

Country: *Papua New Guinea*

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## **National Report to the Tenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests**

### **INTRODUCTORY NOTE**

This streamlined reporting format is prepared in response to the request made in the Resolution on Forests for People, adopted at the ninth session of the Forum in February 2011<sup>1</sup>. Accordingly, the Forum requested the UNFF Secretariat (UNFFS) to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), to ensure simple voluntary national reporting for UNFF 10 focused on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (hereinafter referred to as the forest instrument)<sup>2</sup> and a balanced reporting of all its four Global Objectives on Forests (GOFs).

The streamlined reporting format is the result of consultations with the members of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-Related Reporting. In addition, UNFFS and FAO consulted extensively with government representatives and international experts on this reporting format and its content. These consultations were conducted through five regional capacity-building workshops<sup>3</sup> with the participation of UNFF and FRA national focal points. A total of 136 national and international experts from 78 countries and up to five international organizations participated in the



## General information

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### Abbreviations in the questionnaire/template:

- B.Sc.: Bachelor of Science degree
- C & I: Criteria and indicators processes
- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- FLEGT: Forest law enforcement, governance and trade
- FRA: FAO's global Forest Resources Assessment
- GOF: Global Objectives on Forests
- ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organization
- MDGs: Millennium Development Goals
- M.Sc.: Masters of Science degree

<p>SFM: Sustainable forest management  UN: United Nations  UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests  UNFFS: United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat</p>
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**PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)<sup>5</sup>**

<b>Thematic Clusters of the Forest Instrument</b>	<p>The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference<sup>6</sup>:</p> <p>1A: Strengthening political commitment for sustainable forest management  1B: Financing sustainable forest management  1C: Capacity building and technology transfer  1D: Stakeholder participation  1E: Enhanced international cooperation</p> <p>2A: Forest law enforcement and governance  2B: International Trade in forest products  2C: Protection of forests  2D: Science and research  2E: Public awareness and education  2F: Private sector and industry  2G: Indigenous and local communities  2H: Monitoring, assessment and reporting</p> <p>Data provided on thematic clusters of the forest instrument will also be used for assessing progress toward its Global Objectives on Forests (Qs 33-49).</p>
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**1A: Strengthening political commitment to sustainable forest management**

1. Existence of Forest policy statement with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database <sup>7</sup> (T14 – Policy and legal framework)		
2. Existence of national forest programme (nfp); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 – Policy and legal framework)		
3. Do you have inter-institutional mechanisms/processes for cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management?	<b>Yes</b>	No

Other:

Mining & Petroleum, Environment &  
Conservation,



resources base in the country and in accelerating





conservation (PNG borders with Australia to the South and Indonesia to the West).

**2A: Forest law enforcement and governance**

19. Forest area (1000 hectares) within protective areas

Local communities	15	28
Private sector	8	12
Indigenous communities	15	28

towards the national economy.



national and provincial governments intend to manage and utilize the country's forest resources. The National Forest Plan provides the framework and identifies programmes and activities that must be accomplished to ensure implementation of the policy and compliance with the law. The National Forest Plan also identifies responsibilities for implementation and describes mechanisms for monitoring and providing feedback to the policy and planning process.

- **The Logging Code of Practice** was finalized in February 1996 and tabled in Parliament in July 1996. It is now undergoing a review.
- **The 1996 Forestry Regulations**, which cover all facets of the industry procedures and control, were approved by the National Executive Council during 1996. These Regulations provide the legal status for the implementation of many of the requirements specified under the Forestry Act 1991 (as amended).
- **The Forestry (Amendment no. 2) Act 1996** was passed by Parliament and certified on the 11 October 1996. The major amendment relates to the membership to the Board to still have eight members, including the representatives of a National Resource Owners Association and the Association of Foresters of PNG. Since the Forestry Act was first enacted in 1991, it has been amended six times. The first in 1993, followed by others in 1996, 2000, 2005, 2007 and 2010.
- **Environmental Plans** Lack of concern for the environmental consequences of large development projects has proved costly. In the case of forestry and agricultural projects, the most dramatic and universal impact is the loss of soil productivity, particularly in the humid Tropics. Environmental plans are approved by the Department of Environment and Conservation upon submission by developers and are approved prior to any actual development to take place on the ground. This is to ensure all environment safety standards are complied with to avoid any detrimental effects to the environment. All forestry projects in the country go through this environmental planning process.

#### **Policy formulation in progress**

**b) Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP)**

The flora of PNG contains apart from the timber species non timber forest products most of which have commercial importance. This includes rattan, sandalwood, eaglewood, medicinal plants, resins etc. Smuggling of eaglewood and sandalwood is prevalent in the Western, Gulf and Sepik provinces. Hence, the PNG Forest Authority is considering formulating a policy on non timber forest products.

and where majority of the population are living in remotest areas and need infrastructure development like roads and bridges,



**1. Incorporation of Land Groups**

It is a requirement under the Forestry Act that if the government wishes to manage a forested area, it has to work with a registered land group. The land group has to be incorporated under the Incorporation of Land Groups Act, 2009 (as amended) which requires that all those claiming to own that parcel of forested land have to have a birth certificate certifying that they are from that area.

**2. Forest Management Agreements**





18. Is your country a donor or recipient of ODA for forestry?	Donor		Recipient	
			Recipient	
19. If yes, what has been the net ODA received/donated for forestry (US 1000)?	Donor		Recipient	
	2007	2010	2007	2011
<p>Please use this space to describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 4 (maximum 250 words).</p> <p>The PNG Forest Authority is developing framework and strategies with the view of moving forward to ensure that it becomes a financially autonomous body to enable the redirection of forest based revenue such as export tax, levies and corporate taxes to the PNG Forest Authority. The funds will then be used to carry out meaningful forest management activities, with surplus provided as dividend to the national government.</p>				

<b>PART III: Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals</b>		
<p>Forests can make significant contributions to poverty reduction, improved health, education and gender equity. Sustainable forest management aims to enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the evidence of this contribution and greater recognition of the value of sustainably managed forests are difficult to gather.</p> <p>Currently the only forest-related official MDG indicator that provides information on the proportion of land area covered by forest is Indicator 7.1 under Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. This indicator, however, neither reflects the full range of benefits and services including socio-economic benefits of forests to society, nor the contributions of forests to the achievement of other MDGs. Establishing the direct and indirect links between forests and MDGs is pivotal to ensure that concrete efforts are being taken to reverse the loss of forest cover and to prevent forest degradation while maximizing the benefits of forests for achieving sustainable development.</p> <p>The aim of this part of the reporting format is to explore the existing data, evidence basis and cases demonstrating the contribution of forests and sustainable forest management to MDGs, at the same time identifying gaps in the monitoring systems and lack of adequate indicators.</p>		
<b>Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</b>		
Please indicate the most forest relevant MDGs in your country		
<b>Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger:</b>		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	Yes	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	Yes	
<p>Please list the indicators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Payment of school fees enabling many children to attend schools in remote areas</li> <li>• Increased number of employment in the forestry sector in rural areas</li> <li>• Increased number of infrastructures (aidpost,schools,bridges,roads) build in remote areas</li> <li>• Increase spin-off benefits like small commercial business run by locals in forest development areas on money gained from royalties and levies</li> </ul>		

Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words).  
 Traditional forestry and subsistence use of forests



plantations. Women are at the forefront to support their family units enter into a male dominated area.

This trend of forestry contribution by women to poverty alleviation currently may not be significant, but will certainly be a force as forest resources become scarce and demands for improved living standards in rural communities increases where women will be involved as a family unit.

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?

Yes

No

If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?

Yes

Please list the indicators.

- Improved health and living standards of children in remote areas where there is a timber industry activity

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).

Forest areas and forest diversity provides resilience and stability in changing climatic and ecological regimes. PNG employs selective logging and the forest recoverd very fast for the next crop. Water catchment areas particularly in the upstream are conserved. Areas above 30 degrees slope are not logged. Many areas are being conserved through the initiative of NGOs and the government with intemational donor assistance. There are many mining sites being rehabilitated.

**Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development**

Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your county?

Yes

No

If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?

Yes

Please list the indicators.

- UN Climate Change initiatives being undertaken in PNG

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).

Forest has become the focus of intemational and civil society govemance linkages and market connectedness in globalised economic systems. This provides ethical trading networks for producers of forests and tree product.

Please provide a short description of case studies and success stories on data collection on the contribution of forests to achieve MDGs that could serve as examples of good practice for other countries (maximum 250 words).

**Case study : Oneketo community forestry**

Oneketo Community Forestry is a community initiative project to afforest grassland areas. The project

showed great interest in undertaking such activities at their own initiative. People in this area are used to agricultural practices, specifically, growing coffee. The afforestation of grassland areas will provide additional income through sale of local timber.

There is already widespread interest in the area and the region for afforestation. The PNG Forest Authority in the region is undertaking a major afforestation program and is supplying seedlings to the interested communities. PNG Forest Authority plans to supply 300,000 seedlings throughout the region annually to support the program. Communities are very much interested in afforesting grassland areas and this activity is raising the profile of communities in the region.