

**FOREST EUROPE**

**UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION**



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



**UNECE**

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Reporting format for progress towards Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets for Forests and Questionnaire on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

## FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO

Reporting format for progress towards Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets for Forests and Questionnaire on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management

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## Introduction

In 2011, in the Oslo Ministerial Decision; European Forests 2020, ministers responsible for European forests made a number of commitments, notably the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets for Forests. The eighth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, to be held in Bratislava in 2020, will review progress towards these goals and targets, as well as carrying out the regular study on the State of Europe's Forests, based on the pan-European criteria and indicators of sustainable forest management. The study will serve as background information to shape political and technical discussions on future opportunities and challenges, and political responses to these developments.

To improve data quality and to reduce the reporting burden, the reporting processes for the goals and targets and for the qualitative indicators of sustainable forest management are being combined, as there is significant overlap in the areas on which information is needed. This enquiry requests information on progress towards the goals and targets, which mostly concern measures and actions at the national level, as well as information on the qualitative indicators on sustainable forest management, which concern legal, institutional, policy, financial and informational instruments. Information provided for this enquiry, combined with the parallel enquiry on the quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management, will provide sufficient information for the State of Europe's Forests 2020, which will also report on progress towards the goals and targets.

This enquiry is structured according to the updated pan-European qualitative indicators for sustainable forest management, as adopted in Annex 1 to the Madrid Ministerial Declaration 2015. In completing the enquiry, you may wish to consult the following sources of information on policies and institutions:

STATE OF EUROPE'S FORESTS 2015:

<http://foresteurope.org/state-europes-forests-2015-report/>

Background information for the updated pan-European indicators for sustainable forest management:

[http://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/3AG\\_UPI\\_Updated\\_Backgr\\_Info.pdf](http://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/3AG_UPI_Updated_Backgr_Info.pdf)

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

All FOREST EUROPE members are also members of the UN Forum on Forests, which will also invite members to report, on a voluntary basis, on progress towards the Global Forest Goals and Targets for a report scheduled for 2021. The two processes (global and pan-European) are formally quite separate, but clearly overlap in subject matter. To the extent possible, this reporting format has been designed to reduce the reporting burden, so that respondents may provide the same information in both fora.

For more information please contact Liaison Unit Bratislava  
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**Deadline for submission: 31 October 2018**

## Part 1: Reporting on progress towards the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets for Forests

With regard to the Forest Europe Work Programme 2016-2020, activity 4.2.4, please provide information, following the template below, on the major actions and measures taken in your country to achieve the Goals for European Forests and the European 2020 Targets for Forests. In the interests of analysis and to facilitate the identification of regional trends, please keep your answer short, restricting yourself to the five most important actions or measures, and identifying a maximum of five remaining challenges. If you wish to list more actions, or provide more detail, please do so in a separate message.

Please ensure that all the actions/measures and challenges you list are directly connected to the specific goal or target, and not to more general forest governance measures (which are addressed in the next part of this enquiry).

### Goals for European Forests

During the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held in 2011 in Oslo, Norway, ministers responsible for forests in Europe adopted eight “Goals for European Forests” which are of long term nature. The below questions relate to the progress so far achieved.

#### Goal I. Sustainable management of all European forests ensures multiple forest functions and enhances lasting provision of goods and services

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal I (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	<p>Developing the Austrian National Forest Strategy 2020+ The Strategy, based on the Austrian National Forest Programme, was developed by 85 organisations involved in forest policy within the scope of the Austrian Forest Dialogue and published in 2016. It comprises seven forest-political fields of action in line with national as well as international reporting obligations. All further named actions and measures are laid down in the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020.html">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020.html</a>  <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0</a></p>
Action / Measure 2	
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal I (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	Bringing stakeholders together to develop strategic goals, key challenges, success factors and strategic priorities.
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Goal II. European forests contribute to a green economy, including through increased provision of wood, other forest products and ecosystem services from sustainable sources**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal II (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Image campaign: Promoting social acceptance for the economic use of the Austrian forest Broad-based campaign aimed at the general public and showing the importance of wood use and forest management for all the effects of the forest in a simple and understandable way. <a href="http://www.proholz.at/holzistgenial/">http://www.proholz.at/holzistgenial/</a>
Action / Measure 2	Austrian Forest Inventory (AFI): The objective of the AFI is to provide information on the resources of the raw material wood and on the state and change of the forest ecosystem. <a href="http://bfw.ac.at/rz/wi.home">http://bfw.ac.at/rz/wi.home</a>
Action / Measure 3	Campaign: Climate Active Forest - we make our forest climate fit! The aim is to arouse the fundamental interest of small and micro-forest managers and communities in the management of their forests in the context of "climate adaptation". The addressed target group (but also other forest owners) are invited to visit demonstration areas in order to raise their interest in management measures by concrete examples. <a href="https://www.klimafitterwald.at/">https://www.klimafitterwald.at/</a>

Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal II (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	Convincing the public, that using forests is something positive.
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	Convincing the public, that using forests is something positive. Certain groups of forest owners lack motivation to use their forests.
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Goal III. Forest management in Europe is being adapted to changes in climate, forests are healthy and resilient to natural hazards and protected against human-induced threats such as forest fires, and the productive and protective functions of forests are maintained**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal III (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Campaign: Climate Active Forest - we make our forest climate fit! The aim is to arouse the fundamental interest of small and micro-forest managers and communities in the management of their forests in the context of "climate adaptation". The addressed target group (but also other forest owners) are invited to visit demonstration areas in order to raise their interest in management measures by concrete examples. <a href="https://www.klimafitterwald.at/">https://www.klimafitterwald.at/</a>
Action / Measure 2	Production of the Movie "GENeration – Forests in Climate Change" Existing knowledge about climate change and adaptation options should be presented graphically. "GENial - Forest in Climate Change - Adaptation and Protection through the Management of

	Genetic Resources" consists of a film including an accompanying brochure. Target audience: the general public and the specialist public.
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal III (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	Convincing the public, that using forests is something positive. Certain groups of forest owners lack motivation to use their forests.
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Goal IV. The potential of European forests to mitigate climate change, through carbon sequestration in trees and soils, carbon storage in forest products and substitution of non-renewable materials and energy sources, is utilised to minimise Europe’s ecological footprint without harming the global carbon balance**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal IV (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Campaign: Climate Active Forest - we make our forest climate fit! The aim is to arouse the fundamental interest of small and micro-forest managers and communities in the management of their forests in the context of "climate adaptation". The addressed target group (but also other forest owners) are invited to visit demonstration areas in
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	order to raise their interest in management measures by concrete examples. <a href="https://www.klimafitterwald.at/">https://www.klimafitterwald.at/</a>
Action / Measure 2	The Austrian Climate and Energy Strategy #2030: At the beginning of 2018, the Federal Government decided to develop an integrated climate and energy strategy. A first draft is available. Experts from the fields of environment, energy, climate protection and transport worked on it. This strategy should be the basis on which the measures of the coming years are developed and developed. <a href="https://mission2030.info/#mission2030">https://mission2030.info/#mission2030</a>
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal IV (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	<a href="#">Convincing the public, that using forests is something positive. Certain groups of forest owners lack motivation to use their forests.</a>
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

### **Goal V. The loss of forest biodiversity in Europe is halted and degraded forests are restored or rehabilitated**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal V (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action /	
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Measure 1	Educational project "Biodiversity in the forest": Knowledge about forest conservation, Natura 2000, habitats, species and ecological connections shall be promoted. Brochures and studies should inform the interested public. The methods and tools developed in pre-projects of observing biodiversity by forest owners should be implemented and used on a broad scale.
Action / Measure 2	Implementation of Natura 2000: Strategic developments and, where necessary, development of management plans for Natura 2000 sites with maps of habitat types and species, conservation objectives and conservation measures.
Action / Measure 3	Cooperation between the forestry sector and ENGOs: Cooperations in the areas of nature conservation and forest habitats. Creation of multi-year and annual programs on specific topics such as ecological landscape management, health trails, bird protection in the forest, recent habitats, etc.
Action / Measure 4	The Austrian Biodiversity Strategy was developed through open thematic workshops in cooperation with hundreds of participants and under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Federal Environment Agency. It was presented in mid-October 2014 at the COP 12 of the CBD in South Korea. The Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2020+ includes goals and measures for the preservation of biological diversity in Austria, which are based on international objectives.
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal V (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	Different approaches of forestry and nature conservation institutions.
Challenge 2	Understanding, that management plans can be considered a win-win solution, minimizing conflicts quickly and effectively.
Challenge 3	Different approaches of forestry and nature conservation institutions.
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

## Goal VI. The role of forests in combating the progress of desertification is strengthened

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal VI (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Know-how-exchange: Austria is committed to sustainable, multifunctional forest management internationally and is a recognized partner and catalyst in European and international forest policy and forest-related research. As competent consultants on the subject of forest and sustainable, multifunctional forest management, the actors of the Austrian forest and wood-based sector are in demand internationally in bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
Action / Measure 2	Significant contribution and / or assumption of leadership responsibility in European and international processes for the creation of strong instruments for sustainable forest Management.
Action / Measure 3	Developing field of action 7: "Austrian international responsibility for sustainable forest management" within the Austrian Forest Strategy.
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal VI (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	Funding
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

## Goal VII. Socioeconomic and cultural benefits, especially for livelihoods, rural development and employment from European forests are optimised

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal VII (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Green Care FOREST: Health-promoting, social or educational projects and initiatives in the forest for different target groups. Green Care FOREST works together with forest owners and social, health, education and economic players to implement pilot projects on social sustainability in the forest. These aim to improve the well-being of different target groups while contributing to income diversification. <a href="https://www.bfw.ac.at/greencarewald">https://www.bfw.ac.at/greencarewald</a>
Action / Measure 2	Ensuring and further development of a wide range of science- and practice-oriented training opportunities for occupational fields in the forest and wood sectors through qualified educational institutions. Training and further education courses and events of the forestry training Centers.
Action / Measure 3	Further development of the forestry and wood-based sector through innovation and strengthening of research. For more than forty years, the Republic of Austria has supported the IUFRO and its tasks in worldwide cooperation in the field of forestry research, knowledge-based management and the conservation and sustainable management of world forest resources. This positions Austria as a major player in the international research landscape and forest policy.
Action / Measure 4	Formation of wood clusters: Development of new products, networking of companies to develop new markets through the formation of wood clusters in rural areas.
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal VII (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

## Goal VIII. Illegal logging and associated trade in wood and other forest products are eliminated in Europe;

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken towards achieving Goal VIII (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation & the FLEGT Action Plan. Signing of FLEGT partnership agreements.
Action / Measure 2	Enforcement of the Austrian Forestry Act.
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal VIII (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

## European 2020 Targets for Forests

During the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference held in 2011 in Oslo, Norway, ministers responsible for forests in Europe adopted also nine “European 2020 Targets for Forests”. These targets are supposed to be achieved by 2020 and the below questions focus on information related to the extent of achievement.

**Target I. All European countries have developed and are implementing national forest programmes, or its equivalent, in line with the shared vision and goals and the pan-European approach to national forest programmes**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target I (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	<a href="#">Elaboration of a National Forest Programme. Publication in 2006.</a>
Action / Measure 2	<a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html">Elaboration of the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ Publication in 2016. https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html</a>
Action / Measure 3	<a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0">Elaboration and implementation of a working programme within the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0</a>
Action / Measure 4	<a href="http://www.eficeec.efi.int/portal/projects/austrian_indicators_for_sfm/">Development of a national indicator set with 65 indicators including target figures for the regular review of sustainable forest management in Austria and the implementation of the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+. http://www.eficeec.efi.int/portal/projects/austrian_indicators_for_sfm/</a>
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target I (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	

Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Target II. In addressing emerging issues forest knowledge is improved through research, education, innovation, information sharing and communication**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target II (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Establishment of a forestry education center (Traunkirchen) including a research cluster on sustainable forest management in Austria.
Action / Measure 2	Forest Pedagogy and Forestry and Culture - Ensuring the financing of broadly implemented forestry education and forest and cultural activities - Currently around 8,000 forest tours per year for children and adolescents (from the age of 5 to 20) as part of school education.
Action / Measure 3	Targeted public relations work on sustainable forest management by the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism as well as other relevant stakeholders.
Action / Measure 4	Establishment of an Internet platform for educators as a central point of contact for knowledge transfer and awareness raising around the topic of forest, which offers easy finding of teaching materials and activities as well as guaranteed quality documents.
Action / Measure 5	Promoting international research cooperation through support of IUFRO and EFI: The Republic of Austria has been supporting the IUFRO and its tasks in worldwide cooperation in the field of forestry research for more than forty years. Austria is home to the IUFRO Secretariat and supports EFI's Central-East and South-East European Regional Office.

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved

- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target II (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Target III. In response to political objectives on the use of renewable raw material and energy in Europe, the supply of wood and other forest products from sustainably managed forests has increased substantially**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target III (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Campaign: Climate Active Forest - we make our forest climate fit! The aim is to arouse the fundamental interest of small and micro-forest managers and communities in the management of their forests in the context of "climate adaptation". The addressed target group (but also other forest owners) are invited to visit demonstration areas in order to raise their interest in management measures by concrete examples. <a href="https://www.klimafitterwald.at/">https://www.klimafitterwald.at/</a>
Action / Measure 2	Austrian Forest Inventory (AFI) The aim of the AFI as a large-scale monitoring instrument is to provide information about the resources of the raw material wood as well as about the state and the change of the forest ecosystem. Austria already uses 85 percent of its annual growth. The first results of the current AFI will be published by the end of 2018.
Action /	

Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target III (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	Convincing the public, that using forests is something positive. Certain groups of forest owners lack motivation to use their forests.
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Target IV. The full value of forest ecosystem services across Europe is being estimated with a view to using common valuation approaches, and that values are increasingly reflected in relevant national policies and market-based instruments such as payments for ecosystem services**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target IV (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	
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	Already in 2009, the Federal Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism financed a study on the topic "Potential assessment of non-wood products and forest services in Austria". Currently an update of the study is carried out. The results are expected by the end of October 2018.
Action / Measure 2	
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target IV (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

### **Target V. All European countries include strategies for forests and climate change adaptation and mitigation in national forest**

## programmes or equivalents and all other relevant national strategies

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target V (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	<p>Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change In 2012, Austria was among the first EU member states to link a strategic concept for climate change adaptation with a comprehensive action plan to implement concrete recommendations for action. On the basis of new scientific findings, key findings from the 2015 progress report and current political developments, the strategy was fundamentally updated and further developed in 2016. All affected ministries, the federal states, as well as representatives of interests, stakeholders and NGOs were involved in the work. There is a close connection with the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/umwelt/klimaschutz/klimapolitik_national/anpassungsstrategie/strategie-kontext.html">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/umwelt/klimaschutz/klimapolitik_national/anpassungsstrategie/strategie-kontext.html</a></p>
Action / Measure 2	
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved  
 On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)  
 Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)  
 No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target V (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	

Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Target VI. The rate of loss of forest biodiversity at habitat level is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and measures are taken to significantly reduce forest fragmentation and degradation and to restore degraded forests**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target VI (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	Implementation of the EU-Natura 2000 Programme: Strategic development and, where necessary, development of management plans for Natura 2000 sites with maps of habitat types and species, conservation objectives and conservation measures.
Action / Measure 2	Austrian Natural Forest Reserves Program - Conservation and expansion The natural forest reserve network will be completely expanded. Missing forest communities are specifically recorded, tested for their suitability and representatively established as forest reserves. Ongoing scientific support and use will be ensured in the long term.
Action / Measure 3	The Austrian Biodiversity Strategy was developed through open thematic workshops in cooperation with hundreds of participants and under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Federal Environment Agency. It was presented in mid-October 2014 at the COP 12 of the CBD in South Korea. The Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2020+ includes goals and measures for the preservation of biological diversity in Austria, which are based on international objectives.
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)

- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target VI (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Target VII. The role of forests in combating desertification is fully recognised and forests are also managed to that end**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target VII (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	<a href="#">Desertification is not an issue in Austria. Nevertheless Austria is exporting its know-how on afforestation and reforestation worldwide.</a>
Action / Measure 2	<a href="#">Developing field of action 7: "Austrian international responsibility for sustainable forest management" within the Austrian Forest Strategy.</a>
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target VII (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

**Target VIII. All European countries have policies and measures which ensure a significant increase in socio-economic and cultural benefits, especially for human health, livelihoods, rural development and employment from forests**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target VIII (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	<a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html">The Austrian Forest Strategy and the included Working Programme contains a broad variety of policies and measures to ensure the mentioned targets.</a> <a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html</a> <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0</a>
Action / Measure 2	
Action / Measure 3	

Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target VIII (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

### **Target IX. Effective measures are taken at regional, sub-regional and national levels to eliminate illegal logging and associated trade**

Please describe a maximum of five major actions and measures taken to achieve Target IX (maximum of 100 words per action, please). Please indicate, if an action or measure could be referenced as Best Practice Example.

Action / Measure 1	<a href="#">Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation &amp; the FLEGT Action Plan. Signing of FLEGT partnership agreements.</a>
Action / Measure 2	<a href="#">Enforcing the Austrian Forestry Act.</a>
Action /	

Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
Action / Measure 5	

Do you consider the target to be achieved at national level?

- Target fully achieved
- On track to achieve target (we expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- Progress to achieve target (but we do not expect to achieve the target by 2020)
- No progress

If not fully achieved, please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Target IX (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

## Part 2: Reporting on the pan-European Qualitative Indicators

Reporting on pan-European Qualitative Indicators consists of five overall forest policy and governance indicators (Indicators 1-5) and indicators for policies, institutions and instruments related to 6 criteria for SFM (Indicators C1-6).

Please see Annex 1 for “Terms and Definitions”.

For reporting, please note the following:

1. 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. If you wish to provide more detail, please do so in a separate message.
2. Significant changes since 2014 will be analysed systematically. If no information is provided, that will be interpreted as “no significant change”.
3. Please provide further information on the measures taken, as deemed relevant, e.g. major partners in implementation, period, and budget involved experiences made (lessons learned, obstacles encountered and solutions).
4. Please provide the latest information available unless otherwise specified.
5. Please specify reference documents as follows: - Author or institution. Year of publication (if published). Title. Reference Number. Publisher, Link;
6. In terms of indicators C1-C6, please report only these changes in policies, institutions and instruments that are related specifically to the individual criteria, the overall status and changes related to the SFM should be reported under indicators 1-5.

### 2A: Forest Policy and Governance

The five overall Forest policy and governance indicators cover the overall policy approaches, institutions and instruments for implementation and communication of SFM:

1. National Forest Programmes (NFPs) or equivalent;
2. Institutional frameworks;
3. Legal/regulatory framework: National (and/or sub-national) and international commitments;
4. Financial and economic instruments;
5. Information and communication.

<b>1. National forest programmes (NFP) or equivalent</b>	
<b>NFP or equivalent process/documents for forest related dialogue, policy development &amp; implementation</b>	
Existence of NFP or equivalent process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, at national level <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at subnational level <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Under elaboration

<p>Main formal decision making body of the process</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry responsible for forestry  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry  <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:    The Round Table of the Austrian Forest Dialogue, chaired by the Federal Minister of Sustainability and Tourism, seeks to strike a political balance between forest-related interests and positions. The Round Table is the central decision-making body with regard to the content elaborated during the Forest Dialogue process. The Round Table also specifies the thematic priorities of the dialogue process and decides on the procedural approach. </p>	
<p>Significant changes related to the NFP or equivalent process since 2014</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </p>	<p>If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max.100 words]:</p>
	<p>Remark: As a result of the general elections in 2017, the Austrian government changed. The former Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management got broader responsibilities and is now the Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism. But these changes didn't affect the process. Based on the Forest Programme, adopted on 2006, the Forest Strategy 2020+, which was adopted in 2016, is the guiding document.</p>	
<p>Key lessons learned on the NFP process or similar</p>	<p>Please specify [max. 100 words], particularly on the NFP principles related to NFP as iterative process, stakeholder participation and approaches to inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration:</p>	
	<p>- New coalitions, partnerships and cooperations - New culture of discussion and decision making - New commitments for action - Work out of common interests and goals concerning forests - Clarification of conflict potentials - Aggregation of know-how - Possibilities for cooperations were screened and found - Structured framework for action - Shared values and objectives</p>	
<p>Main forest policy document other than law (such as national forest programme, forest policy statement, strategy or other)</p>	<p>Name:  Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+</p> <p>Internet link:  <a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html</a></p> <p>Starting year:  2016</p>	

		Yes explicit	Partially	No
Inclusion of FOREST EUROPE (FE) instruments in the main forest policy document	○ FE definition of SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	○ FE criteria and indicators for SFM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	○ FE guidelines for NFPs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	○ FE Classification of Protected and Protective Forests and Other Wooded Land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	○ FE Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	○ FE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluation of the implementation of NFP or similar process	<input type="checkbox"/> Periodically, pre-specified in the main forest policy document <input type="checkbox"/> Irregularly conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: At the moment, a working Group is elaborating the modalities of the review- and evaluation process.	
Binding status of the main (other than law) forest policy document	<input type="checkbox"/> Compulsory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommendatory	
Allocation of financial resources for the implementation of NFP or equivalent document / process)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulk allocation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goal-specified allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Relying on external resources <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
	Financial resources are mainly allocated based on the Working Programme of the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+. <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0</a>	
Significant changes related to the main forest policy document during last five years	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max.100 words]

<p>Existence of other overall policy instruments/ documents from the sector or other sectors that explicitly encourage SFM or address key forest policy issues</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>Title:</p> <p>Internet links:</p>
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**Reporting notes**

<sup>1</sup> “Formal NFP process” means a process which is formally and explicitly acknowledged and referred to as an “NFP process” acc. Vienna Resolution 1 ([http://foresteurope.org/docs/MC/MC\\_vienna\\_resolutionV1.pdf](http://foresteurope.org/docs/MC/MC_vienna_resolutionV1.pdf)).

**2. Institutional frameworks**

	Please specify the type of forest-related institutional arrangements according to their responsibility	Part of ministry	Sub-national ministries or similar bodies	Other bodies. Please specify below
Government bodies and public organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- forest policy administration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- legislative supervision &amp; enforcement <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- support to private forest management <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- management of public forests <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- forest management planning <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- forest inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> <li>- research (Target 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></li> </ul> <p>Other. Please specify:</p> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	<p>Comments [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Main responsibilities are overseen by the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism in cooperation with the federal provinces and other Stakeholders like e.g. the Chambers of Agriculture.</p>			
Forest-related staff <sup>2</sup> Resources and capacity of government bodies and public organizations related to forests (Goals 7, Target 8)	<p>Name or group/type<sup>1</sup>:</p> <p>Figures contain national and provincial governments and communities, Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, Austrian Federal Forests;</p>			2017; Full time equivalent
	<p>Total</p>			1,569

	...of which forest administration <sup>3</sup>	732
	...of which management of public forests	643
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions and other specialized agencies	194
	... of which other permanent or temporary workers	0
	Comments [max. 100 words]	
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, during last 5 years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words] <a href="#">As a result of the general elections in 2017, the Austrian government changed. The former Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management got broader responsibilities and is now the Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism.</a>	
Policies, objectives and measures/actions taken in:	Forest-related research (Target 2) Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.  <a href="#">Forest research aims at developing novel technical know-how, decision aids and bases of decision to fulfil the policies tasks to improve, safeguard and sustainably develop the economic, protective, beneficial and recreational effects of forests and to ensure sustainable wood supply, to promote the competitive strength of forestry, to use wood as raw material and energy source, and to enhance the forest engineering service of torrent and avalanche control. Politics, goals and measures are defined in the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+. The associated work program contains a series of measures on forestry research. <a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020.html">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020.html</a> <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0</a></a>	
	Forest-related training and education (Target 2) Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.  <a href="#">Highly qualified human resources provide an important basis for the sustainable management of Austria's forests and simultaneous maintenance of all forest functions. Plans and offers for education, training and advanced training are continuously adapted to the forest-political and socio-political framework conditions. This is the only way to ensure that forest managers can cope with the steadily increasing demands on domestic forests. Education in forestry is based on the general educational system in Austria and includes a wide variety of vocational and technical qualifications. Politics, goals and measures are defined in the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+. The associated work program contains a series of measures on forestry research. <a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020.html">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020.html</a> <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0</a></a>	

	<p>Forest-related capacity building in other institutional framework</p> <p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Dialogue is the Austrian approach to solve conflicts of interest and to a better coordination of forest-related activities. Since 2003, it has provided an opportunity to exchange views and discuss consensus on problem assessments and solutions to promote sustainable forest management through partnership discussions. The aim is to ensure and continuously optimize the sustainable management, conservation and development of Austrian forests.  <a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/walddialog">https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/walddialog</a></p>
	Comments [max. 100 words]

### Reporting notes

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.
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.
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 support to private forest management.

Proportion of forest and other wooded land under a management plan or equivalent instrument						
Forest-related management document	Use of document in the country		Forest area under document		Other wooded land area under document	
	Yes	No	Ha	%	Ha	%
• Management plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,708,634	50		
• Equivalent of management plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		100		
• Other forest-related type of management document/instrument at operational level	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Are forest management plans an obligatory instrument?					Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Are the forest-related management plans / equivalents / other types of management documents registered with official body?					Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Are the measures of forest management plans compulsory?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Do forest management plans regulate:	Yes	Partially	No
Volume of harvest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regeneration systems	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reforestation species composition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tending and other silvicultural operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deadwood volume	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments:			
The numbers include forest area and other wooded land area.			

Proportion of forest and other wooded land under third party certification schemes						
Certification scheme	Use of scheme in the country		Forest area under scheme		Other wooded land area under scheme	
	Yes	No	Ha	%	Ha	%
• Forest Stewardship Council certification (FSC) scheme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	600.00	0		
• Programme for the Endorsement of Forest certification (PEFC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3100000.00	78		
• Other international forest management certification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
• Other country specific management certification	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
• Overlapping of certification schemes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Comments:						

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	<input type="checkbox"/> in constitution <input type="checkbox"/> in legislation enacted by parliament <input type="checkbox"/> in administrative decrees / regulations <input type="checkbox"/> other:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at national level <input type="checkbox"/> at sub-national level <input type="checkbox"/> other:
Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act with national scope (e.g. Forest law, act, code or similar document)	Name and reference to legal document:	Austrian Forestry Act
	Date of enactment:	1975
	Date of latest amendment:	2016
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework during last 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]	

<b>International commitments</b>				
Are the following FOREST EUROPE instruments explicitly referred to in the legal/regulatory act?	FOREST EUROPE Definition of SFM FOREST EUROPE C&I for SFM Other: please specify	Fully <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
Main international commitments related to forests signed by the country	CBD AICHI UNCCD UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Paris Agreement Alpine Convention Carpathian convention  Other: Please specify	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Significant initiatives undertaken during last 5 years in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]			
Comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.			

#### 4. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS

<p>Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests</p>	<p>Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of <u>publicly owned forests</u> [max. 100 words]</p> <p>Forests and forestry are integral parts of rural areas. Almost 50 % of the Austrian territory is managed by forest farmers having forest areas &lt; 200 hectares. Their forest management is a sustainable contribution towards the extensive conservation and development of forest ecosystems and rural areas. However, external factors such as migration away from the rural regions with the associated impacts on the economic, social and cultural structure of these regions, growing public demands on the forest (owners), or international economic developments have major impacts on forest</p> <p>Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of <u>privately owned forests</u> or other [max. 100 words]</p>
<p>Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) during the last five years</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>
<p>State/federal forests management</p>	<p>Please specify financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Profit-making or financially self-sufficient forest management  <input type="checkbox"/> Additional financial support from a state budget to forest management  <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:</p>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>

<p>Government financial instruments applied to private forest management</p>	<p>Please specify the use of financial instruments for private forests and their management. <i>For the EU Member States, please specify separately expenditure connected to the EU Rural Development Programme Funds.</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grants/subsidies, Please specify:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Subsidies</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> of which RDPF. Please specify:</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">All forest related subsidies are based on RDPF</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Loans. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tax measures. Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:</p>		
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>		
<p>Year:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">2014-2020</p>	<p>Total (million, national currency)</p>	<p>Of that private sources, if available (million, national currency)</p>	
<p>Operational expenditure<sup>1</sup></p>	<p>280</p>		
<p>Transfer payments to private forests<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>280</p>		
<p>Cost of forest administration<sup>3</sup> (not including the costs associated with managing public forests):</p>			
<p>of which...</p>	<p>Forest administration</p>		
	<p>Public forest research</p>		
	<p>Forest education and training institutions</p>		
	<p>Other institutions. Please specify:</p>		
<p>Total expenditure</p>	<p>280</p>		

<p>If transfer payments are made to private forests, indicate for what specific objective(s) – Please tick all that apply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reforestation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Afforestation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest inventory and/or planning</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation of forest biodiversity</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection of soil and water</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest stand improvement</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change adaptation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establishment or maintenance of protected areas</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:  Cooperations</li> </ul>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>

### Reporting notes

Please specify the **year** which the data refers to in the intended box.

1. **Operational expenditure** includes public and private domestic or external sources of finance (personnel, materials, operating costs) for operational forest activities (e.g. silvicultural and protective measures). It also includes expenditure on contract or outsourced activities. It also includes the operating costs associated with any forest sector incentive schemes.  
  
It excludes public and private capital expenditure on investments in accordance with the national tax laws (construction and maintenance of forest roads, buildings; investments to equipment, tools, vehicles, machinery and technologies and other investments e.g. IT and/or intangible investments etc.). Data on capital expenditure are included in the questionnaire on quantitative indicators (indicator 6.4).  
  
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).  
  
It also excludes expenditure on: marketing; trade facilitation; or development projects, where forest is not the main focus of activities.
2. **Transfer payments to private forests** includes all government expenditures (including external) on direct financial incentives (grants or subsidies) paid to non-government and private-sector institutions, enterprises, communities or individuals operating in the forest sector to implement forest related activities. 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 not specifically related to forest related activities (e.g. relocation grants, employment subsidies, general training grant schemes).
3. **Cost of forest administration** is government expenditure on public institutions solely engaged in the forest sector. It includes all public expenditure (including external) on implementing forest policy and legislation to the entire forest areas, mainly: expenditures for state administration bodies, support to other forest

<p>Are any types of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes applied in your country?</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, at public level  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at private level  <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p> <p>If yes, please describe and provide reference documents where relevant. [max. 100 words]</p>
<p>Note:</p> <p>Types of markets for example: Public payment schemes for private land owners; Formal markets with open trading between buyers and sellers; Self-organized private deals.</p>	

<b>5. Information and communication</b>		
<p>Main characteristics of informational means</p>	<p>Is forest monitoring in your country sufficient for information and communication needs?</p> <p>If no, please specify:</p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> Partially  <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p>
<p>Is there public access to forest inventory data?</p> <p>If yes or partially, please specify:</p> <p><a href="http://www.waldinventur.at">http://www.waldinventur.at</a></p>	<p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> Partially (e.g. just aggregated data)  <input type="checkbox"/> No         </p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> Partially  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         </p>
<p>Does an official (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist?</p> <p>If yes, please provide reference:</p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> Partially  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No         </p>	

	<p>Does a national report on the state of sustainable forest management exist? If yes or partially, please provide reference/link:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldzustand/waldbericht2015.html">Austrian Forest Report https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldzustand/waldbericht2015.html</a></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Is there a national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy development and/or decision-making? If yes or partially, please specify:</p> <p><a href="https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/walddialog.html">Austrian Forest Dialogue https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/walddialog.html</a></p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Significant changes in informational means during last five years</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p>	
<p>Significant changes in forest related communication during last five years</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <p>If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p>	
<p><b>Reporting notes</b></p>		

## 2B: Policies, institutions and instruments related to specific criteria

Part 2B requests additional information since the last reporting in 2014 on policies, institutions and instruments for individual criteria for SFM:

- C1. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles;
- C2. Maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality;
- C3. Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood);
- C4. Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems;
- C5. Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of the protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water);
- C6. Maintenance of other socioeconomic functions and conditions.

Criterion 1 Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles	
Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 1? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Please describe the policy objectives, including quantitative targets if any have been formulated	(max. 100 words, please)  The Austrian Forest Strategy defines 7 fields of action: Field of action 1 is dedicated to the "Contribution of Austrian forests to climate protection". Within field of action 1, the strategy addresses 7 strategic Goals. Vision/Summary: The forest- and wood-based sector plays a key role in climate protection and in adaptation to climate change. The sustainable use of natural resources and the promoted use of wood and wooden products are inducing a considerable reduction in anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. The primary objective of all political efforts, which go far beyond the scope of forest policy, must be to reduce the use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable raw materials. Therefore, forward-looking firm standards are urgently required.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  The objectives are addressed by a variety of measures, partly by institutional, financial, legal or informational means. All measures are laid out in the Working Programme of the Forest Strategy. <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=1">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=1</a> Targets can be found in the Austrian Indicator Sets for Sustainable Forest Management. A link to the document can be found under 2C.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these	(max. 100 words, please)

objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	To achieve the objectives, legal, financial as well as informational tools are applied.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 1 over the past five years	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>As part of the Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, which was presented to the Council of Ministers in 2012, the action area "Forestry" proposes eight priority measures - their implementation is currently being evaluated on an ongoing basis. It is clear that sustainable management and conservation of multifunctional forest services must remain the main objective of Austrian forestry policy. Forest ecosystems are strongly affected by climate change. In order to increase the resilience of forest ecosystems to the negative effects of climate change, anthropogenic influences, in particular emissions, and thus emissions to forest ecosystems, must be reduced as far as possible. In addition, the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ includes measures whose impact is will also be evaluated.</p>
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 1, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Key challenges as laid out in the field of action: - Consideration of the perspectives of and training for forest practitioners - Consideration of forest functions - Promotion of diversity in tree species and their genetic diversity - Best-possible exhaustive use of the operating framework limited by other influencing factors - Limited resource availability in view of current demand - Consideration of climate change impact and adaptation to climate change - Ubiquitous implementation of sustainable, multi-functional, site-adapted forest management - Compared to other raw materials, disproportionately greater demand for cascading use - Best possible site-based differentiation in forest management for the purpose of multi-functionality - Efficient use of wood as renewable, climate-friendly raw material and energy source - Existence of competing interests (construction land, other production lines) - Provision of the required financial resources for contractual solutions (e.g. biotope network) - Systemic limits in knowledge procurement, both in terms of content and the time available - Provision of the required financial resources - Maintenance takes precedence over the necessary precautions - A surfeit of information, on the one hand, but information deficits, on the other hand - Limited options to exert influence - Risk management in all the relevant areas - Actual emission reduction in all the relevant areas (including transportation) - Utilising the available range of species</p>

	for climate change adaptation in consideration of the biodiversity principles - Sufficient incentives for sustainable forest management - Limitation of own operating framework - Responsible management of introduced tree species - Strengthening of vitality and adaptability - Dynamics that play off carbon maximisation against the multi-functionality of forests
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Criterion 2 Maintenance of forest health and vitality	
Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 2?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please describe the policy objectives, including quantitative targets if any have been formulated	(max. 100 words, please)  The Austrian Forest Strategy defines 7 fields of action: field of Actions 2 is dedicated to the "Health and vitality of Austrian forests". Within field of action 2, the strategy addresses 7 strategic goals. Vision/Summary: The impact of the forest as a natural habitat, including its ecosystem services, must optimally be ensured. The evolutionary potential of forests, their natural ability to regenerate and their genetic resources must be sustainably guaranteed.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  The objectives are addressed by a variety of measures, partly by institutional, financial, legal or informational means. All measures are laid out in the Working Programme of the Forest Strategy. <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=2">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=2</a> Targets can be found in the Austrian Indicator Sets for Sustainable Forest Management. A link to the document can be found under 2C.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  To achieve the objectives, legal, financial as well as informational tools are applied.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 2 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  Studies have shown that the Austrian forests continue to be under pressure despite significant emission reductions. Monitoring measures continue. Healthy forest soils are imperative for the provision of nutrients, for the availability of drinking water but also as a carbon deposit. The working group "Forest&Water" installed by the Directorate-General of Forestry of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism is specifically dedicated to forest water catchment areas and the measures that need to be taken in order to improve

	<p>their functionality both in quantitative and qualitative terms. The Forest &amp; Hunting Dialogue, initiated by the "Mariazell Declaration" on 1 August 2012, aims to objectivise the current situation through a dialogue between the highest-ranking hunting and forestry representatives and the authorities, to settle the dispute relating to the results of Game Impact Monitoring and develop further solutions in working groups. Initial results suggest that solution-oriented approaches can be expected. The performance of invasive non-native species is a highly topical issue. Coordinated action of the EU Member States to prevent and manage the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species shall be warranted by EU Regulation No. 1143/2014 on invasive alien species which entered into force on 1 January 2015. In addition, the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ includes measures whose impact is will also be evaluated.</p>
<p>What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 2, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Key challenges as laid out in the field of action: - Need to gear current economic and political considerations and actions towards long-term goals - Consideration and handling of particular interests - Willingness for transformation at all levels - Continuous securing of all forest functions - Urgent and comprehensive need to act and operate in other spheres of competence (transport, industry, domestic heating facilities, etc.) - Inquiries as to the causers and chains of causality - Pre-allocations on account of pollutant accumulation (e.g. from leaded fuels), nuclear contamination - Reduction in emissions in all the relevant areas (incl. transport) - Reduction of the game habitat - habitat is influenced and reduced in size (e.g. land consumption) - The regulation of game populations requires increased efforts - Increasing impact on and disturbance of the wildlife habitats caused by recreational use and tourism - Hunting should control game populations such that protective measures will be an exception rather than the rule - Sustainable forest management and responsible land use planning must contribute accordingly to the optimization of the wildlife habitats - Exacerbated stress situations in forest ecosystems, particularly due to climate change - Increase in the stability and reduction of vulnerability of forest ecosystems to harmful organisms - The not yet known but presumably high risk of spreading due to climate change - Development of regionally effective defence measures despite limited financial resources - Increased significance of water as a resource against the background of global water scarcity - Opposing economic</p>

	<p>decisions between biomass removal and generating nutrient reserves - Conservation and enhancement of the functionality of object protection forests as an efficient and lowcost method to protect settlement areas and infrastructure while facing at the same time reducing resource availability (in terms of funding, staff)</p> <p>- Special challenges in marginal yield sites of site-protection and object-protection forests</p>
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Criterion 3 Maintenance and encouragement of productive functions of forests (wood and non-wood)	
Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 3?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please describe the policy objectives, including quantitative targets if any have been formulated	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Strategy defines 7 fields of action: field of action 3 is dedicated to the "Productivity and economic aspects of Austrian forests". Within field of action 3, the strategy addresses 7 strategic goals. Vision/Summary: The forest- and wood-based sector must be competitive on an international scale, innovative in terms of bioeconomy and thus a value-adding pillar of the Austrian national economy and major guarantor of rural development. Timber as a raw material is to be used and processed in a resource-efficient manner. Non-profit as well as economic value generation through the forest's ecosystem services is actively pursued and ensured in a sustainable way.</p>
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The objectives are addressed by a variety of measures, partly by institutional, financial, legal or informational means. All measures are laid out in the Working Programme of the Forest Strategy. <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=3">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=3</a> Targets can be found in the Austrian Indicator Sets for Sustainable Forest Management. A link to the document can be found under 2C.</p>
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>To achive the objectives, legal, financial as well as informational tools are applied.</p>
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 3 over the past five years	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The motivation of forest owners to make better use of their forests is a major challenge that needs to be addressed strategically. Broad-based campaigns targeting forest owners and the population point to the</p>

	<p>importance of timber utilization and forest management for all impacts of the forest. The campaigns are showing first impacts: wood is increasingly being used in the construction industry, e.g. multi-storey buildings made of wood. In addition, the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ includes measures whose impact is will also be evaluated.</p>
<p>What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 3, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Key challenges as laid out in the field of action: - Social change (ecology-centred approach v. economycentred approach) - Noticeable decline in the attachment to natural resource management - Discrepancy of opinions and views influenced by the media compared to the figures, data and facts on forest management and the forest industry - Short-term nature of current economic and political considerations and actions - Necessity of a systemic understanding for all players involved in the value added - Facilitation of improved conditions of competition for wood compared to other materials in consideration of the ecological footprint (lifecycle analysis, CO2 relevance) - Enhanced realisation of innovation and added value potential relating to the raw material - Securing continuous supply with sustainably produced and legally harvested wood - Alignment of actual timber harvest to the sustainably extractable increment - Best possible comprise for conflicts between rising demand for renewable raw materials and the requirements of nature conservation - Motivation of small forest owners to utilise the hitherto unused increment potential - Handling of production costs that are comparatively high by international standards as a consequence of topography, ownership structure and socio-economic conditions - Handling of disproportionate geographical distribution of increment and use - Reducing the devaluation of raw material caused by hoofed game - Increase added value in the use of wood as a raw material - Exploitation of innovation for the enhancement of competitiveness implementing findings from research and development - Increasing and strengthening competitiveness by making use of innovation potential also in international comparison - Making available Austrian forest and timber competence by means of adequate structural line-up - Development of an understanding that innovation is the prerequisite for maintaining and/or increasing competitiveness - Low predictability of climate change-based natural phenomena in terms of type, amplitude and duration as well as their economic and ecological (social) impacts - Handling of economic crisis elements, particularly the</p>

	unpredictability and influenceability of capital market fluctuations, currency crises and other market-destructive factors and their impacts - Understandable, purpose-driven presentation of "public value" produced by sustainable, multifunctional forest management
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Criterion 4 Maintenance, conservation and appropriate enhancement of biological diversity in forest ecosystems	
Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 4?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please describe the policy objectives, including quantitative targets if any have been formulated	(max. 100 words, please)  The Austrian Forest Strategy defines 7 fields of action: field of action 4 is dedicated to the "Biodiversity in Austrian forests". Within field of action 4, the strategy addresses 7 strategic goals. Vision/Summary: Biodiversity in Austrian forests with their species, genes, ecosystems and landscapes is promoted by sustainable, multi-functional forest management that includes targeted restriction of use once a balance of interests has been established: The forest-based sector plays its part in helping to stop the loss in biodiversity in the forest ecosystems across Austria.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  The objectives are addressed by a variety of measures, partly by institutional, financial, legal or informational means. All measures are laid out in the Working Programme of the Forest Strategy. <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=4">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=4</a> Targets can be found in the Austrian Indicator Sets for Sustainable Forest Management. A link to the document can be found under 2C.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  To achieve the objectives, legal, financial as well as informational tools are applied.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 4 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  The educational project "Biodiversity in the forest", which is supported by the Directorate-General of Forestry, aims to create such an awareness. Forest owners and managers are taught about the correlation between biodiversity and forest management through the targeted monitoring of specific indicators. The Austrian Forest Ecology Programme, which is intended to contribute to the protection of natural diversity and thus to the cultural heritage of forests in Austria, was developed in a broad-based participatory process.

	<p>Approx. € 4 million in subsidies are provided every year. By virtue of an appropriate proactive communication policy, these funds end up being used by forest managers and contribute to further enhancing the biodiversity in native forests. Some 42% of the currently registered Natura 2000 areas in Austria are forests. On the one hand, this illustrates the major significance the forest has in the maintenance of biodiversity, but also shows, on the other hand, that some two thirds of Austrian forests are in a natural or near-natural or only in a moderately altered good state of conservation. The Austrian Biodiversity Strategy was developed through open thematic workshops in cooperation with hundreds of participants and under the leadership of the Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism and the Federal Environment Agency. It was presented in mid-October 2014 at the COP 12 of the CBD in South Korea. The Biodiversity Strategy Austria 2020+ includes goals and measures for the preservation of biological diversity in Austria, which are based on international objectives. In addition, the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ includes measures whose impact is will also be evaluated.</p>
<p>What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 4, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Key challenges as laid out in the field of action: - Consistent implementation of the EU specifications (Birds Directive, Habitats Directive, etc.) - Divergence in forest, climate and nature conservation policy targets at EU level - Content and methods of reports submitted to the EU unclear for forest practitioners - Knowledge deficits with regard to specific regional implementation recommendations - Securing the representative network of protected areas - A fair balance of interests to safeguard the protective targets within the existing regulatory framework with increased implementation of contract-based nature conservation and market tools - Balance between the need to protect forests and private as well as public interests vested in forests - also with the help of forest land use planning - Conservation and improvement of forest resistance to abiotic and biotic threats - Orientation of forest management towards potential natural forest communities in consideration of possible alterations due to climate change - Maintaining the stability of forest ecosystems - Ensuring the natural regenerative capacity of forests - Game populations adapted to the habitat and optimized hunting methods to ensure an ecologically viable game impact - Conservation of genetic diversity - It is becoming ever more difficult in traditional cultural landscapes to identify suitable areas of an appropriate size where</p>

	<p>disruptive influences are prevented and that are no longer being used, as a result of which natural succession is allowed to proceed - Necessity to conserve species requiring intensive management in order to ensure the evolutionary potential and reference areas - Establishment and strengthening of cultural services and potential of Austrian forestry - In many cases, the preservation of traditional forms of management requires high capital and work input - Maintenance and development of the technical knowledge required for this purpose - Improved convergence of nature conservation objectives with forestry and forest policy objectives - Reconciliation of objectives relating to forest biodiversity and forest functions - Conservation and promotion of close-to-nature forest structures - Connectivity of native forest biotope types, as well as their plant and animal species in their genetic variety - Multiple overtaxing of our cultural landscape although resources are becoming ever scarcer (in financial, staff terms) - Prevention of fragmentation - Loss of natural and cultural landscapes, particularly due to climate change - Existing shortcomings in knowledge (subject-specific and interdisciplinary)</p>
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<p>Criterion 5 Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)</p>	
<p>Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 5?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Please describe the policy objectives, including quantitative targets if any have been formulated</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Strategy defines 7 fields of action: field of action 5 is dedicated to the "Protective functions of Austria's forests". Within field of action 5, the strategy addresses 7 strategic goals. Vision/Summary: The "green infrastructure" forest in Austria has to offer sustainable protection against natural hazards and the resulting risks. It facilitates, preserves and promotes resilience against climate and societal change. The "green infrastructure" forest is an essential natural water cycle regulator, thus creating a key foundation for our drinking water, food, and energy security.</p>
<p>Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The objectives are addressed by a variety of measures, partly by institutional, financial, legal or informational means. Relevant measures are laid out in the Working Programme of the Forest Strategy.  <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=5">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=5</a>  Targets can be found in the Austrian Indicator Sets for</p>

	Sustainable Forest Management. A link to the document can be found under 2C.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  To achieve the objectives, legal, financial as well as informational tools are applied.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 5 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  Most notably, the ageing of protection forest stocks in Austria, coupled with the lack of sufficient natural regeneration and the high maintenance and harvest costs in mountain forests constitute extensive reasons for the need for raising the awareness of society. In this regard, federal and provincial protection forest platforms, protection forest partner municipalities, school projects, the Forest Dialogue, and similar cooperation projects or initiatives contribute significantly to information and the balance of interests, notably with regard to target audiences outside of the forest sector. The situation is similar when it comes to the influence of the forest on water availability: European legislation resulting from the EU Water Framework Directive has been accordingly determined in the Austrian Water Act and the necessary measures are being implemented on a continuous basis. In addition, the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ includes measures whose impact is will also be evaluated.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 5, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please)  Key challenges as laid out in the field of action: - Soil degradation - Global warming and climate change - Possible increase of disruptive effects due to extreme weather events - Structural ageing - Functionally sufficient forest cover - Adjustment of game management to the requirements of protection efficiency - Tree species composition guided by the PNFE, taking into account the effects of climate change - Qualified forest management measures for the preservation and improvement of the protective function distinguished according to hazard type - Conservation and improvement of the forest's protective effects - Securing forest management with a focus on protective function - Conservation and revitalisation of alluvial forests including interlinkage with the body of water - Maintenance and improvement of the water resources quality and quantity - Adequate prevention of sediment input in ground and surface waters -

	<p>Development and implementation of innovative planning and management instruments across the sectors - Introduction of a risk-oriented priority order in protection forest management - Implementation risk governance - Damage to protection forests and impediments to game population regulation due to touristic use - Insufficient individual responsibility and precaution - Administrative simplification in planning and support system - Up-/Downstream issues - Implementation risk governance - Administrative simplification in planning and funding system - Lack of concern - "Forgetting curve" after events - Insufficient PR and consultation - Fragmented ownership structure</p>
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Criterion 6 Maintenance of other socio-economic functions and conditions	
Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 6?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Please describe the policy objectives, including quantitative targets if any have been formulated	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The Austrian Forest Strategy defines 7 fields of action: Field of action 6 is dedicated to the "Social and economic aspects of Austrian forests". Within field of action 6, the strategy addresses 7 strategic goals. Vision/Summary: The use of wood as a raw material, as well as other forest ecosystem services, must be socio-politically accepted. In the forest country of Austria, the entire forest-wood value chain is accepted as an attractive working environment. Education, research and knowledge transfer promote innovations and make the forest- and wood-based sector sustainable. A fair balance of interests between the many demands on the forest is secured.</p>
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>The objectives are addressed by a variety of measures, partly by institutional, financial, legal or informational means. All measures are laid out in the Working Programme of the Forest Strategy.  <a href="https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=6">https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=6</a>            Targets can be found in the Austrian Indicator Sets for Sustainable Forest Management. A link to the document can be found under 2C.</p>
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>To achieve the objectives, legal, financial as well as informational means are applied.</p>
Please describe achievements in the area of	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p>

<p>Criterion 6 over the past five years</p>	<p>The challenges facing the forestry sector are manifold and are determined by the divergent societal values of the forest and the increased demands of society for the multifunctional effects of forests. Never has the demand for the resource "nature" been greater than today. The awareness of the forest habitat and the wood value chain has been one of the focal points of forest related public relations and communication for years. Education and activities in this area start in early childhood and across all age groups. This strategic prioritization should continue in the future and be extended to include cultural and health aspects. The Austrian system of training and further education for sustainable forest management is constantly adapted to current conditions and thus improved. In addition, the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+ includes measures whose impact is will also be evaluated.</p>
<p>What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 6, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Key challenges as laid out in the field of action: - Insufficient knowledge transfer from industry to general public - Counteracting unsubstantiated (incorrect) information - Maintenance and strengthening of sustainable forest management and timber industry as an essential component of rural area - Creation of new fields of business - Growing urbanisation through lack of infrastructure in rural areas - Preservation of the width and quality of the existing research landscape in the forestry and timber industries through adequate resourcing - Low practical relevance and practice transfer - Creation of harmonised international standards in the areas of training and further training and mutual recognition - Safeguarding an internationally recognised level of training - Development of international know-how consulting and know-how transfer - Minimum content for compulsory schooling and kindergarten - Additional offers for training facilities on the topic of "forest" - Provision of sufficient adequate teaching resources - Knowledge of all rights and obligations of forest owners and forest users - Lack of debating culture and constructive discussion climate (respect as a foundation) and camp mentality. - Austrian Forest Dialogue as a mutual information and debate platform - Awareness that forest functions are communicating vessels - Increasing awareness of the current legal situation of users and people involved - Objective dialogue and discovery of contact partners in the region (knowledge of needs) - Need-based models for the use of the forest for recreational purposes -</p>

	<p>Target-group oriented distribution of scientific insights - Cooperation with institutions and companies that offer services - Improvement of the social understanding of the historical cultural value of forests, but also the countless cultural assets associated with forest ownership - Building bridges across conflicts between the purely economical use of the forest and the potential and diversity of other socio-economic and cultural services of forests for society. - Recognition of the health benefit of time spent in the forest in health policies or healthcare and the strategic application of implementation measures</p>
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## 2C: Supplementary information on selected major issues

If you wish, provide similar brief information (policy objectives/targets, policy instruments, achievements, challenges), on specific areas not sufficiently covered in the sections before.

Possible areas, many of which touch more than one criterion, would include:

- legal/regulatory framework to combat illegal logging and associated trade of forest products
- Promotion of the use of sustainably produced forest products
- Water management and flood control through forests
- Forest recreation
- Sustainable forest workforce
- Occupational safety and health

As a responsible member of the international community and a richly forested country with high environmental standards and an import- and export-oriented Wood industry, Austria is committed to an active international forest policy and rejects the illegal utilisation of wood and related trade. An Austrian forest strategy that looks beyond borders assumes shared responsibility in an international context. For this reason, the Austrian Forest Strategy defines a field of action 7: "Austrian international responsibility for sustainable forest management". The vision/summary: Internationally, Austria is committed to sustainable, multifunctional forest management and is a recognized partner and driving-force in European and international forest policy and forest-relevant research. As competent consultants on the subject of forest and sustainable, multifunctional forest management, the players in the Austrian forest- and wood-based sector are in international demand in bi- and multilateral cooperation. Within field of action 7, again 7 strategic goals are defined. Documents: Austrian Forest Report: <https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldzustand/waldbericht2015.html> Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+: [https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie\\_paper.html](https://www.bmnt.gv.at/forst/oesterreich-wald/waldstrategie-2020/waldstrategie_paper.html) Working Programm (Database) of the Austrian Forest Strategy 2020+: <https://bfw.ac.at/ws/strat2020public.main?seite=0> Austrian Indicator Sets for Sustainable Forest Management: [http://www.eficeec.efi.int/portal/projects/austrian\\_indicators\\_for\\_sfm/](http://www.eficeec.efi.int/portal/projects/austrian_indicators_for_sfm/)

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