

**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	A new forestry act that is now (in early 2019) awaiting approval of the Icelandic parliament, explicitly states this goal; that management of all Icelandic forests shall be sustainable, ensuring multiple forest functions and the enhancement of lasting provision of goods and services.
Action / Measure 2	The goals in the new draft law that is being discussed and that will soon be adopted by the Icelandic parliament are based on ForestEurope commitments as well as other international commitments.
Action / Measure 3	A general forest policy strategy ("Forests in Iceland: Policy for the 21st Century") was adopted by the forest sector in Iceland in 2013. It forms the framework for much of the new Forest act and implements all the European 2020 goals and targets.
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	The present forestry act (from 1955) is outdated and irrelevant to achieving Goal I. Although the new, consolidated legal framework will in all likelihood pass through parliament in early 2019, there is a slight chance that its approval will be delayed.
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	A parliamentary resolution on the promotion of the green economy was approved in the Icelandic parliament in 2012. The resolution calls, among other things, for promoting forestry and ecological restoration, aimed at sustainable land use and carbon sequestration. It further calls for harmonizing forestry and land restoration programs aimed at ending land degradation and soil erosion, increasing forest and woodland cover, thus creating new, sustainably managed land resources.
Action / Measure 2	Another parliamentary resolution, passed by Althingi in 2014, is aimed at promoting forestry as an economic sector. It also calls for the consolidation of administrative units within forestry, land rehabilitation and soil conservation. Following the resolution, the Icelandic Forest Service and five regional forestry projects were amalgamated in one state agency; the Icelandic Forestry Service.
Action / Measure 3	

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	Forestry and wood industry hold only a minor share in Iceland's GDP. Hence, the provision of wood and other forest products do not enjoy much political clout.
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
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	One of the goals of the new Icelandic forestry act (that will likely be passed into law in early 2019) is to "promote increased carbon sequestration through afforestation and to adapt these forests (i.e. make them more resilient) when faced with climate change.
Action / Measure 2	As forests are rather rare in Iceland (with forests and other wooded land covering less than 2% of the total land area) and the climate of Iceland is generally cool and humid, forest fires are also quite rare. Nonetheless, steps have been taken by the relevant authorities to reduce fire hazard in forests and woodland, including web-based information to forest owners ( <a href="https://www.grotureldar.is/">https://www.grotureldar.is/</a> ).

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	
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	<a href="#">A new forestry act, awaiting approval in the Icelandic parliament, explicitly states that carbon sequestration in trees and forest soils is among the main goals outlined in the legislation.</a>
Action / Measure 2	<a href="#">Iceland’s action plan for climate change mitigation, made public on Sept. 10 2018, outlines several actions in order to fulfill Iceland’s obligations toward the Paris</a>

	<p>agreement in 2030 and for Iceland's economy to become carbon-neutral by 2040. The main emphasis of the new plan is on two measures: 1) to phase out fossil fuels in transport, and 2) to increase carbon sequestration in land use, by restoration of woodlands and wetlands, revegetation and afforestation. Climate mitigation measures will get a substantial increase in funding – almost 7 billion Icelandic krónur (over 50 million Euros) in the period 2019-2023. <a href="https://www.government.is/library/Files/Iceland%20new%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20for%202018%202030.pdf">https://www.government.is/library/Files/Iceland%20new%20Climate%20Action%20Plan%20for%202018%202030.pdf</a></p>
Action / Measure 3	<p>In the current government's five-year budget plan, money has been set aside for meeting goals for meeting significant carbon sequestration objectives. According to the budget plan, the budget for afforestation will receive a boost, entailing a quadrupled annual afforestation effort (from 3 to 12 million seedlings annually planted).</p>
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	<p>Efforts to increase carbon sequestration in forests and forest soils is very much dependent on secure government funding which, in turn, is subject to fluctuations in the small country's economy.</p>
Challenge 2	<p>Private investments in forestry (including afforestation for carbon sequestration) remain very low.</p>
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 / Measure 1	The first goal of the (yet unadopted) new forestry act before parliament (expected to be adopted in early 2019), is "to protect Iceland's native woodlands and promote their increased spread". Its second goal is "to protect and restore biodiversity" caused by nearly wholesale destruction of native forests in the past. Furthermore, in the goals it is stated that creation of new forests and woodlands should be in accordance with zoning plans and nature conservation.
Action / Measure 2	Research suggests that the creation of new forests via afforestation, whether these forests are of native or exotic species, helps to promote native species of plants and animals that are dependent on woodland habitat.
Action / Measure 3	Increase use of afforestation in land rehabilitation and erosion control. Increase use of afforestation to improve freshwater habitats, e.g. by reducing streambank erosion and siltation.
Action / Measure 4	
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	Native forest biodiversity in Iceland is very low compared to countries at similar latitudes, owing mainly to the country's geographical isolation from nearby mainlands. For example, the only native mammal species is the arctic fox ( <i>Vulpes lagopus</i> ). The native biodiversity present is not considered threatened, although populations of native plants and animals dependent on woodland would benefit from increased woodland cover (regardless of tree species composition, native or introduced, conifer or hardwood).
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	
Challenge 5	

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**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	One of the goals of the new forestry act awaiting approval in the Icelandic parliament is that forestry should support soil protection, as well as mitigate potential environmental threats (such as ash showers from volcanic eruptions, landslides or avalanches).
Action / Measure 2	Cooperation and joint efforts have been strengthened between state agencies responsible for forestry, land rehabilitation and soil conservation (i.e. the Icelandic Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland), aimed at establishing forest cover on derelict and erosion-prone land. Plans are to afforest 12 thousand hectares of such land in the near future.
Action / Measure 3	Since 1990, the Icelandic Forestry Association (an NGO with 3.5% of the Icelandic population as direct members) has been managing the state-sponsored project "Land reclamation forests". The project aims at restoring forests on derelict land. A renewed contract was recently signed by IFA and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, entailing an increased annual budget for the project. The state budget supports the project in the form of seedlings offered to the participants from the NGO.
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 main challenge is the 1-century old tradition of free-ranging sheep grazing which entails that all land needs to be fenced off from sheep-grazing if tree seedlings (planted or naturally regenerated) are to survive.
Challenge 2	
Challenge 3	
Challenge 4	

Challenge 5	
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**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	Since its initiation in 1970, the primary argument for the state supporting afforestation on private land has been the improvement of livelihoods, rural development and employment in rural areas. These rural areas have traditionally been very dependent on sheep-farming. As the economy of sheep-farming has been poor for many decades and continues to be poor, the role of state-supported afforestation for achieving socioeconomic goals remains high on the political agenda.
Action / Measure 2	According to the five-year government budget plan, the budget for afforestation will quadruple in the coming five years, over the current levels. Grants for farm afforestation (forestry on private land, mainly in rural areas) will accordingly quadruple in the coming years.
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	A wood-chain, forest industry, production of wood and non-wood products, etc. does not rest upon a tradition in Iceland. It has to be developed from scratch.
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	Illegal logging has thus far not been reported within Iceland. Trade with illegally obtained wood or other forest products may however be a problem with foreign wood imports. Hence, in 2016, the parliament of Iceland adopted the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR, nr. 995/2010 ) as the timber and timber products act ("Lög um timbur og timburvöru" 95/2016).
Action / Measure 2	
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	

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## 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	The new forestry act, currently being deliberated in the Icelandic parliament (Althingi) calls for the development and implementation of national and regional forest programmes. It is expected to enter into legislation in early 2019.
Action / Measure 2	Preparations have been made by the Icelandic Forest Service to embark upon regional forest programmes once the law has been adopted, followed by developing and implementing a national forest programme for Iceland.
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 I (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	
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	The new law is still awaiting adoption by parliament (Feb. 2019) has detailed chapters on NFPs. In all likelihood it will be adopted in the coming months, although there is a small risk that it will not pass parliament.
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	Iceland is still very much in dire need of more depth and diversification of its volume of forest research. The Icelandic Forest Service and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is well aware of the need for capacity building in research, education and communication.
Action / Measure 2	Research associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation of forests will be financially strengthened, according to a recent agreement between the Forest Service and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
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 II (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	State funding for forest research has been cut by roughly 50% in real terms since 2009, owing to the financial crisis that hit Iceland's economy in 2008. Previous funding for forest research has not been restored, despite the improvement in the nation's economy.
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	Potential supply of wood from sustainably managed, Icelandic forests has increased in recent years. Some of this wood is now used to replace coal previously used as a carbon source for ferrosilicate plants in Iceland.
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 III (maximum of 100 words per challenge, please).

Challenge 1	Most of the country's managed forest plantations are quite young, and wood procured is mainly from commercial thinnings.
Challenge 2	The currently high value of the local currency has lead to less demand for locally produced wood in the most recent years.
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	Payment for forest ecosystem services in Iceland take the form of grants, covering 97% of establishment costs for afforestation on privately-owned farms.
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Action / Measure 2	The cost of early stand-tending and pre-commercial thinning is funded by the government. Among other things, such payments meet the objective of improving public access and increasing public recreation in privately-owned forests (according to "Every-man's right).
Action / Measure 3	Further government-funded schemes are in preparation, aimed at reducing CO2-emissions from derelict and degraded rangeland sites, by reducing grazing pressure and afforesting such sites. Landowners who participate in such scheme will likely be paid for the resulting ecosystem services (lower CO2-emissions and other public benefits).
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	
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	It is difficult enough to encourage and achieve interest and progress in climate change mitigation via forestry, let alone in climate change adaptation with forestry.
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	Forests and woodlands in Iceland are already quite small and fragmented. However the trend towards diminished forest area, their degradation and fragmentation has been reversed in the recent two decades.
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 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	The role of forests in combating desertification has been fully recognised in Iceland since 1907 (when the first forest act was adopted by parliament, leading to the establishment of the Icelandic Forest Service. This role has however gained increased interest, and plans for using afforestation in land rehabilitation and erosion control are in development throughout the country.
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 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="#">This target is a high political priority in Iceland.</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	The EU timber regulation (EUTR, nr. 995/2010) has entered law (Law on timber and timber products; nr. 95/2016) and a regulation with the same name (nr 823/2016). It entails that if logging that has taken place in a country outside Iceland is considered illegal, trade with products from such logging is considered also illegal in Iceland.
Action / Measure 2	In the draft of the new forest act now awaiting approval in the Icelandic parliament, it is explicitly stated that all harvesting should be approved with a felling licence from the Icelandic Forest Service. To date, illegal logging has not been reported as a problem within Iceland.
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes, at national level <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, at subnational level <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Under elaboration

Main formal decision making body of the process	<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry responsible for forestry <input type="checkbox"/> Body with members other than Ministry responsible for forestry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other. Please specify:  A new forestry act waiting approval by the Icelandic parliament calls for the establishment of NFPs at both the national and subnational level.	
Significant changes related to the NFP or equivalent process since 2014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, please describe the reason/s for and type of changes [max.100 words]:
	A new forestry act (that will probably be adopted by early 2019) explicitly states the development, adoption and implementation of regional and national forest programmes. As soon as this enters legislation, work (by the Icelandic Forest Service) on a NFP will begin.	
Key lessons learned on the NFP process or similar	Please specify [max. 100 words], particularly on the NPF principles related to NFP as iterative process, stakeholder participation and approaches to inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration:	
	n/a	
Main forest policy document other than law (such as national forest programme, forest policy statement, strategy or other)	Name: Skógar á Íslandi. Stefna á 21. öld (Forests in Iceland. A strategy for the 21. century).  Internet link: <a href="https://www.skogur.is/static/files/ymislegt/Stefna-skogar.pdf">https://www.skogur.is/static/files/ymislegt/Stefna-skogar.pdf</a>  Starting year: 2013	

		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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	○ FE Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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: <i>A new forestry law is expected to enter force in early half of 2019. Implementation of NFP will begin soon thereafter.</i>	
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 type="checkbox"/> Goal-specified allocation <input type="checkbox"/> Relying on external resources <input type="checkbox"/> Not specified, not planned <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Title:  Internet links:
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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)).

<b>2. Institutional frameworks</b>				
	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</li> <li>- legislative supervision &amp; enforcement</li> <li>- support to private forest management</li> <li>- management of public forests</li> <li>- forest management planning</li> <li>- forest inventory</li> <li>- research (Target 2)</li> </ul> Other. Please specify: <p style="margin-left: 20px; color: blue;">The Icelandic Forest Association (an NGO) has entered institutional agreements with government on public outreach and some forest management matters.</p>	<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 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"/>
	Comments [max. 100 words]  <p style="color: blue; margin-left: 20px;">The only Sub-national body under the government that is involved in forest-related inst. arrangements is The Icelandic Forest Service (under the Min. of Environment and Natural Resources), with the exception of forest -related education and some forest research, which is the responsibility of the Icelandic Agric. Univ. (under the Ministry of Education)</p>			
Forest-related	Name or group/type <sup>1</sup> :			2017;

staff <sup>2</sup> Resources and capacity of government bodies and public organizations related to forests (Goals 7, Target 8)	Icelandic Forest Service and Icelandic Agricultural University	Full time equivalent
	Total	79
	...of which forest administration <sup>3</sup>	34
	...of which management of public forests	33
	...of which public forest research, education and training institutions and other specialized agencies	15
	... of which other permanent or temporary workers	0
Comments [max. 100 words] Staff within public forest research, education and training institutions is divided between the Icelandic Forest Service (12 staff) and the Icelandic Agricultural University (3 staff).		
Significant changes in the institutional framework, public and private, 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]	
Policies, objectives and measures/actions taken in:	Forest-related research (Target 2) Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.  Applied forest research on silviculture, growth and yield as well as choice of forest reproductive material has been the main emphasis of the division since its establishment in 1967. These areas of research are still important. However forest ecology and management have become increasingly important fields of study with a wide range of topics, including carbon and nutrient cycles, solving establishment problems in afforestation on derelict land, insect pests and pathogens and the effects of afforestation on plant and animal communities. Forest inventory has also increased in importance, not the least due to the need for knowledge about carbon stocks and sequestration. Other recent research topics include climatic mapping, vegetation history and social aspects of forestry. <a href="https://www.skogur.is/en/research/icelandic-forest-research/staff-and-location">https://www.skogur.is/en/research/icelandic-forest-research/staff-and-location</a>	

	<p>Forest-related training and education (Target 2)</p> <p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>Undergraduate and graduate studies in Forest Science, Restoration ecology and management are offered at the Icelandic Agricultural University.  <a href="http://www.lbhi.is/forest_science_restoration_ecology_and_management">http://www.lbhi.is/forest_science_restoration_ecology_and_management</a> Extension training (e.g. for forest owners) and technical training (for forest workers) is also offered at the same university.</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>Access to information from experts and scientists in other countries is essential to capacity building in Iceland. Nordic and European cooperation in a variety of projects is of great help in meeting this objective.</p>
	<p>Comments [max. 100 words]</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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
• Equivalent of management plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50000	100	150000	5
• 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regeneration systems				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reforestation species composition				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tending and other silvicultural operations				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deadwood volume				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Comments:						

**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"/>				
<p>Comments:</p> <p>As production forests in Iceland are most quite young (median age of a cultivated forest is 14 years), native forests not commercial and no export of forest products, the need for third party certification schemes have not been considered of vital importance.</p>						

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

#### Legal/regulatory frameworks

<p>General characteristics of legal/regulatory framework – formal authority on main forest matters is laid down</p>	<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:
<p>Main forest and SFM related legal/regulatory act with national scope (e.g. Forest law, act, code or similar document)</p>	<p>Name and reference to legal document:</p>	<p><a href="https://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/1955003.html">Lög um skógrækt (Forestry act); https://www.althingi.is/lagas/nuna/1955003.html</a></p>
	<p>Date of enactment:</p>	<p>March 6, 1955</p>
	<p>Date of latest amendment:</p>	<p>A new forestry act is currently being debated in the Icelandic parliament.</p>
<p>Significant changes in the legal/regulatory framework during last 5 years</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>If yes, please describe and incl. reason/s for the changes [max. 100 words]</p> <p>By early 2019, the currently old and outdated forestry act will be replaced by a new law on forestry.</p>	

<b>International commitments</b>				
		Fully	Partially	No
<p>Are the following FOREST EUROPE instruments explicitly referred to in the legal/regulatory act?</p>	<p>FOREST EUROPE Definition of SFM            FOREST EUROPE C&amp;I for SFM            Other: please specify</p>	<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"/>

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"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	No <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"/>	
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

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]  Climate change mitigation through increased carbon sequestration in forests. A healthy and viable rural economy (employment opportunities, diversification of rural incomes). Environmental improvement (e.g. mitigation of environmental degradation, creating recreation opportunities).
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	<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>Climate change mitigation through increased carbon sequestration in forests. A healthy and viable rural economy (employment opportunities, diversification of rural incomes). Environmental improvement (e.g. mitigation of soil erosion and other other environmental degradation that can be enhanced by increased forest and woodland cover).</p>
<p>Significant changes in economic policy related to forests (public and private) during the 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>Funding for afforestation is, according to the government's five year budget plan, to be significantly increased in the coming years, to meet climate goals according to the Paris agreement and to bring about Iceland's climate neutrality in 2040. The first year is in the 2019 budget for forestry is small however significant.</p>
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>Forest Strategy and Forestry Programme  <a href="https://www.skogur.is/en/forestry/forestry-in-a-treeless-land/forest-strategy-and-forestry-programme">https://www.skogur.is/en/forestry/forestry-in-a-treeless-land/forest-strategy-and-forestry-programme</a> New climate strategy gives Icelandic forests an upswing  <a href="https://nordicforestresearch.org/blog/2018/09/20/new-climate-strategy-gives-icelandic-forests-an-upswing/">https://nordicforestresearch.org/blog/2018/09/20/new-climate-strategy-gives-icelandic-forests-an-upswing/</a></p>
<p>State/federal forests management</p>	<p>Please specify financial arrangements related to state-owned forests and their management</p> <p><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:</p>

Comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p>Most of Iceland's cultivated, managed forests are quite young (median age of an Icelandic planted tree is approx. 14 years). Hence, these forests are not yet producing net-profits.</p>
Government financial instruments applied to private forest management	<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>Grants for afforestation on private land: 97% of establishment costs which includes first pre-commercial thinning. These grants are provided from the Icelandic state budget.</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>
Comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p>

Year: 2018		Total (million, national currency)	Of that private sources, if available (million, national currency)
Operational expenditure <sup>1</sup>		1.140.740.750	204.098.807
Transfer payments to private forests <sup>2</sup>		216.974.557	0
Cost of forest administration <sup>3</sup> (not including the costs associated with managing public forests):		414.241.681	0
of which...	Forest administration	359.803.604	200.874.807
	Public forest research	149.720.908	3.224.000
	Forest education and training institutions	60.000.000	0
	Other institutions. Please specify:	0	0
Total expenditure		2.341.481.500	408.197.614

<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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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:
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Comments	<p>Please explain [max. 100 words] and provide reference documents where relevant.</p> <p style="color: blue;">Expenditure and payments above provided in local currency (Icelandic krónur - ISK; 1 Euro = 139 ISK).</p>
<b>Reporting notes</b>	
<p>Please specify the <b>year</b> which the data refers to in the intended box.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Operational expenditure</b> 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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>It also excludes expenditure on: marketing; trade facilitation; or development projects, where forest is not the main focus of activities.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Transfer payments to private forests</b> 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).</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Cost of forest administration</b> 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> </li> </ol>	
<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 checked="" 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 style="color: blue;">Funding for afforestation is, according to the government's five year budget plan, to be significantly increased in the coming years, to meet climate goals according to the Paris agreement and to bring about Iceland's climate neutrality in 2040. The first year is in the 2019 budget for forestry is small however significant.</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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Is there public access to forest inventory data?</p> <p>If yes or partially, please specify:</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially (e.g. just aggregated data) <input type="checkbox"/> No
	<p>Does an official (governmental) forest-related outreach and communication strategy exist?</p> <p>If yes, please provide reference:</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Partially <input 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;">The stakeholder participation will soon be strengthened via NFPs (national and subnational), as part of a new forestry act</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p>Significant changes in informational means during 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>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>Information available to public and public media from the Icelandic Forest Service and other public forest-related outreach has been strengthened and formalised in the recent five-year period.</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)  In the present forest strategy (adopted in 2013) one of the primary goals is enhance the role of forests as carbon sinks and to adapt forestry to climate change. The Icelandic Government recently announced a new climate strategy, intended to boost efforts in cutting net emissions. The new measures are to help Iceland meet its Paris Agreement targets for 2030 and reach the government's ambitious aim to make Iceland carbon neutral before 2040. Climate mitigation measures aimed at increasing carbon sequestration on land (e.g. in forests and forest soils) will get a substantial increase in funding – almost 7 billion Icelandic krónur in the period 2019-2023.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  The Icelandic Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland have the responsibility, on behalf of the Min. of Environment and Nat. Res., to devise a plan to achieve the LULUCF-based objectives of new climate strategy.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  Further increased funding will be made available for achieving carbon sequestration goals outlined in the recent government climate strategy. The responsible

	government agencies are presently deliberating the specific policy tools for achieving the desired outcomes.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 1 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  This year (2019) is the first year of execution of the government climate strategy. Hence, achievements from the government strategy have yet not been achieved. Before that, very little strategy had been formulated, executed or achieved for enhancing forest resources or their contribution to global carbon cycles.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 1, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please)  The major challenge is securing stable and foreseeable financing for implementing the forestry part of the climate strategy, given the small and unstable economy of Iceland. Although budget increases have been set into the government's 5-year budget plan, this is liable to change, if the economy does not perform as expected.

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)  Iceland's forests are generally healthy and free of pests and diseases. Forest fires have been very rare.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  The import of living seedlings of the most ecologically and economically important forest tree genera in Iceland (Betula, Populus, Salix, Larix, Picea and Pinus) is forbidden, in order to prevent the introduction of invasive pests and diseases of trees.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  Inspection of imported, living plants.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 2 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  None.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 2, and the major obstacles to achieving the	(max. 100 words, please)  Despite import restrictions, one new tree pest or disease arrives in Iceland every year. This is mainly owing to the

policy objectives?	import of horticultural trees and shrubs from mainland Europe of other tree genera than are listed above.
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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	(max. 100 words, please)  Among the main goals of Iceland's forest strategy (adopted in 2013) is build up a forest resource; i.e. to develop sustainable forest utilisation and a forest industry. Enhancement of the productive forests is dependent upon a forest resource that Iceland does not have very much of at present. Therefore encouraging more afforestation must be a prerequisite to a forest industry and for increased utilisation of forests (for wood on non-wood production).
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  Measures are being taken to increase greatly annual afforestation in Iceland, with government funding aimed at achieving carbon sequestration targets.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  Financing is aimed to be made available from government sources. Furthermore, amendments to corporate tax laws have been discussed, enabling companies to afforest and receive tax exemptions.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 3 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  The planned increase in afforestation is only in its initial stages and it is therefore premature to describe achievements.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 3, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please)  The major challenge is securing stable and foreseeable financing for implementing the forestry part of the climate strategy, given the small and unstable economy of Iceland. Although budget increases have been set into the government's 5-year budget plan, this is liable to change, if the economy does not perform as expected. Plans to introduce tax exemptions for forestry may also not materialise.

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 present policy objectives for biodiversity in Icelandic forest ecosystems is to enhance forest cover. Forest biodiversity will be primarily enhanced by enhancing forest cover. Since settlement in the 9th century, more than 95% of the native forest and woodland cover has been destroyed.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please) Forests and woodlands, including native woodlands, are to be increased by supporting afforestation and supporting self-seeding of non-commercial native birch woodlands. The most effective means of accomplishing this objective is to limit free-ranging sheep grazing.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please) Steps have been take recently to develop financial incentives for sheepfarmers to limit free-ranging sheep grazing.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 4 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please) Measures are still in their infancy.
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 major obstacle is the one-century old tradition of free-ranging sheep grazing (sheep having the first right to land).

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) One of the main goals in Iceland's forestry strategy is to increase the role of afforestation in soil and water conservation. Most of Iceland suffers from serios soil erosion and land degradation, but there is increased understanding among the public of the role that increased forest cover can play in abating further soil erosion and degradation.

Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  The Icelandic Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland have strengthened their cooperation on afforesting damaged and erosion-prone sites, among other things in order to sequester carbon on such sites (linked to Criterion 1 above).
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  Financial and institutional, as well as cooperation with local municipalities and communities.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 5 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  The first project of this kind is the "Hekla forest project". The main objective of this project is to restore native birch woodlands on 900 km <sup>2</sup> of land in the vicinity of the active volcano Mt. Hekla. The primary goals are to increase the resilience of the ecosystem to deposits of volcanic ash during eruptions in the volcano and prevent secondary distribution of the ash by wind and water. Other goals are the restoration of ecosystem function and biodiversity, carbon sequestration and improved options for future land use. Similar projects elsewhere around the country are in development and preparation.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 5, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please)  Financing of such major afforestation / land rehabilitation projects is the main obstacle.

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)  One of the main goals of the current forest strategy for Iceland (adopted in 2013) is to improve public access to forests and increase the recognition and role of forests in public health. Another major goal is to create employment opportunities and to diversify local economies, especially in rural areas.
Please describe any institutional measures taken to achieve these objectives	(max. 100 words, please)  Measures have been taken by the Icelandic Forest Service to improve access and services in national forest.

	Many of forests most-visited by the public are close to towns and village and these forests are, as a matter of rule, managed by forestry societies (NGOs) in cooperation with local authorities. There is an increased recognition by local authorities on the importance of forests and local forests for health and well-being for the inhabitants.
What policy tools have been put in place to achieve these objectives (e.g. legal, financial, communication)?	(max. 100 words, please)  Financial and communication to the public.
Please describe achievements in the area of Criterion 6 over the past five years	(max. 100 words, please)  The financial crisis of 2008 has slowed down initiatives made in this area.
What are the major challenges in the area of Criterion 6, and the major obstacles to achieving the policy objectives?	(max. 100 words, please)  The major challenge is securing financing for "other" socio-economic functions of forests. Furthermore, there has been a tendency for some municipalities to develop areas where forestry societies had created peri-urban forests for recreation.

## 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

To combat illegal logging and associated trade of forest products: The EU Timber regulation (EUTR; nr. 995/2010) was taken into Icelandic law in 2016 (nr. 95/2016). Although illegal logging has not yet been reported in Iceland, the aim of the law is to prevent trade with forest products coming from illegal logging abroad.

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