

Country: United States of America  
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**National Report to the Tenth Session of the  
United Nations Forum on Forests**

## General information

### Head of forest agency

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Title:	Chief, US Forest Service

**PART I: The Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument)<sup>1</sup>**

**Thematic Clusters  
of the Forest  
Instrument**

The forest instrument has been grouped into five cross-cutting and eight thematic clusters for easy reference<sup>2</sup>:

and Canada's Agri-Environment Service Branch's Agroforestry Development Centre will advance agroforestry science and practices for adapting to climate, increasing forest and farmer landowner profits and contributing to food security -- while protecting soil, water and air quality. <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2012/04/0121.xml&contentidonly=true>

4. Are your national forest programmes and relevant policies and strategies contributing to poverty eradication?	Yes	
If yes, please specify :		
National forest programs have been revised to include specific measures and resources for eradicating poverty.		Yes
National poverty eradication plans and strategies or equivalent have been revised to incorporate sustainable forest management.		Yes

Please describe specific actions or measures taken to er





to strengthen forest-related legislation, law enforcement and governance in support of sustainable forest management?	X	
15. Is your country participating in international agreements/partnerships to address illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber,	Yes	No

cooperation with China and Indonesia pursuant to bilateral MOUs on Combating Illegal Logging and Associated Trade. Other trade enhancement activities occur at various levels and in various sectors in the United States. At the federal level, wood products trade



<sup>1</sup>USDA Forest Service Budget Overview (<http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/>).

<sup>2</sup>Funds expended by accredited forestry schools as reported to USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (<http://cris.nifa.usda.gov/fsummaries.html>).

22. Does your country have an institute(s) promoting the development and application of scientific and technological innovations for SFM?	Yes	No
	X	
If yes, do they have extension programs for promoting the use of these scientific and technological innovations directed at forest owners, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders?	Yes	No
	X	
How many persons from the following groups were reached by these extension programs?	2007	2011
Forest owners*	1,430,416	4,693,792
*The Forest owners' data is collected from Extension Foresters at 72 institutions that receive Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) funds to conduct extension programs on forest and rangeland resources. The institutions use a standard set of national indicators for "Forest Stewardship and Health" and "Land Conversion, Parcelization and Fragmentation." The large increase from FY 2007 to FY 2011 is likely due to increased use of electronic media (internet, social media, etc.) that are considered to be indirect contacts.		
Local communities	NA	NA
Private sector	NA	NA
Indigenous communities	NA	NA
<b>2E: Public awareness and education</b>		
23. Graduation of students in forest-related education: data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T 16 - Education and research).		
Number of students in forest-related education graduated with M.Sc. degree or equivalent		

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Meetings with private and public sector stakeholders to inform them of the benefits of sustainable forest management

X



If yes, how many persons from the following communities were the beneficiaries?	2007	2011
Indigenous	NA	NA
Local		
<b>Part II: The Global Objectives on Forests</b>		
<b>Global Objective 1: Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;</b>		
33. Extent of the country's forests and other wooded lands (1000 ha.); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.1 - Extent of forest and other wooded land)	2005	2010
34. Extent of the country's forests under public/private ownership (1000 ha); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.2 - Forest ownership and management rights).	2005	2010
Extent of the country's forests under private ownership (1000 ha)		
Extent of privately-owned forests according to the following categories (1000 ha)		
Individual		
Business entities and institutions		
Local, indigenous and tribal communities		
Describe any significant actions related to Global Objective on Forests 1 (maximum 250 words).		
<p>In the United States, the extent of forest cover has been relatively stable for several decades. This is the result of federal and state land use planning and reforestation requirements, as well as conservation easement and land acquisition programs including the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund <a href="http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/">http://www.lwcfcoalition.org/</a> and the Forest Legacy Program <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/oa/flp.shtml">http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/oa/flp.shtml</a>. Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded lands has been facilitated most recently through the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and Stewardship Contracting initiatives. Internationally, the US has been engaged with the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration <a href="http://www.ideastransformlandscapes.org/">http://www.ideastransformlandscapes.org/</a> and has recently pledged to restore 15 million hectares of forest land in the United States by 2020.</p>		
<b>Global Objective 2: Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people</b>		
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 conservation (1000 ha)		
Extent of forest designated and managed for social services (1000 ha)		
36. Total volume of industrial roundwood removal (1000 m <sup>3</sup> ); data will be derived by UNFFS from FRA database (T.11 - Forest Wood removals and value of removals).	2005	2010
Total value of industrial roundwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total volume of fuelwood removal (1000 m <sup>3</sup> )		
Total value of fuelwood removal (US\$1000)		
Total value of non-wood forest products (NWFP) (US\$1000)		
37. Has your country established a mechanism(s) for payment of ecosystem services?		No
		X
If yes, what is the estimated	2005	2011

has been underway for many years. A new "Forests to Faucets" program <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2011/releases/11/water.shtml> has mapped critical surface area drinking water and areas where payment for watershed services may be an option for financing conservation on forest lands. It has been estimated that the cost of treating drinking water increases 20 percent for every loss of 10 percent

forest resource utilization across the broader production and supply chain; reforest degraded areas to serve production and livelihood needs, enhance food security; maintain ecosystem services; and improve conservation of natural forests. Domestically, federal agencies, states and territories are seeking ways to increase forest health, resiliency, and sustainability in the face of increasing threats from urbanization, globalization, and climate change. Through implementation of a new federal Forest Planning Rule <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule> and state Forest Action Plans <http://www.forestationplans.org/about-action-plans/recent-news/new-website-provides-one-stop-portal>, efforts are underway to better manage forests and address the threats that face them. Certification of forests is increasing, particularly on private lands. A number of state forests are certified and some Federal agencies lands, including the Department of Defense. Forest certification has also been recognized by some government agencies as an important tool to support sustainable forest management. In 2011, USDA Secretary Vilsack advocated that wood should be a major component of American building and energy design <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2011/09/0426.xml&contentidonly=true> because its use provides substantial environmental benefits, jobs in rural America and incentives for private landowners to maintain forest land. Also in 2011, the Department of Education announced evaluation criteria for its "Green Ribbon Schools" including sourcing of office paper composed of "recycled content in accordance with EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guide for fiber from forests certified as responsibly managed by the Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, American Tree Farm System or comparable certification standard." In addition, several significant new federal protected areas were established since 2007 including: 764,090 acres (309,216 hectares) of wilderness and 117,514 acres (47,556 hectares) of wild and scenic rivers.

**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	
	X	
44. What is the total amount of funding in forest management, administration, research and human resource development (US\$ 1,000)?  <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/">http://www.fs.fed.us/aboutus/budget/</a>	2007 USFS Total: \$4.8 Billion	2011 USFS Total: \$6 Billion
45. If the funding for forests is spread among other sectors, please specify the main contributors:		
Agriculture	NA	
Energy	NA	
Water	NA	
Climate change	NA	
Nature conservation	NA	
Others; please specify:  State forestry agency spending totaled \$2.74 Billion in 2008 and \$2.4billion in 2010.		
46. Has the country been able to mobilize significantly increased financial resources for the implementation of SFM since 2007? If yes, please specify sources:		No
Domestic public funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
Domestic private sector funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)
External private sector funding	2007 (US\$)	2011 (US\$)

If there has been no increase, please describe the main challenges in mobilizing funds (maximum 250 words).

The United States has been a supporter of sustainable forest management for decades, with long-term mobilization of public and

revenues, as in other countries. At the same time, new partnerships have formed to implement a number of new initiatives and other competitive efforts as described in previous sections of this report. One new private sector example is the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Conservation and Community Partnerships' grant program which invested a total of \$126,500 in 2012, bringing the





Please list the indicators.		
Please describe how forests contribute to achieving this goal (maximum 250 words).		
<b>Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability</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?	X	
Please list the indicators.		
<p>Use of Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management at the national, regional, and state levels.<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Forest certification efforts through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, the Forest Stewardship Council, and related organizations providing certification based on quantitative measures aimed at achieving SFM.</p> <p>Numerous other federal, state and local monitoring efforts aimed at ensuring environmental quality and sustainable management of natural resources (e.g. state level best management practices for forests).</p>		

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

US forests cover 751 million acres, or close to one third of the total US land mass. Their contribution to the various dimensions of environmental sustainability is complex and significant. Forests support much of the nation's biodiversity, they enhance water quality and regulate stream flow, and they provide aesthetic and spiritual amenities of inestimable value to US citizens. In recent years, forest management has increasingly expanded its scope to encompass not simply the management of trees for commodity

indicator information <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/environment/forestsandtrees/programbackground.html> has been used to engage the public in forest management decisions. In Oregon, the Oregon Department of Forestry has used the Montreal Process C&I framework to collaboratively establish a set of baseline indicators which measure the state's progress toward achieving its goal of sustainable forest management. The U.S. is also engaged in a number of multi-lateral processes and forest-related reporting efforts including with FAO, the ECE Timber Committee, UNFF, ITTO and IUCN, and non-governmental organizations such as the World Resources Institute. Work has increased awareness of the value of forests and their sustainable management, and results have been significant to progress of recent international climate change negotiations, as well as efforts to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. In particular, assessments done by the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration have identified over 2 billion hectares of degraded land and lost forests globally; providing the basis for the "Bonn Challenge" which aims to restore 150 million hectares of lost forests and degraded lands worldwide by 2020. New analysis shows that restoring these lands would be worth an estimated US \$ 85 billion per year to national and global economies. <http://www.ideastransformlandscapes.org/> The US has pledged to restore 15 million hectares domestically to date.