks there are number of objects of historical and social importance.
Further measures taken related to B.12 and comments:	

Part C: General reporting on Lisbon, Helsinki and Strasbourg Resolutions

a) Lisbon Resolutions L1-L2

Please report on only measures which were not described in the previous parts of this enquiry. For measures that address implementation of Lisbon Resolutions but were described in the previous parts, please refer to the related sections

Lisbon Resolution L1: People, Forests and Forestry - Enhancement of Socio-Economic Aspects of Sustainable Forest Management	
Further measures taken to implement Lisbon Resolution L1	At the beginning of each April Forestry week is celebrated, during which broadly advertised events with public participation are held, like competitions, forestations and etc. For 5 years with the support of the Bulgarian-Swiss Forest programme different trainings in the field of SFM and etc. are held.
Lisbon Resolution L1 commitment implementation: aspects not covered in Parts A and B	
Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) encourage studies on gender aspects of forest policy & practices? (Ref.: L1/5)	There are no such studies. Forest sector in Bulgaria is characterized with good gender proportion on expert and leader level both.
b) evaluate the potential impacts of forest certification systems? (Ref.: L1/11)	The process of FSC in State Forestry Dospat and Forest cooperation Borika is successfully finished, as well its start in State Hunting Areas Rossitsa and Gramatikovo, and SF Berkovitsa, Chuprene, Staro Orqhovo and Kosti. see A.3.-FSC

Lisbon Resolution L2: Pan-European Criteria, Indicators and Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management	
Further measures taken to implement Lisbon Resolution L2	Please describe measures not described in previous chapters: [max. 100 words]
Lisbon Resolution L2 commitment implementation: aspects not covered in Parts A and B Were measures taken in 2003-2007 to:	
a) promote national adaptation and use of the PEOLGs ² ? (Ref.: L2/7, 8)	Please describe measures, if any [max. 100 words]

² PEOLG = Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines

b) Helsinki Resolutions H1-H4

Please report on only measures which were not described in the previous parts of this enquiry. For measures that address implementation of Lisbon Resolutions but were described in the previous parts, please refer to the related sections

Helsinki Resolution H1: General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe	
Further measures taken to implement Helsinki Resolution H1	Please describe measures not described in previous chapters: [max. 100 words]
Helsinki Resolution H2: General Guidelines for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of European Forests	
Further measures taken to implement Helsinki Resolution H2	Development of NATURA 2000 network is expected.
Helsinki Resolution H3: Forestry Cooperation with Countries in Transition	
Further measures taken to implement Helsinki Resolution H3	Bulgaria has its representative in the International team of specialists at the UNECE/FAO. This TOS works on the possibilities for establishment a capacity for exchange of information in the field of forest policy in the countries if the Caucasian region.
Helsinki Resolution H4: Strategies for a Process of Long-term Adaptation of Forests in Europe to Climate Change	
Further measures taken to implement Helsinki Resolution H4	see A.3. and B.2.

c) Strasbourg Resolutions S1-S6

Please report on only measures which were not described in the previous parts of this enquiry. For measures that address implementation of Lisbon Resolutions but were described in the previous parts, please refer to the related sections

Strasbourg Resolution S1: European Network of Permanent Sample Plots for Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems	
Further measures taken to implement Strasbourg Resolution S1	A network of 280 permanent trial plots for evaluation and monitoring of the forest ecosystems is established and functioning for 20 years
Strasbourg Resolution S2: Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources	
Further measures taken to implement Strasbourg Resolution S2	Bulgaria is a member of EUFORGEN
Strasbourg Resolution S3: Decentralized European Data Bank on Forest Fires	
Further measures taken to implement Strasbourg Resolution S3	Elaboration of regular report to the Joint Research Center-Ispra
Strasbourg Resolution S4: Adapting the Management of Mountain Forests to New Environmental Conditions	
Further measures taken to implement Strasbourg Resolution S4	Since 2006 started the support from Bulgaria for the implementation of this resolution
Strasbourg Resolution S5: Expansion of the EUROSILVA Network of Research on Tree Physiology	
Further measures taken to implement Strasbourg Resolution S5	Please describe measures, not described in previous chapters, their characteristics and effects, if any [max. 100 words]
Strasbourg Resolution S6: European Network for Research into Forest Ecosystems	
Further measures taken to implement Strasbourg Resolution S6	The Stations of the Forest research institute are included in the European network for long-term research of forest ecosystems.

Part D: MCPFE quantitative indicator 6.4 “Expenditure for Services”

Forest owners, public and private, foundations, and public administrations incur additional expenditures for producing a range of services that are demanded by the public free of cost. These are, for instance, expenditures to maintain protective forests against natural hazards, for preventing soil erosion or for protecting water quality as well as social services. These services are an important contribution to the quality of life and safety of humankind. It is essential to ensure that these services are maintained and that adequate public funding is provided to cover the necessary related expenditures. The total national expenditures for services from the forests should provide quantitative information on the efforts of countries to provide such forest services.

Currently, information on expenditure for services is weak and data collection mechanisms have not yet been established. The MCPFE background documents on the pan-European criteria and indicators specifies that this indicator needs to be further elaborated before its full implementation. The current assessment has pilot character and intends to provide a first and preliminary overview on national expenditures for services. The results of the enquiry will be utilized to further develop this indicator. In line with the pilot character of the assessment, clear information on expenditures was not included in the enquiry on quantitative indicators, which was focusing on indicators, for which operational assessment schemes have already been implemented at the national level.

As in most countries no mechanisms have been established for collecting information on expenditures for services realised by a wide scope of funding sources, the current assessment is limited to ***expenditures from official administrative budgets***.

Reporting Form A1: Expenditures for services

MCPFE indicator 6.4 Total expenditures for long-term sustainable services from forests

Rational: Information is requested for expenditures for services from official administrative budgets

Table 8: Non-wood Goods:

Code	Expenditures for Services	Ref. year	Value (1000 [national currency])	Data Quality Value (1000 [national currency])	
				From	To
A1.1	Recreational services	2005	195	0.01	0.1
		2000			
		1990			
A1.2	Environmental services	2005	195	0.01	0.1
		2000			
		1990			
A1.3	Protective services	2005			
		2000			
		1990			
A1.4	Other services	2005			
		2000			
		1990			
		2000			
		1990			

Data sources:

For each service reported:

Country specifications:

For each service reported, as necessary:

Country comments:

1 BG leva – 1,9553 EURO

Data division as wanted is energy-and time-costly, due to the national standards in reporting.

Data for 1990 are hard to be reported, and for 2000 is even more harder to be divided.

Protective services are included in the environmental ones.

Reporting notes:

1. The total expenditures for services from the forests should confine to expenditures from official administrative budgets and present quantitative information on the efforts of countries to provide such forest services.
2. Reference area for reporting is "Total FOWL", not further divided into sub-classes "Forest" and "Other wooded land". If data is available for sub-class "Forest" only, please report on this sub-class and provide note under "Country comments".
3. If data is available only for certain forest areas or ownership classes (e.g. state forests), but not for others, data should be reported with explicit indication of area (ha) and/or reference to the ownership class under "Country comments".
4. The class "Recreational Services" includes, for instance, expenditures such as hunting licences, fishing licences, managed outdoor recreation areas or trails for mountain biking, horse riding, skiing and other recreational activities

5. The class "Environmental Services" includes, for instance, expenditures for maintaining and enhancing of the natural habitat and biological diversity and contracts for conservation.
6. The class "Protective Services" includes, for instance, expenditures to maintain protective forests against natural hazards, for preventing soil erosion or for protecting water quality.
7. Please report in the country specifications the currency for which values have been provided.
8. Data Quality: please specify the likely range of values specified in column 4 "value".

Definitions of "forest" and "other wooded land":

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>

ANNEX

(see file Enquiry_MCPFE_qualitative_Annexes.doc)

Annex 1: MCPFE commitments Vienna 2003

Annex 2: MCPFE qualitative indicators

Annex 3: Reference matrix of coverage of commitments through the structure provided by the MCPFE qualitative indicators

For MCPFE Resolutions and other documents please also refer to:

<http://www.mcpfe.org/resolutions/>