

FOREST EUROPE

UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION



Food and Agriculture
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United Nations



UNECE

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

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.

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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	Approval of the National Forest Concept in Dec 2013 by the Parliament of Georgia, in which the overarching guiding principle is sustainable forest management according to the Forest Europe definition.
Action / Measure 2	In 2017 the Government of Georgia adopted the Third National Environmental Action Programme of Georgia (2017 – 2021) that includes Forest Sector Reform Strategy as well.
Action / Measure 3	Elaboration of National Principles, Criteria, and Indicators for sustainable forest management.
Action / Measure 4	Electronic timber tracking system is introduced for 80 % of Georgian Forests (excluding 20% of occupied territories of the country).
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	Approval of the new Forest Code by the Parliament of Georgia that considers the national principles of sustainable forest management.
Challenge 2	Capacity building and adjustments of the institutional framework and task distribution of State forest institutions, in particular, the National Forestry Agency and the Department of Environmental Supervision.
Challenge 3	Enhancement of scientific researches and reestablishment of links between the agencies involved in forest management and academia.
Challenge 4	Improvement of the forest inventory/taxation and management planning process.
Challenge 5	Establishment of a Forest Information and Monitoring System.

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	The national criteria and indicators under the ecological, economic and social principles provide a frame for ensuring forests contribution to a green economy: •the protective functions of Georgia’s forests and this will have a positive influence on the development of other economic sectors like agriculture, hydropower, and tourism; •the provision of income opportunities in rural areas in the forest sector including the processing of wood and non-wood products and the eco-tourism sector.
Action / Measure 2	Majority of Georgia’s rural population uses firewood for heating. Firewood consumption is significantly higher than the amount forests can produce. Developing and using alternative fuel resources for the elimination of energy deficiency is the priority for the country. To tackle the problem the biomass briquettes have been introduced as the alternative heating options in 2016. Recently three factories are operating in Georgia. To support the initiative and enable the use of wood waste for producing alternative fuel resources - briquettes and pellets several amendments have been made in regulations in 2017.

Action / Measure 3	Since 2017, National Forestry Agency supplies the fuelwood to the public institutions. The advantage of supplying the fuelwood resource to the public institutions is that the marketed firewood resources are available upon the request, only legally harvested firewood is sold. During the harvesting procedures, the risk of damaging forest workers or harming the environment is eliminated. Therefore, organizations do not have the necessity to produce the firewood by their self or buy fuelwood extracted without an authorization.
Action / Measure 4	Forests are covering about 40 percent of the country's territory out of which 98 percent is mountain forest. Promoting forest-based tourism in mountain areas can be a potential route for forest-dependent households to diversify into high-return income-generating activities in Georgia. Since 2017, ministry with the support of development partners aims at facilitating the improvement of the business environment and the creation of new income opportunities in mountain tourism. The action foresees, among others, to establish a national quality standard and control system for local tourism service providers. Including, certification of accommodation and travel/mountain guides based on developed standards. Enabling the national and international exchange, to implement capacity development for travel/mountain guides and accommodation owners as well as to establish a model mountain guesthouse for training purposes.
Action / Measure 5	UNDP and GEF study on the potential use of biomass from wood and agricultural residuals in Georgia

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

Challenge 1	Clear and viable legal framework carries critical importance for the sustainable development of the forestry sector in Georgia and for its future in general. Therefore, accelerated adoption of the draft new Forest Code is crucial. Furthermore, once this new primary legislative act is in place it is key to underpin its implementation with well-elaborated secondary legislation to ensure that the framework put in place supports and is conducive to the management of forests in line with the principles of sustainability.
Challenge 2	Significant changes cannot be instituted and sustained without well-trained forestry professionals. Lack of professionals at both vocational and tertiary levels is one of the major challenges for the development of the Georgian forestry sector.
Challenge 3	Establishment of a Forest Information and Monitoring System that should be verified and comprehensive database is a critical factor for decision making and planning.

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	Elaborated national criteria and indicators for near to nature / ecosystem-based forest management.
Action / Measure 2	Improved firefighting equipment and strategy.
Action / Measure 3	Selective cutting system is used in Georgia (clear-cutting is allowed only on lowlands, which is about 2% of forest fund). It allows ecosystems to support wildlife, allows forests to retain the resistance to climate change, natural hazards, and maintains the productivity and protective functions of the forests.
Action / Measure 4	Georgia communicated its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC), elaborated by the Ministry of Environment Protection and Agriculture of Georgia in 2015. The country adopted the Paris Agreement and submitted its first NDC in May 2017. The Georgian Government prioritizes three options for climate change mitigation activities in forestry sector: (a) establish Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices; (b) conduct afforestation/reforestation and assist natural regeneration, and (c) expand the protected area. According to the legislation on the territory of the State forest fund, supporting the natural regeneration of forest where it is possible is the priority.
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	Low capacity of forest management bodies to implement ecosystem-based forest management.
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Challenge 2	High pressure on forest resources from illegal use of forest resources and low supervisory and law enforcement capacity.
Challenge 3	Limited accessibility of forest areas to allow effective firefighting activities as well as low impact harvesting operations.
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	Commitment of Georgia in the forest annex of the NDC (Paris Agreement) to increase the carbon sequestration in forest areas by sustainable forest management, promotion of natural regeneration and reforestation of degraded forests as well as the increase of protected areas;
Action / Measure 2	Legal regulations restricting forest utilization in 80% of Georgia’s forest because of it’s protective functions including the prohibition of clear-cut in areas above 5 degrees of inclination, which cover 98% of the forest area;
Action / Measure 3	Project proposal for the Green Climate Fund to request necessary financial resources for the implementation of the NDC commitments concerning improved forest management, promotion of alternative energy sources and the improvement of house isolation is under preparation.
Action / Measure 4	
Action /	

Measure 5	
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Please describe a maximum of five major remaining challenges to achieve Goal IV (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please)

Challenge 1	Fuelwood demand much higher than sustainably available wood supply;
Challenge 2	Inefficient stoves and burning of wet fuelwood in houses, which are in most cases not proper isolated;
Challenge 3	High prices for natural gas motivating people to prefer fuelwood for heating and cooking.
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 / Measure 1	More than 8 % of Georgia's territory is covered by protected areas, out of which 45% are covered with forest (267.000 ha). In addition, the Emerald Network is currently under development in Georgia. It consists of around 800.000 hectares of state forest fund, the already adopted sites cover around 600.000 hectares;
Action / Measure 2	National criteria and indicators for ecosystem-based forest management are elaborated and will ensure an inclusive approach of biodiversity protection in managed forest areas;
Action / Measure 3	Legal regulations in subsidiary laws already ensure a quite near to nature forest management promoting natural regeneration, and the use of native tree species in case of reforestation measures, forbidding clear cut in areas with more than 5-degree inclination (Majority of the forest areas) only allowing selective cutting;
Action / Measure 4	

	Identification of degraded forest areas in the frame of Georgia's first national forest inventory, which started in 2018;
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	High degree of illegal, unplanned and not systematic forest operations
Challenge 2	Weak supervision system
Challenge 3	Low capacity of forest management bodies
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	In 2018, Georgia announced its commitment to the Bonn Challenge to implement afforestation/reforestation activities on 1,500 ha of degraded lands and assist natural regeneration of forests through different silvicultural methods on 7,500 ha by 2030 in order to restore natural forest cover.
Action / Measure 2	Currently, the development of the law on Windbreaks is an ongoing process.
Action / Measure 3	
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	The practice of burning of agricultural residuals result in high danger of destructive fires burning down established windbreaks
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	Forests are covering about 40 percent of the country's territory out of which 98 percent is mountain forest. Promoting forest-based tourism in mountain areas can be a potential route for forest-dependent households to diversify into high-return income-generating activities in Georgia. Since 2017, ministry with the support of development partners aims at facilitating the improvement of the business environment and the creation of new income opportunities in mountain tourism. The action foresees, among others, to establish a national quality standard and control system for local tourism service providers. Including, certification of accommodation and travel/mountain guides based on developed standards. Enabling the national and international exchange, to implement capacity development for travel/mountain guides and accommodation owners as well as to establish a model mountain guesthouse for training purposes.
Action / Measure 2	EU provides support to rural development and agriculture in Georgia through, the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) since 2013. Within the program the country aims to reach goals: • build capacity and support government institutions in the reform of the agriculture and rural development sector; • improve employment and living conditions of rural populations by strengthening farmers' cooperation skills and access to resources; • promote diversified social and economic opportunities in rural areas, particularly for women and youth, in due respect to the environment and the cultural heritage. From 2018, forestry-related issues are considered in ENPARD program.

Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	
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	Limited legal wood processing facilities in rural areas
Challenge 2	High migration from rural areas to city centers
Challenge 3	High percentage of extreme poverty in rural areas
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	Electronic timber tracking system is introduced for 80 % of Georgian Forests (excluding 20% of occupied territories of the country).
Action / Measure 2	On the basis of the amendments to the Administrative Offences Code of Georgia and the Criminal Code of Georgia, the control of illegal logging and sawmills became stricter in 2018.
Action / Measure 3	According to the assessments done by experts of Eu Twinning project, "Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Georgia" the timber control chain developed in Georgia conforms to the policy of EUTR system.

Action / Measure 4	On 3 April 2018, FSC approved Controlled Wood Risk Assessments for Georgia that conclude specified risk for various risk assessment indicators
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	Improvement of the capacity of supervision and law enforcement concerning the control of illegal logging, illegal sawmills, and trade in wood and other forest products
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	In 2013, the National Forest Program (NFP) process was launched as an instrument of involvement of stakeholders in the decision-making processes in order to support the Forestry Sector Reform. Since 2013, more than 300 meetings were held in the framework of the NFP process. Up to 270 stakeholders from different ministerial
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	sectors, the academia, the private sector, the NGO sector, and several international development partners were involved in the NFP process
Action / Measure 2	For the intensive phase of the forest sector reform a forest sector reform strategy and action plan has been elaborated and approved as part of the National Environment Programme 2017-2020; as soon as the most important reform steps are implemented, it is planned to elaborate regular NFP's for 5 year periods
Action / Measure 3	Publicly accessible Forest and Land-Use Atlas of Georgia has been developed
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 I (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	Improvement of NFP process based on experiences during the first 5 years.
Challenge 2	Establishment of publicly accessible Forest Information and Monitoring System
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	Forest education strategy elaborated together with concerned stakeholders; 4 strategic goals: 1. Establishment of an integrated forest education system based on international standards ensuring the supply of demanded human resources; 2. Enhancement of scientific research and re-establishment of links between the agencies involved in forest management and the academia; 3. Promotion of international integration and experience sharing; 4. Public awareness raising;
Action / Measure 2	Curricula for vocational training of forest workers approved; In addition, the educational program of "Forest Worker" has been introduced for the first time in Georgia at three Vocational Education Training Colleges.
Action / Measure 3	More than 250 eco clubs at public schools are established.
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 II (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	Improvement of existing communication strategy and implementation of agreed activities
Challenge 2	Improvement of the capacity of forest education and research institutesFinancial
Challenge 3	Further exchange programs with foreign forest education institutions

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	UNDP and GEF study on the potential use of biomass from wood and agricultural residuals in Georgia
Action / Measure 2	Adjustment of subsidiary law on forest use to promote the use of wood residuals after harvesting operations
Action / Measure 3	Developing and using alternative fuel resources for the elimination of energy deficiency is the priority for the country. To tackle the problem the biomass briquettes have been introduced as the alternative heating options in 2016. Recently three factories are operating in Georgia.
Action / Measure 4	Since 2017, National Forestry Agency supplies the fuelwood to the public institutions. The advantage of supplying the fuelwood resource to the public institutions is that the marketed firewood resources are available upon the request, only legally harvested firewood is sold. During the harvesting procedures, the risk of damaging forest workers or harming the environment is eliminated. Therefore, organizations do not have the necessity to produce the firewood by their self or buy fuelwood extracted without an authorization.
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	High demand for firewood mainly covered by illegal harvesting and marketing activities far above sustainable wood harvesting level
Challenge 2	Inefficient use of fuelwood: e.g. use of wet fuelwood, inappropriate stoves, insufficient insulation of houses
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	TEEB scoping study for Georgia has been prepared in 2013
Action / Measure 2	TEEB study for the forestry sector of Adjara Autonomous Republic, Georgia has been prepared in 2016
Action / Measure 3	
Action / Measure 4	

Action / Measure 5	
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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	Value of forest ecosystem services – especially protective functions of forests - acknowledged but not yet appropriately considered in national development strategies
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	The commitment of Georgia in Forest Annex of NDC document to mitigate climate change through promotion of natural forest management and afforestation/reforestation activities
Action / Measure 2	Ongoing elaboration of full project proposal to the Green Climate Fund to support the implementation of the conditional NDC commitments in the NDC forest annex

	especially the promotion of near-to-nature forest management and restoration of degraded forest areas with the aim to increase carbon storage
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	Development of forest management concept based on available draft management level criteria and indicators for near to nature forest managementAdditional
Challenge 2	Capacity building for forest management bodies
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	Establishment of Emerald network on the way concerning 800.000 ha of state forest fund, 600.000 ha already adopted, majority forest inside as well as outside of the protected area system
Action / Measure 2	Around 600.000 ha of Georgia are included in the protected area system, including 45% of forest
Action / Measure 3	National criteria and indicators for ecosystem-based forest management are elaborated and will ensure an inclusive approach of biodiversity protection in managed forest areas, final draft available
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	Illegal harvesting and trading of red list timber species
Challenge 2	Illegal hunting of red list fauna species
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

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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	In 2018, Georgia announced its commitment to the Bonn Challenge to implement afforestation/reforestation activities on 1,500 ha of degraded lands and assist natural regeneration of forests through different silvicultural methods on 7,500 ha by 2030 in order to restore natural forest cover.
Action / Measure 2	Currently, the development of the law on Windbreaks is an ongoing process.
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	Insufficient land-use planning and secured land-use rights especially for communal pastures, which are more and more used for the establishment of plantations
Challenge 2	The burning of agricultural residuals result in high danger of destructive fires burning down established windbreaks
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	Forests are covering about 40 percent of the country's territory out of which 98 percent is mountain forest. Promoting forest-based tourism in mountain areas can be a potential route for forest-dependent households to diversify into high-return income-generating activities in Georgia. Since 2017, ministry with the support of development partners aims at facilitating the improvement of the business environment and the creation of new income opportunities in mountain tourism. The action foresees, among others, to establish a national quality standard and control system for local tourism service providers. Including, certification of accommodation and travel/mountain guides based on developed standards. Enabling the national and international exchange, to implement capacity development for travel/mountain guides and accommodation owners as well as to establish a model mountain guesthouse for training purposes.
Action / Measure 2	EU provides support to rural development and agriculture in Georgia through, the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) since 2013. Within the program the country aims to reach goals: • build capacity and support government institutions in the reform of the agriculture and rural development sector; • improve employment and living conditions of rural populations by strengthening farmers' cooperation skills and access to resources; • promote diversified social and economic opportunities in rural areas, particularly for women and youth, in due respect to the environment and the cultural heritage. From 2018, forestry-related issues are considered in ENPARD program.
Action / Measure 3	National criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management under the social principle promote income opportunities in the forest sector especially for the rural population living in the vicinity of forests not only in the context of forest management but also in the processing of wood and non-wood forest products as well as in ecotourism in forest areas

Action / Measure 4	Approved National Forest Concept in Dec 2013 by the Parliament of Georgia with the guiding principle that "All forests are local". Accordingly, free access to forests for non-commercial purposes is ensured, regardless of the form of forest ownership.
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	Limited legal wood processing facilities in rural areas
Challenge 2	High migration from rural areas to city centers
Challenge 3	High percentage of extreme poverty in rural areas
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	Electronic timber tracking system is introduced for 80 % of Georgian Forests (excluding 20% of occupied territories of the country).
Action / Measure 2	

	All round wood has the special tag (or label). During the transportation of round wood, the certificate of wood origin is requested. It is forbidden to transport or export wood/ processed timber without the certificate of origin and delivery note.
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	Improvement of the capacity of supervision and law enforcement concerning the control of illegal logging, illegal sawmills, and trade in wood and other forest products
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.

1. National forest programmes (NFP) or equivalent	
NFP or equivalent process/documents for forest related dialogue, policy development & implementation	
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

Main formal decision making body of the process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ministry responsible for forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:	
Significant changes related to the NFP or equivalent process since 2014	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max.100 words]:
Key lessons learned on the NFP process or similar	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>The Georgian NFP process is the tool for implementation of National Forest Concept that addresses a wide range of problems mentioned in the concept and complies with existing challenges of the forest sector. Meetings are organized in order to review thematic issues. It supports the elaboration of strategic documents, recommendations, draft laws, regulations etc. Nine working groups have been created, up to 350 meetings have been held. Up to 270 representatives from 70 governmental and non-governmental organizations, the academic community, the civil society, as well as international donors and their implementing partners operating in Georgia are involved in the process.</p>	
Main forest policy document other than law (such as national forest programme, forest policy statement, strategy or other)	Name: National Forest Concept for Georgia Internet link: Starting year: 2014	

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

Evaluation of the implementation of NFP or similar process	<input type="checkbox"/> Periodically, pre-specified in the main forest policy document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irregularly conducted <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified <input type="checkbox"/> Other: In 2015 questionnaire for stakeholders, 2018 internal study by Forest Policy Division	
Binding status of the main (other than law) forest policy document	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compulsory <input type="checkbox"/> Recommendatory	
Allocation of financial resources for the implementation of NFP or equivalent document / process)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bulk allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Goal-specified allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Relying on external resources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
	partly supported by external resources: supporting half-time coordinator of the NFP process in order to organize the working group meetings, plenary meeting and translation services	
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]

Existence of other overall policy instruments/ documents from the sector or other sectors that explicitly encourage SFM or address key forest policy issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title: Forest Sector Reform Strategy and Action Plan in NEAP 2017-2021 Internet links:
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Reporting notes

¹ “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).

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	- forest policy administration - legislative supervision & enforcement - support to private forest management - management of public forests - forest management planning - forest inventory - research (Target 2) Other. Please specify: In Georgia, we have only one forestry research institute which is privately owned	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" 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"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words] Additional management bodies for the management of public forests: Adjara Forest Agency on the territory of the autonomous republic of Adjara, Akhmeta Municipal Government concerning management of forest in the Tusheti Protected Landscape			

Forest-related staff ² Resources and capacity of government bodies and public organizations related to forests (Goals 7, Target 8)	Name or group/type ¹ :	2017; Full time equival ent
	Total	1756
	...of which forest administration ³	218
	...of which management of public forests	1538
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions and other specialized agencies	
	... of which other permanent or temporary workers	
	Comments [max. 100 words] In Georgia, we have only one forestry research institute which is privately owned	
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] According to the statement of the National Forest Concept, the policy, management, and supervision functions were successfully separated in practice in 2013. In the same year, Forest Policy Service has been created (now Forest Policy Division of the Biodiversity and Forestry Department) MEPA. The Department of Environmental Supervision (DES), a state subordinated agency of the Ministry, which is responsible for	
Policies, objectives and measures/actions taken in:	Forest-related research (Target 2) Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant. According to the Forest Education Strategy and Action Plan, elaborated in 2016 the priority is to enhance the scientific researches and reestablish the links between the agencies involved in forest management and academia; In addition, Facilitate collaboration and cooperation among them for information exchange and conducting targeted studies.	

	<p>Forest-related training and education (Target 2)</p> <p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>Reference Document: Forest Education Strategy and Action Plan, Final Draft 2016 Goal 1: Establishment of an integrated forest education system based on international standards ensuring the supply of demanded human resources; Target 1.1: Ensure continuous education of professionals engaged in forest science and forestry; Target 1.2: Develop and launch vocational education programs ; Target 1.5: Develop adequate infrastructure for effective implementation of educational programs and field works; Curricula for vocational training of forest workers approved; In addition, the educational program of "Forest Worker" has been introduced for the first time in Georgia at three Vocational Education Training Colleges.</p>
	<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 need to establish an integrated forest education system based on international standards as well as development of on- job training system and mid-career training to improve knowledge and skills of professionals engaged in forestry-related activities is recognized by the Forest Education Strategy and Action Plan. Unfortunately, currently, on-job training is not systematical and the implementation of it is depending on external sources.</p>
	<p>Comments [max. 100 words]</p> <p>In addition to the Education Strategy: National Forestry Concept puts a special emphasis on forestry education and public awareness raising. The document also outlines relevant strategic goals. Namely, strengthening professional education at universities, schools, and colleges and supporting scientific researches are among the priority directions. The EU-Georgia Association Agreement calls for cooperation to modernize education and training systems, enhance quality, introduce mechanisms for career development, as well as to facilitate mobility and international cooperation, partnerships between research and business, etc. (specifically, use of university research outcomes and innovations for the development of entrepreneurial, innovative skills).</p>

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"/>	739.020	26		
• Equivalent of management plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the forest-related management plans / equivalents / other types of management documents registered with official body?					Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Are the measures of forest management plans compulsory?				Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comments:</p> <p style="color: blue;">The regulation concerning Forest Inventory/Taxation and Management Planing is under review.</p>						

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
• Programme for the Endorsement of Forest certification (PEFC)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
• 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:

Up to now, there is no forest certification system in place. The National Forest Concept expresses the intention to start the process by drawing up a national standard for approval by FSC and/or PEFC. In this context, it is important to underline that Georgia is in the process to finalize the set of national C&I for SFM, which will be legally approved.

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 checked="" 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:	Forest Code
	Date of enactment:	
	Date of latest amendment:	
Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework during last 5 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]	
	<p>A new National Forest Code has been elaborated, which considers SFM related regulations. The document has been handed over by the government to the Parliament for approval. Approval is expected in 2019. Subsidiary legal regulations already consider basic requirements of SFM, further improvement under consideration of the national C&I for SFM is planned as soon as the Forest Code is approved.</p>	

International commitments				
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 type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input 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"/>	Aarhus Convention, Bern Convention, CITES
Significant initiatives undertaken during last 5 years in implementation of international commitments related to forests signed by your country	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words] The new law on Biodiversity is under development; The new Forest Code has been submitted to the parliament in 2019; The amendments have been made in Forest Code (1999) in order to create legal bases for National Forest Inventory;			
Comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.			

4. FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS	
Main characteristics of economic policy related to forests	Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of <u>publicly owned forests</u> [max. 100 words] Provision of State Budget for following forest management bodies: National Forest Agency, Agency of Protected Areas, Adjara Forest Agency; Provision of State Budget for Department of Environmental Supervision concerning supervision and law enforcement to better control illegal use of wood resources

	Please specify objectives of main measures taken to address economic aspects of <u>privately owned forests</u> or other [max. 100 words]
Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) during the last five years	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words] Supervisory functions concerning the state-owned forest have been fully handed over to the Department of Environmental Supervision at the beginning of 2019, state budget of the institutions to fulfill their new forest-related duties has been increased
Comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.
State/federal forests management	Please specify financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management <input type="checkbox"/> Profit-making or financially self-sufficient forest management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional financial support from a state budget to forest management <input type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify: The main objectives of NFA are forest management planning, forest protection, and maintenance, allocation of fuelwood for the population as well as the supply of fuelwood to public organizations (schools, kindergartens, hospitals, etc.). As NFA is a legal entity of public law, the possibilities to carry out any kind of forest management activities with the commercial goal are limited. Therefore, NFA is mainly dependent on the allocations from the state budget (EU Twinning report on “Concept of state forest enterprise for Georgia”, 2018).
Comments	Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.

<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 type="checkbox"/> Grants/subsidies, Please specify:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> of which RDPF. Please specify:</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>Up to now all forest in Georgia is state owned.</p>		
<p>Year:</p>	<p>Total (million, national currency)</p>	<p>Of that private sources, if available (million, national currency)</p>	
<p>Operational expenditure¹</p>			
<p>Transfer payments to private forests²</p>			
<p>Cost of forest administration³ (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>		

	Other institutions. Please specify:		
Total expenditure			

<p>If transfer payments are made to private forests, indicate for what specific objective(s) – Please tick all that apply.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Reforestation <input type="checkbox"/> Afforestation <input type="checkbox"/> Forest inventory and/or planning <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation of forest biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of soil and water <input type="checkbox"/> Forest stand improvement <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change adaptation <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment or maintenance of protected areas <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>
<p>Reporting notes</p>	

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

- 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.

- 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).
- 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes, at public level <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at private level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p>If yes, please describe and provide reference documents where relevant. [max. 100 words]</p> <p style="color: blue;">Supervisory functions concerning the state-owned forest have been fully handed over to the Department of Environmental Supervision at the beginning of 2019, state budget of the institutions to fulfill their new forest-related duties has been increased</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>	

5. Information and communication		
Main characteristics of informational means	<p>Is forest monitoring in your country sufficient for information and communication needs?</p> <p>If no, please specify:</p> <p style="color: blue;">There were no forest inventories for decades</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Is there public access to forest inventory data?</p> <p>If yes or partially, please specify:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially (e.g. just aggregated data) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Does an official (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist?</p> <p>If yes, please provide reference:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Does a national report on the state of sustainable forest management exist?</p> <p>If yes or partially, please provide reference/link:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Is there a national platform for stakeholder participation in forest policy development and/or decision-making?</p> <p>If yes or partially, please specify:</p> <p style="color: blue;">Established working groups under the NFP process Forest and Land-Use Atlas of Georgia https://atlas.mepa.gov.ge/?l=en</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>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>establishment of the Forest and Land Use Atlas of Georgia in 2018, preparations are ongoing to develop a Forest Information and Monitoring System</p>
<p>Significant changes in forest related communication during last five years</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If yes, please describe and include reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>During the elaboration of new Forest Code 14 meetings has been held in the regions. In order to approve the Forest Management Plans the public hearings should be organized in the regional office of National Forestry Agency, the documents which are under discussion are public</p>
<p>Reporting notes</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) Forest annex of Georgian NDC: Government prioritizes options for climate change mitigation in the forestry sector: (a) establish SFM practices; (b) conduct afforestation/reforestation and assist natural regeneration; (c) expand protected area. Unconditional commitment: 1. CO2 reduction in pilot area by at least 70% between 2020 and 2030, overall emission reduction of at least 1 million tons of CO2 in 45,000 hectares; 2. Afforestation/reforestation of 1,500 ha and assisted natural regeneration on 7,500 ha by 2030. Conditional commitment: 1. Afforestation/reforestation total of 35,000 hectares and assisted natural regeneration until 2030; 2. Support the SFM of 250.000 ha of forests leading to overall carbon sequestration up to 6 million tons of CO2 for 2020-2030. 3. Expansion of protected area from 0.52 million ha to 1.3 million ha (about 20% of Georgia's territory) comprising at least 1 million ha of forests until 2030.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please) The establishment of a forest related MRV system is part of the GCF proposal mentioned below.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)

<p>Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 1 over the past five years</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>A project proposal to be submitted to the Green Climate Fund is under preparation. The concept Note was accepted and appreciated by GCF secretariat. The aim of the forest-related part of this proposal is to provide support for the implementation of the Georgian NDC commitment to implement SFM on 250.000 ha. Considering, that clear-cutting is restricted in the country, loss of forest cover is low. From 2013 forest restoration activities became systematic and more organized. Temporary forest nurseries and fast-growing plantation practice were reestablished.</p>
<p>What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 1, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Limited capacity and financial resources of forest management bodies to implement SFM and of Department of Supervision to control illegal use of forest resources.</p>

Criterion 2 Maintenance of forest health and vitality	
<p>Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 2?</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>In the National Forest Concept: d) Elaborate and implement a plan for restoring degraded forest landscapes to full ecosystem health, including: d.a) carrying out assessments of the condition of degraded forests and the feasibility of restoring them; d.b) elaborating a forest landscape restoration strategy, including targets and cost estimates, and a business plan for implementing the strategy. Under Chapter 6 it is specified that Forest Management Bodies are responsible for inter alia prevent and combat fires and outbreaks of harmful pests and diseases.</p>
<p>Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p> <p>Concerning forest fires: - Developing the System of Monitoring and Early Notification - Updating departmental response plans Pest In order to plan and effectively implement measures against forest pests, a special laboratory equipped with the latest tools was arranged at the administration of Adjara Forestry Agency.</p>
<p>What policy tools have been</p>	<p>(max. 100 words, please)</p>

put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	New Forest Code: In Chapter II of the Forest Code the responsibilities of the different institutions to prevent and combat fires and outbreaks of harmful pests and diseases, as well as illegal use of forest resources and any anthropogenic damage are regulated. In Chapter XVI forest protection measures are regulated, including protection against fire, pests, and diseases, illegal use of forest resources and any anthropogenic damage. Details are regulated by the subsidiary legal act 241.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 2 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please) The following actions have been implemented by the National Forest Agency: - European spruce bark beetle combat measures; - Buxus Colchica saving program; - Chestnut stands restoration program.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 2, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please) Limited financial and personal resources of the forest management bodies.

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	(max. 100 words, please) The goal of the National Forest Concept is to establish a system of sustainable forest management that will ensure: improvement of quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the Georgian forests, protection of biological diversity, effective use of the economic potential of forests taking into account their ecological values, public participation in forest management and fair distribution of derived benefits. Economically seen, the forestry sector is one of the profitable sectors, which also supports the development of other related sectors (agriculture, energy, tourism, service, etc.). Increasing by different ways the contribution of timber harvesting and processing to the national economy, taking into account environmental loads and social demands Preparing an action programme to increase the contribution from wood processing to the national economy. Increasing by different ways the contribution to the national economy from the exploitation of non-timber forest products and the use of forests by their functional purposes.
Please describe any institutional measures taken	(max. 100 words, please)

to achieve these objectives	
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please) Forest Code: Categorisation of the forest, regulation of different uses of forest in addition to the use of timber resources, inter alia use of NWFP resources and use of the tourism potential. National C&I for SFM under the economic and social principle.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 3 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 3, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please) Insufficient and in parts contradicting legal framework

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) Elaboration of National C&I for SFM including C&I for near-to-nature forest management. The objective is to conserve biodiversity not only in protected areas but also in commercial forest areas. The final draft is available.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please) More than 8 % of Georgia's territory is covered by protected areas, out of which 45% are covered with forest (267.000 ha). In addition, the Emerald Network is currently under development in Georgia. It consists of around 800.000 hectares of state forest fund, the already adopted sites cover around 600.000 hectares;
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please) The agreed principles of SFM have been considered in the new Forest Code. The C&I will be considered in subsidiary legal regulations, as soon as the Forest Code is approved by the Parliament.
Please describe	(max. 100 words, please)

achievements in the area of Criterion 4 over the past five years	
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 4, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please) The limited capacity of forest management bodies as well as limited financial resources for the implementation of SFM.

Criterion 5 Maintenance and appropriate enhancement of protective functions in forest management (notably soil and water)	
Have policy objectives been formulated with respect to Criterion 5?	<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) National Forest Concept: Maintain protective functions of forests and their ecological balance "Precautionary principle" Forest management has to consider the role of forest and associated ecosystems at the local, regional, national and global levels. Managers should apply the precautionary principle whenever management decisions may disturb the ecological balance. Elaboration of strategies and plans for all the country's sectors must take into account the functional purposes of forests and need to be implemented in such a way that any benefit derived from the forests do not cause degradation of other functions of forests.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please) A very important goal for Georgia is to maintain and appropriately enhance the protective functions of the forests. As only 20 % of the total forest area is available for wood supply and around 80% of the forest has protective functions. The current legislation did not regulate the functional zoning of the forest. The forest use regulation forbids clear-cutting (the only exception is 2% of the forest fund located on law land). In addition, it defines the areas of special functional purpose and restricts forest use on the slopes over 35 degrees. The new Forest Code and respective sub-legal acts will set the rules for the categorization of forest according to their functions.
Please describe	(max. 100 words, please)

achievements in the area of Criterion 5 over the past five years	Around 80% of Georgia's Forest has protective functions, only 20% are available for wood supply. Selective cutting system is used in Georgia (clear-cutting is allowed only on lowlands, which is about 2% of forest fund). It allows ecosystems to support wildlife, allows forests to retain the resistance to climate change, natural hazards, and maintains the productivity and protective functions of the forests.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 5, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please) The limited capacity of forest management bodies as well as limited financial resources for the implementation of SFM.

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	(max. 100 words, please) Approved National Forest Concept in Dec 2013 by the Parliament of Georgia with the guiding principle that "All forests are local". Priority shall be given to meeting the needs of the local population; however, all stakeholders, including non-local population, shall be involved in decision-making processes. At the same time, the local population (in particular, women) shall be considered as a separate stakeholder. All stakeholders shall be empowered to participate in the process effectively. And the free access to forests for non-commercial purposes should be ensured, regardless of the form of forest ownership.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please) Forest Code: Participation of population in forest management planning National C&I for SFM here especially those under the social principle
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 6 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)

<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>Relevant programs shall be elaborated and concerned groups shall be informed about sustainable forest management, rational use of resources, energy efficiency, as well as their rights and obligations in forestry relations.</p>

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

New Forest Code - following categories of forest are identified: Protected forest; Protective forest; Resort and recreational forest; Utilization (/production) forest. The purpose of categorization is: - Support protection of ecological functions of forests and preservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of the forest's economic potential and exercising social functions of forests; -Facilitate and enhance preservation and recovery of soil protection, water regulating and climate-regulating functions of forests; -Rational use of forest productivity, including its resources, touristic and recreational capacity, considering delivery of long-term benefits; -Support harmonious and sustainable development of various sectors of the economy (agriculture, energy, etc.) related to forest ecosystem services and protection of forest ecosystems from cumulative negative impact. Forest recreation: One increasingly important opportunity for monetizing environmental services is ecotourism. The national tourism strategy recognizes Georgia's natural heritage as one of the key assets for tourism development. Georgia has substantial natural resources and the capacity to develop nature-based tourism. It should be mentioned that the number of visits to the protected areas of Georgia increased about 60 times from 2007 to 2013. In 2013, more than half (52%) of tourists were involved in nature-based tourism and another 13% exploited adventure tourism which also depends on the well-managed environment. Promoting forest-based tourism is recognized as a priority for forest-dependent households to diversify into high-return income-generating activities in the future. Sustainable forest workforce. Occupational safety and health.
