

Country: GHANA

Date of submission: 12 OCTOBER, 2012

**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 2011¹

PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)⁵

Thematic Clusters of the Forest Instrument

The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference⁶:

- 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

- 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

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).

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

natural resources. All the above sectors are included in the ENRAC. The ENRAC has been established to take decisions on cross-cutting issues related to natural resources management. In addition an Environmental and Natural Resource Summit is organized annually to provide a platform

Donor country		
Recipient country	p nt ountr	
Describe the nature, source and target of technology transfer (maximum 250 words). Forest mapping through the use of GIS and aerial survey technology under the Forest Preservation Project funded by Japan to assist the Forestry Commission develop capacity for mapping, monitoring and forest inventory systems development. Under the REDD+ programme, technologies in carbon stock enhancement are being transferred under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank.		
9. Are there any incentives for promoting improved technologies for SFM?	Yes	No
If yes, please check where applicable:		
Low-interest loans	YES	
Tax breaks	YES	
Subsidies	YES	
Participation in SFM best practice certification programmes that improve access to markets	YES	
Others; please specify (maximum 250):		
1D: Stakeholder participation		
10. Does your country have programmes for involving stakeholders in SFM policy formulation, planning and implementation? If yes, please indicate the levels:	Yes	No
	YES	
National	YES	
Sub-national	YES	
Local	YES	
<i>D s r t p r o s s s o p u p a r t p a t o n n F , n a t n s t n a n s s a n s t a o r s n v o v a u 0 w o r s . N a t i o n a l , R e g i o n a l a n d D i s t r i c t F o r e s t r y F o r u m s h a v e b e e n e s t a b l i s h e d w i t h r e p r e s e n t a t i o n f r o m a l l t h e r e l e v a n t s e c t o r s . T h e y h a v e b e e n s u p p o r t e d w i t h c a p a c i t y b u i l d i n g a n d f u n d i n g t o d o a d v o c a c y , m o n i t o r i n g a n d r e p o r t i n g o n f o r e s t r e l a t e d i s s u e s . T h e y a l s o p a r t i c i p a t e i n t h e w o r k s h o p o n r e v i e w o f f o r e s t r y s e c t o r p o l i c i e s a n d p r o g r a m m e s .</i>		
1E: Enhanced international cooperation		
11. Is your country engaged in international cooperation in sustainable forest management? If yes, please specify the type of the cooperation:	Yes	No

Socio-economic issues, including livelihoods	<u>YES</u>	
Forest degradation and rehabilitation	<u>YES</u>	
Others; please list: Research and Trade, Restoration of Forest Landscapes, Sustainable Forest Financing, Ecotourism Development and Capacity Building and Technology Transfer		
2A: Forest law enforcement and governance		
13. Existence of law (Act or Code) on forests with national scope; data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T14 - Policy and legal framework).		
14. Since the adoption of the forest instrument in 2007, have steps been taken to strengthen forest-related legislation, law enforcement and governance in support of sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	<u>YES</u>	
15. Is your country participating in international agreements/partnerships to address illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources?	Yes	No
	<u>YES</u>	
If yes, is your country a donor or recipient of capacity building to address forest-related illegal practices?		
Donor country		
Recipient country	RECIPIENT	
Describe the recent significant steps taken to enha		

<p>If yes, please describe them (maximum 200 words).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National launch the International Year of Forest in May 2011 • National Launch of World Environment Day, June 5, 2011; • National launch of Greening Ghana Day, Sept 2011 • National Launch of Anti-Bushfire Campaign, October, 2011 		
25. Has your country implemented actions to increase public awareness of the importance of and the benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management?	<u>YES</u>	
If yes, which of the following approaches have been utilized?		
Published materials, such as brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc.		<u>YES</u>
Meetings with the general public to inform them of the benefits provided by forests to society		<u>YES</u>
Meetings with private and public sector stakeholders to inform them of the benefits of sustainable forest management		<u>YES</u>
Other; please describe (maximum 100 words). Meeting with National House of Chiefs on Benefit-Sharing arrangements organized in November, 2011. Regional and National Stakeholder consultation meetings were organized in 2011 to discuss the existing benefit-sharing schemes in the forest sector and how to improve upon them to enhance the implementation of the REDD+ initiative in Ghana.		
2F: Private sector and industry		
26. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest management exist that engage the private sector and industry?	Yes	No
	<u>YES</u>	
27. Have you established or strengthened public-private partnerships to advance sustainable forest management?	Yes	No
	<u>YES</u>	

If yes, please describe (maximum 250 words).

29. Are local communities and indigenous peoples benefiting from the goods and services produced by forests? ⁸	Yes	No
Describe how this is functioning (maximum 250 words). <i>Where the need is expressed, permits are issued to them to collect the approved resources for their subsistence.</i>	<u>YES</u>	
30. Are traditional forest-related knowledge and practices used in forest management, planning and implementation?	Yes	No
Explain how they are used and by whom (maximum 250). <i>Traditional forest related knowledge such as taboos, totems and norms and practices related to sacred groves are used in the management, planning and implementation of forestry sector activities</i>	<u>YES</u>	
31. Do stakeholder participation mechanisms in support of sustainable forest	Yes	No

Local, indigenous and tribal communities		
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 1 (maximum 250 words).		
Global Objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people		
35. Extent of forest designated and managed for production (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.3 - Forest designation and management).	2005	2010
Extent of forest designated and managed for protection (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for conserv		

alternative livelihoods and strengthen their capacity for the implementation of the collaborative management scheme.

Global Objective 4: Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management;

43. Does your country have a government budget specific for forests?	Yes	No
	YES	
44. What is the total amount of funding in forest management, administration, research and human resource development (US\$ 1,000)	2007	2011

PART III: Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

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.

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.

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.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

assess this contribution?	NA	
Please list the indicators. NA		
Please provide a short description how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 200 words). Women collect sheanuts in the northern part of the country. The forests thus provide women with income generating opportunities thus economically empowering them. Women were also trained in alternative and additional livelihood options and supported with micro-financing under the Community Investment Fund which was implemented in 2015 to support forest fringe communities to improve their livelihoods.		
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality:		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country?	<u>Yes</u>	No
If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	NA	
Please list the indicators. NA		

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). **Many forest fringe and forest dependent communities harvest traditional herbal medicines the use of which contributes to reducing child mortality. Furthermore the harvesting and use of non-forest products such as wild fruits tubers, bush meat as source of protein and seasoning materials, contributes to the nutritional requirement of the child thus keeping them healthy and reduce use of**

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development		
Does SFM contribute to achieving this goal in your country? If so, do you have specific indicators and data which could be/are being used to assess this contribution?	<u>Yes</u>	No
	YE	
Please list the indicators. Number of global partnerships or agreements signed by Ghana. E.G. the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU.		

Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words). ***The maintenance of appreciable forest cover and the design and implementation of credible sustainable forest management policies and programmes have enabled Ghana to earn global partnerships with GEF,***