



Forest Management Plans or equivalent instruments

Summary of Member States' replies to the DG ENV questionnaire

At the occasion of the 129th meeting of the SFC on 28 June 2013, DG ENV announced to compile Member State's input, subsequently developed into a questionnaire sent on 8 October 2013. The table below summarizes the replies of most of the Member States. At the 130th, 131st and 132nd meetings, the subject was again at the agenda. Those from which replies were missing were invited to contribute to this exercise or to complement replies already given by sending the requested information to DG ENV. To date (end of July 2014), 26 of the 28 Member States replied.

The table below summarises their input¹. The content does not reflect the volume of the individual replies: Where little information was provided, the replies were taken up in their totality. In contrast, in case a Member State with very complex structures replied extensively, a drastic cut of the reply took place.

This compilation of replies from Member States aims at giving a brief overview of planning tools for forest management in the EU Member States. Together with the original replies from the Member States, the present working document generally forms a shared knowledge base, supplementary to the FRA2015. Specifically it could support Member States in their implementation of their rural development programmes, relevant to those articles which lay down requirements for forest operators over a certain, nationally defined size to have a FMP or equivalent tool in order to become eligible (Art. 21, 24, 34, 35 and 45 of Rural Development Regulation 1305/2013).

1. With regard to PUBLICLY OWNED forests:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Is there an obligation for publicly owned forests to have a Management Plan? If yes, please briefly describe the legal and administrative framework for such plans. If not, to what extent are those taken up voluntarily?	
AT	<p>The Austrian Forest Act applies both to privately and publicly owned forests. Its Section 1 defines sustainable forest management in accordance with the definition given in resolution H3 of the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference, and lays down the general rules for sustainable forest management. Further provisions of the Austrian Forest Act regulate in more detail the treatment of forests (prohibition of clearing, reforestation obligation, ban on forest destruction, prohibition of clearcutting, maximum allowable cut).</p> <p>There is no general obligation for public forest owners (which manage approximately 20 % of Austria's forest land, of which approximately 88 % are administered by Österreichische Bundesforste AG, ÖBf AG) to prepare a Forest Management Plan (FMP).</p>

¹ Some MS replied to the original four questions from the Commission in June 2013, and as a consequence sometimes the numbering of questions and specific replies do not correspond.

	<p>As the Austrian Forest Act does not include any general obligation for enterprises to prepare Management Plans there are no surveys or official data on the extent to which Management Plans are used. It can be assumed, however, that virtually all publicly owned forests are managed using a Management Plan.</p> <p>At a higher level, however, the Austrian Forest Act very well provides for planning. According to Sections 6 ff. (forest land use planning) the entire Austrian forest area has to be described in the Forest Development Plan in terms of the relevant key functions (economic, protective, beneficial, and recreational function). Forest Development Plans are revised every 10 years by the forest authority and include also requirements concerning the treatment of forests during that period.</p> <p>Publicly owned forests account for about 20 % of Austria's forest land. 17 % thereof are held by ÖBf AG. The tasks of ÖBf AG are set out in a separate law (Austrian Federal Forests Act, in German "Bundesforstgesetz") which includes also provisions on the system and volume of forest management. However, according to Section 5 of the 1996 Federal Forests Act Österreichische Bundesforste AG has to respect the goals and objectives set in the public interest in the management of the forest areas they administer. In particular, ÖBf AG is obligated to ensure and further develop the protective, beneficial and recreational effects of forests in the best possible way, to preserve the drinking and industrial water resources, and to safeguard the public interest in areas which are particularly valuable or sensitive in ecological terms.</p> <p>In Austria, the Rural Development Regulation provided that, during the 2007 – 2013 period, all forest enterprises (also private ones) with a size of 1,000 hectares or more that want to be granted subsidies have to submit forest management plans for their enterprises. For the new subsidisation period this size limit still needs to be defined in the Austrian Special Directive on the RDR 2014 - 2020. There are also MPs for (public and private) areas enjoying special protection under nature conservation law, for example for Natura 2000 areas, national parks or nature conservation areas.</p>
BE-WL (Wallonia)	<p>Yes, for all public forest holdings >20 ha, by the 'Departement de la Nature et des Forêts (DNF)'. Public consultation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natura 2000: FMP submitted to Commission de conservation des sites N2000 2. Natural public reserve: FMP to Commission consultative de gestion des réserves naturelles domaniales 3. Agreed natural reserve: FMP submitted to the reserve manager 4. Forest reserve: FMP to Conseil supérieur wallon de la conservation de la nature 5. Natural parc: FMP submitted to Commission de gestion des parcs naturels. <p>After this broad consultation, decisions taken by Conseil wallon de l'environnement pour le développement durable. DNF has scrutiny regard.</p> <p>Forests < 20ha = less than 1% of forest land, 40% of which are PEFC certified.</p>
BG	<p>Yes, Bulgarian Law on Forests, for all forests 2- 50 ha (public and municipal forests, natural and legal persons and their associations) on forest planning, hunting and env. functions incl. soils. Every 10 years.</p> <p>< 2 ha: FMP in the frame or NFIs, financial support by state</p> <p>MP for nature and national parks on landscape characteristics and N2000 MPs adopted by Council of Ministers . Special plans for hunting activities</p>
CY	<p>Yes. National Forest Law. Every 10 years max., the Director of Forests approves FMPs for state forests, nature reserves, national forest parks protective forests and forest</p>

	<p>parks. FMP coverage of state forests: 49,7%. Biannually logging plans based on NFIs.</p> <p>FMPs contain detailed description of the biotic and abiotic environments well as of the socioeconomic conditions of the forest including cultural and historical information.</p>
CZ	<p>Yes, this obligation is contained in the Forest Act and applies to all legal entities and individuals who own over 50 hectares of forests.</p> <p>The plans include binding provisions and provisions of recommendation. Binding provisions of the plan are the maximum aggregate volume of felled timber and the minimum share of soil-improving and reinforcing species for stand regeneration. The owner of the forest shall be entitled to partial reimbursement by the state of any increased costs of planting the minimum share of soil-improving and reinforcing species. The rules for the promotion of planting of such species shall be determined by the Ministry by way of a legal regulation. With regard to state forests and forests in the ownership of municipalities, the minimum area of tending activities in stand of under 40 years of age shall also be a binding provision.</p> <p>Legal entities entrusted with the management of state forests and other legal entities and individuals who own over 50 hectares of forests in the area of competence of the approving public forest administration authority (Art. 27) shall be obliged to arrange the preparation of the plans.</p> <p>Legal entities and individuals who own less than 50 hectares of forest may also carry out forestry activities according to a plan.</p> <p>One plan may be prepared for forests of a maximum area of twenty thousand hectares.</p> <p>Legal entities and individuals, whose plans have been approved, shall be obliged to comply with the binding provisions of such plans</p>
DE	<p>Yes. At federal (0.4 M ha) and Land level (3.3 M ha). Also for estimated 95% of communal forests (Körperschaftswald on 2.2 M ha). Only in some of the Länder, small communal and other than purely public/private forests are exempted.</p> <p>Public forest owners in Germany are obliged to have a FMP (periodischer Betriebsplan or Forsteinrichtungswerk). Only communes in small forest ownership are exempted in some of the Länder. Legislation at federal and Länder-level. See example of Bavaria.</p>
DK	
EE	<p>Yes, Forest Act. Every 10 years, based on NFI data submitted to Forest Register.</p>
ES	<p>Yes according to Spanish Forest Act (2006), which is further developed by the autonomous communities' legislation. The latter set min. area and can exempt small holdings. Approval by the forest body of the Autonomous Community. FMP compulsory for all Forest, public and private forest by 2019 (<i>National Law</i>). Regional Governments can make exceptions for small holdings. The region of Galicia adopted a recent Law (2012) that requires all public forests, and all private forests bigger than 25 ha to have a FMP. The national act is further developed by the autonomous communities' legislation. These plans must be finished before 2018; a period of 15 years is given to all forests to achieve this FMP, either of private or public ownership.</p> <p>See also under private forests (point 2) and additional information (point 6).</p>
FI	<p>Yes, a multi-stage planning system at regional and local levels for state forests</p> <p>Metsähallitus is the state enterprise administering 12 M ha (State owns 26% of forest land)</p> <p>1. Natural resource planning: nature conservation, forestry, recreation, eco-tourism, real estate and sale of soil resources. Multifunctional objectives. Stakeholders involved</p>

	<p>2. Management and land-use planning for nature conservation, wilderness and hiking areas, incl. env. impact assessments.</p> <p>3. Operational planning includes silviculture and felling plans (in commercial forests) and nature management, forest and mire restoration and route plans (in conservation areas).</p> <p>4. Other public forests (municipalities, parishes, corporations, = 2% of public forests) usually have a FMP even though they are not mandatory.</p>
FR	<p>Yes. By ONF, plans d'aménagement approved by Min.agr. FMP compulsory in all public and communal forests. Code forestier, article L212-1 and followings. The FMPs need to comply with: - directives regionals d'aménagement or - schemas régionaux d'aménagement for forests owned by territorial authorities. FMP are valid for 10 to 20 years.</p>
GR	<p>Yes, for all state owned forests.</p> <p>According to the forest legislation a 10-year Forest Management Plan is drawn up according to the specifications in force, defines and organizes the types and the timetable of all the activities that have to take place in the forest.</p> <p>The management plans for state forests are elaborated by foresters working in the Local Forest Offices and they are approved by the Director General for Forests and Rural Environment of the respective Decentralized Administration.</p>
HR	<p>Yes, according to Croatian Forest Act. Every 10 years. Approved by the Min. competent for forestry. Croatian Forests Ltd., owned by the State, develops FMPs. Implementation controlled by forest inspection.</p>
HU	<p>Yes. Every 10 years. Same obligation for private and public ownership. Regional FMPs drawn up with stakeholders involved cover around 10 to 15,000 ha. They include inventory, maps, optionally restrictions and conservation management rules. Compliance with FMP controlled by forestry authority.</p>
IE	<p>No statutory obligation. The majority of public forests are owned / managed by Coillte - the Irish Forest Board. A small component of the public forest estate is owned by the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Bord na Móna - the Irish turf development authority, the Office of Public Works. Public forests = 54.3% of national forest estate.</p> <p>FSC certification requesting FMPs. Coillte has FSC forests requiring FMPs. While there is no there is no statutory requirement to produce these plans, the Forest Service in practice require and use the Coillte FMPs as an integral component in the licensing process. The two national parks and two other protected sites (N2000 and SAC) are covered by five-year FMPs. Voluntary management agreements possible. If support is requested under rural development or state aid rules, a FMP is needed (registered foresters).</p> <p>New legislation under consideration by Parliament may require the owner to submit a FMP in certain instances.</p>
IT	<p>Yes. Forest management plans for publicly owned forest are mandatory under the provision of the national law n. 3267 billed in 1923.</p> <p>In Italy public forest can be owned by Municipalities, Regions and the State, which are responsible for its management.</p>
LT	<p>Yes. Law on forests. Valid for 10 years. Two types of FMPs approved by the Min.Env.</p>

	<p>1) FM schemes by regions all 10 years, on forest cover, conversion of land, etc. 2) Internal FM projects (FMP) on protection, forest functions, fellings, restoration, etc.</p>
LU	<p>Yes. Ordonnance royale grand-ducale 1840 and FM legislation 1920. Every 10 years. Nature Administration competent for public forests. 1) FMP for all public forests >150 ha (FMP) 2) simplified FMP (SFMP) 3) Simple forest operation plan(SFOP) : 20 to 150 ha.</p>
LV	<p>Yes for state forests. Every 10 years. Use of timber, development of economy, maintaining forest ecological value, satisfying social needs.</p>
MT	
NL	<p>No. It is assumed, though, that there is a long term management plan for the total forest area owned and managed by public organisations (160,000 ha) and nature conservation organisations (58,000 ha).</p>
PL	<p>Yes. Act on forests of 1991. FMP are prepared every 10 years, for each single forest district (State Forests). A simplified version of FMP has to be drawn for private forests above a size of 10 ha (in some cases also at a village level). Some exceptions for forests owned by the State Treasury, being part of Agricultural Property Stock (simplified FMPs). Plans are approved by the Minister of Environment (in case of State Forests) and by a local governors (in case of private forests). FMP determines all the activities taken as components of forest management, including silviculture, nature protection and assessment of the volume of wood that can be logged. A separate part of FMP is the Nature Conservation Program that includes a broad description of nature condition as well as protection tasks and methods for their implementation. Currently, some of FMPs are developed in cooperation with the bodies supervising the Natura 2000 network in Poland.</p>
PT	<p>Yes. Forest Policy Act 1996 and Decree 2009.</p> <p>3 levels of forest planning:</p> <p>1) Regional FMPs (PROFs): binding general guidelines. These are sectorial policy instruments for the regional level (with reference to statistical territorial units level III). The content of these plans includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Socio - economic and biophysical characterization of the region, leading to the identification of homogeneous sub-regions; - Strategic analysis; - Identification, according to an hierarchy of local importance, of the main functions at sub-regional level: 1) production, 2) protection and conservation of soil and water resources; 3) maintenance and conservation of habitats, species and geomonuments; 3) provision of other resources - grazing, hunting and inland fishing, geological resources and renewable energy, 4) leisure and landscape functions; - The suitable management models for the sub-regional level, taking into account the different (above) forest functions; - Identification of sensitive zones; - Some operational level guidelines. <p>2) FMPs (PGFs) for FM at holding level, based on PROFs, determine the nature of concrete interventions, includes biodiversity management program which are</p>

	<p>mandatory for designated areas for nature conservation. These are tools for managing forest areas at the unit/holding level, according to the guidelines defined in the respective forest regional plan.</p> <p>The content of the FMP includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brief social and territorial context (including existing restrictions); - Characterization of the resources, namely on forest stands, grazing areas, hunting and inland fisheries activities and other resources; - The exploitation model: programs for the management of wood and non-wood production, other services and a biodiversity management program whenever the forest holding overlaps with a designated area for nature conservation (Natura 2000 sites, protected areas at national level and other areas protected for nature and biodiversity reasons such as under Ramsar Convention). <p>3) Specific Forest Intervention Plans (PEIFs) for forests exposed to major risks (biotic and abiotic). Contains an Operational Plan (map, indicators, budget).</p> <p>These are instruments that design specific intervention measures in forest areas that have major biotic (ex: incident cases of invasive plant or pest or diseases outbreaks) or abiotic problems (ex: very high forest fires' risk). In addition to the brief description of existing resources, and the demonstration of its compatibility with the guidelines contained in the forest regional plan, they focus on an Operational Plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - map with the summary of recommended interventions and a list of implementation indicators; - estimated budget and the mechanisms and procedures for coordination between the various individual and collective actors.
RO	Yes. According to "Forest Management Planning" of the Forest Code.
SE	<p>As there is no difference between publicly and private owned forests regarding obligations in legislation, this is the same answer as for question number 2 below.</p> <p>The obligation of having a FMP was taken away from the Swedish Forest Act in 1994. Instead a nationwide GIS database was established. The information in the database covers all forest properties and is available for forest owners and authorities, free of charge through internet. The database includes information on Natura 2000- and other protected areas as well as other ecosystems with biodiversity and social values.</p> <p>All forest land is covered by regularly updated satellite imagery and aerial photography. All past and planned (for the following 2 years) harvest activities are shown for each individual property, including regeneration method used/planned, outtake of bioenergy, scarification method, environmental and cultural protection activities etc.</p> <p>Forest owners have free access to this database and increasingly use it as a planning tool.</p> <p>Furthermore, forest owners have to send harvest notifications to the Swedish Forest Agency and there is a possibility to do this immediately through this platform. As the GIS database integrates data on Natura 2000 areas and other nature reserves, special considerations areas (hydrological, historical, biological, etc) the SFA system for monitoring the implementation of the forest legislation is highly interactive and</p>

	<p>automated without losing in quality.</p> <p>Most of the forest owners in Sweden have their own FMP, often offered by timber buying companies as a service to the forest owners. FSC- and PEFC-certified forest owner are obliged to have a FMP due to certification request. An estimation is that regarding family forestry, approx. 8.5 M ha are covered by FMPs.</p> <p>Productive forest land 22,5 M ha, half under FSC, half under PEFC, with some overlap because of dubbel-certified forest owners.</p> <p>An overall expert estimation is that >95% of forest land is covered by some sort of management plan in Sweden.</p> <p>In Sweden FMPs are considered a tool for forest owners/managers to: plan their business activities on the medium-term (normally 10 years) and plan their environmental care in detail for each stand.</p> <p>FMPs are not used as a tool for evaluation of implementation of the forest legislation. This is done, amongst others, by means of the system described above.</p>
SI	<p>Yes (Act on Forests 1993) irrespective of ownership and size of property.</p> <p>a) regional FMPs > 70,000 ha, every 10 years</p> <p>b) plans for forest management units, average size 5,000 ha, every 10 years</p> <p>c) silviculture plans (implementation plans for 20-100 ha of forests)</p>
SK	Yes (Forest Act 2005), for every forest holder
UK	Yes. But no legal requirement per se. All public forests have comprehensive FMPs and have to be managed according to the UK Forestry standard UKFS- the UK approach for SFM. All plans are available for public scrutiny and comment.

2 - With regard to **PRIVATELY OWNED** forests:

Is there an obligation for privately owned forests to have a Management Plan? To what extent are there (individual and/or grouped) forest management plans? Please briefly describe the legal, administrative or any other (voluntary) frameworks for such plans. How is the adoption of MP by forest owners encouraged when it is not mandatory?

AT	<p>The Forest Act provides the legal framework for the management of all Austrian forests, regardless of the type of ownership. To ensure sustainability, it provides for numerous management restrictions and stipulations, such as the requirement for certain measures to be authorised by the forest authority. Even more stringent regulations apply to protection forests. Under the Forest Act, forest enterprises are not required to draw up management plans. In practice, however, all larger forest enterprises use management plans (in Austria referred to as "Operate") as a basis for operational control. The(se) management plans are usually updated or revised every 10 years in the framework of forest management, defined as a periodic medium and long-term plan and a performance analysis at the forest enterprise:</p> <p>One incentive to use FMPs (apart from the fact that they are required for the allocation of funds, see response to question 1) is that subsidies can be granted for the preparation of such plans in the framework of the National Rural Development Programme.</p> <p>Forest management planning has a long tradition in Austria; it dates back at least to the</p>
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	<p>nineteenth century and is nowadays often performed in combination with modern methods of remote sensing (e.g. laser scanning). Review or approval by an authority is usually not required.</p> <p>About half of the Austrian forest is managed by the owners of small private forests, usually by forest farmers. The forest is often part of a family-run combined agricultural and forestry holding which is passed on from one generation to the next. Sustainable management by the owner of the forest is very important in this context. In many cases not written plans but the traditional know-how of sustainable forest management and a good, well-established range of forestry training and education opportunities provide the basis for this management.</p> <p>Also the provision of instruments to compile such plans is a means to encourage forest owners to prepare FMPs.</p> <p>Every forest owner can also get advice from the Chamber of Agriculture or from the local forest authority for free or for a small contribution to cover costs. The preparation or improvement of forest-related management plans or exploitation plans for enterprises is eligible for subsidisation under the national Rural Development Programme. For enterprises with more than 1,000 hectares, forest-related plans are a precondition for the allocation of subsidies to improve the economic value of forests.</p> <p>Forest land use planning as set out in the Forest Act provides for three planning instruments for the presentation and foresighted planning of the forest conditions: the Forest Development Plan, the Hazard Zone Plan and the Technical Forestry Plan. Whilst the first two have only an indirect impact on forest enterprises, the Technical Forestry Plan offers forest owners an opportunity to outline and plan certain technical fields in their personal sphere of interest.</p> <p>For the review of sustainability at regional and federal level several monitoring instruments are available. The most comprehensive one is the Austrian Forest Inventory, but other surveys like the annual removal report or the test operation grid, which provides information about the earning situation in forestry, also provide an important decision-making basis for forest policy in order to ensure the sustainable management of the Austrian forest.</p>
BE-WL	<p>No. No legal obligation. But FMP or equivalent on 50% of private forest land, as PEFC requests MP). Privateowners association Société Royale Forestière de Belgique helps elaborating FMPs. It is subsidised, also to promote PEFC and suggests using a template. Wallonian Government supports establishment of FMPs and PEFC. Additional support for very small holdings (www.oewb.be).</p> <p>According to a 2005 inquiry, 50 % of private forests do have a FMP or equivalent (plan simple de gestion).</p> <p>32000 ha of private ownership are PEFC certified with the obligation to have a MP. Private owners can ask private and independent forest experts and forest engineers to elaborate a MP (plan de gestion).</p>
BG	<p>Yes, for all private owners managing their forests. Support is envisaged only for the small scale forest owners (up to 2 ha) which property is included in the overall FMP.</p>
CY	<p>Yes, but private forestry does not exist (low productivity, severe land fragmentation). Any group or union of private forest owners may request recognition as private owner organisation as an organisation of owners upon submission of an application accompanied by a FMP.</p>

CZ	<p>Yes, for all owners > 50ha. Max. 20,000 ha for one single FMP. Owners < 50 ha may also carry out forestry activities according to a FMP. Binding provisions on max. volume of allowed logging and min. share of soil-improving species.</p>
DE	<p>Yes, in some of the Länder for bigger private forests and in general (without obligation) for bigger private forests. FMPs cover 29% of private forests (1,4 million ha).</p> <p>According to the federal legislation, all forest owners are obliged to manage their forests sustainably and according to the existing provisions.</p> <p>With regards to the unfavourable ownership structure the most of the parliaments of the Länder exempted private forest owners from having FMPs. However, legislation in some of the Länder foresee the possibility to oblige bigger private forest owners o have FMPs (e.g. Baden-Württemberg).</p> <p>No for small forests. Only 12 % of private forests are >1.000 ha, while 57% are below 20ha, the average size being 2.5 ha/owner. Most of the forest owners with little and very little forest area do not have FMPs. However, this does not mean that they manage their forests in an unsustainable manner.</p> <p>Almost all bigger forest owners do have FMPs. In DE a non-negligible new group of forest owners is currently being created: mostly nature protection associations or NGOs which aim at boosting nature conservation and biodiversity related targets. Thus, in the last few years 70,000 ha forest land has been transferred as Natural national heritage to the Länder and nature protection associations, to which the status of private forest owner applies.</p> <p>The legal and administrative framework for FMPs is determined by the existing legislation and provisions applicable in the Länder.</p> <p>Incentives by the tax legislation encourage forest owners to establish non-mandatory FMPs. Thus, extraordinary fellings (tree cutting after disasters) are only recognized as falling under the tax legislation if a FMP exists. This represents an important incentive, especially for bigger forest management entities.</p>
DK	
EE	<p>No, in private forests having a FMP is not mandatory. However, for major fellings valid inventory data submitted to Forest Register is required. Usually the private forest owners are provided with FMPs unless the owner objects it. As the owners usually do not object, majority of forest owners, who have ordered forest inventory, also do have FMPs. The requirements for inventory data and content of the plan are the same regardless of ownership type (public/private). Forest inventory and compilation of the management plan in private forest is financially supported.</p>
ES	<p>Yes, according to Spanish Forest Act, which is further developed by the autonomous communities' legislation. The latter set min. area and can exempt small holdings. Flexibility approach for small forest owners when following regional guidelines. FMP compulsory for all Forest, public and private forest by 2019 (<i>National Law</i>). Regional Governments can make exceptions for small holdings. The region of Galicia adopted a recent Law (2012) that requires all public forests, and all private forests bigger than 25 ha to have a FMP. The national act is further developed by the autonomous communities' legislation. These plans must be finished before 2018; a period of 15 years is given to all forests to achieve this FMP, either of private or public ownership.</p> <p>See also under public forests (point 1) and additional information (point 6).</p>
FI	<p>72% of forest land is private. During the years approximately two thirds of the private forest owners have had a forest management plan (FMP).</p>

	<p>1. Family forests (60% of forest land). Regional plans, updated every 10-15 years. FMPs exist for 2/3 of private owners. Remote sensing for 55% of private forests (target 100% by 2020). Data base for forest owners. FMPs based on aims and wishes of owner.</p> <p>2. Company forests (9% of forest land): private companies with very detailed non-mandatory FMPs based on SFM and usually ISO standards.</p> <p>3. Jointly owned forests (2% of forest land) belonging to several real estates with mandatory FMPs based on SFM.</p>
FR	<p>Yes. FMP compulsory in all private forests bigger than 25 ha: plan simple de gestion. < 25ha: Grouped plans de gestion (réglement type de gestion) cover several properties.</p> <p>Or voluntary "plans simple de gestion" between 10 and 25 ha.</p> <p>FMP are valid for 10 to 20 years. They are needed to ask for subsidies and tax facilities.</p> <p>All these plans need to be approved by a regional office, regarding their compatibility with a regional framework document approved by Min.agr.</p>
GR	<p>Yes, for all forests over 100 ha and of annual fellings over 200 m³.</p> <p>Currently 85 Forest Management Plans, approved by the Forest Service, are in full operation: 48 in state forests and 37 in privately-owned forests.</p> <p>The Forest Service is responsible for managing the state forests while supervises the management of the non-state forests. The management plans for non-state forests are drawn-up by freelance professional foresters and are approved by the Forest Service. The local Forest Service also marks the trees to be felled, monitors fellings, controls and estimates the value of timber produced, issues transport licenses, supplies forest owners with planting material, protects non-state forests and subsidises forest owners.</p>
HR	<p>Yes, according to Croatian Forest Act. Every 10 years. Approved by the Min. competent for forestry. Croatian Forests Ltd. owned by the State develops FMPs. Implementation controlled by forest inspection.</p>
HU	<p>Yes. Same obligation for private and public ownership. Regional FMPs drawn up with stakeholders involved cover around 10 to 15,000 ha. See also under public forests.</p>
IE	<p>No. An estimated 41% of private forest with FMP (or 19% of IRL forest area). New legislation under consideration by Parliament may require the owner to submit a FMP in certain instances. FSC certification requesting FMPs. The two national parks and two other protected sites (N2000 and SAC) are covered by five-year FMPs. Voluntary management agreements possible. If support is requested under rural development or state aid rules, a FMP is needed subject to certain area thresholds . FSC and PEFC require management plans.</p>
IT	<p>No, it is voluntary.</p> <p>The extent of private forest covered by management plan is very limited and the management usually refers to individual holdings.</p> <p>Regions (19) and autonomous provinces (2) are responsible for forest management and consequently for the final approval of MP, which must be in line with the regional or provincial forest laws.</p> <p>Rural development programs (RDPs) make some incentives available for MP adoption.</p>
LT	<p>Yes. Law on forests. Two types of FMPs:</p> <p>1) FM schemes by regions all 10 years, on forest cover, conversion of land, etc. to be approved by the Min.Env.</p> <p>2) Internal FM projects (FMP) on protection, forest functions, fellings, restoration, etc., all 10 years, to be approved by the State Forest service. (≠ public forests). For < 10 ha FMP valid for 20 years, > 10ha 10 years. No FMP needed for fellings on < 3 ha. Financial</p>

	aid via rural development programme possible or when restrictions reduce benefits. Final fellings > 3 ha only under FMPs possible, need approval by State forest Service.
LU	No. Yes for owners > 20 ha who benefit from subsidies. Subsidies encourage private forest owners >10 ha to let elaborate a Simple Forest operation Plan by an accredited agency. Accredited Planning Agency competent for private forests.
LV	No (private and municipality forests). However, some requirements exist ("A FMP shall be developed on the basis of the forest inventory data"). Yes for forests > 10,000 ha and for State and EU subsidised forest owners. See also under point 1 (public forests).
MT	
NL	No. It is assumed, though, that there is a long term management plan for the total forest area owned and managed by public organisations (160,000 ha) and nature conservation organisations (58,000 ha). It is estimated that 50% of the private forest owners (57,000 ha) have a long term management plan.
PL	Yes. Act on forests of 1991. For private forests at village level. Renewal of FMP every 10 Years (NFI every 5 years). For < 10 ha, governor decisions based on forest inventory are taken. See also under public forests.
PT	Yes for all community forest land and under certain conditions (e.g. subsidies, meeting the PROF conditions in case 25ha to 100 ha, . In case no FMP exists, the PROFs provide guidance. Also national legislation (protection of species and of soils, forest fires prevention); awareness raising campaigns in order to promote the adoption of good management practices and to ensure appropriate sustainability of forest exploitation. FMPs for privately owned forests are prepared by the entity responsible for the management of the forest and approved by the national forest authority (ICNF). Regarding forest owners that are not bind to have a FMP, the regional forest plan (RFP) provide them with adequate general guidance and, in addition, there is national level legislation that includes some specific mandatory operational rules, for instance regarding protection of species, of soil or forest fires' prevention; the municipal and other land use plan also have to be taken into account and give some mandatory rules. The ICNF and the forest owners associations, which for this purpose may get some support from the State, conduct awareness campaigns and provide services for forest holdings which are not legally required to adopt a FMP, in order to promote the adoption of good management practices and to ensure appropriate sustainability of forest exploitation. Concerning RAM, it will depend on what will be defined in the PROF-RAM. In principle, the privately owned forests above a given area - to be defined by the PROF – will be bind to have a PGF as well as when an application for financial support (community or other) is submitted for forest improvement (exploration). So, unless RAM's forest owners meet one of the conditions above, they are not required to have a FMP but, in any case, national and regional legislation must be applied.
RO	Yes. According to "Forest Management Planning" of the Forest Code.

SE	<p>As there is no difference between publicly and private owned forests regarding obligations in legislation, this is the same answer as for question number 1 above.</p> <p>The obligation of having a FMP was taken away from the Swedish Forest Act in 1994. Instead a nationwide GIS database was established. The information in the database covers all forest properties and is available for forest owners and authorities, free of charge through internet. The database includes information on Natura 2000- and other protected areas as well as other ecosystems with biodiversity and social values.</p> <p>All forest land is covered by regularly updated satellite imagery and aerial photography. All past and planned (for the following 2 years) harvest activities are shown for each individual property, including regeneration method used/planned, outtake of bioenergy, scarification method, environmental and cultural protection activities etc.</p> <p>Forest owners have free access to this database and increasingly use it as a planning tool.</p> <p>Furthermore, forest owners have to send harvest notifications to the Swedish Forest Agency and there is a possibility to do this immediately through this platform. As the GIS database integrates data on Natura 2000 areas and other nature reserves, special considerations areas (hydrological, historical, biological, etc) the SFA system for monitoring the implementation of the forest legislation is highly interactive and automated without losing in quality.</p> <p>Most of the forest owners in Sweden have their own FMP, often offered by timber buying companies as a service to the forest owners. FSC- and PEFC-certified forest owner are obliged to have a FMP due to certification request. An estimation is that regarding family forestry, approx. 8.5 M ha are covered by FMPs.</p> <p>Productive forest land 22,5 M ha, half under FSC, half under PEFC, with some overlap because of double-certified forest owners.</p> <p>An overall expert estimation is that >95% of forest land is covered by some sort of management plan in Sweden.</p> <p>In Sweden FMPs are considered a tool for forest owners/managers to: plan their business activities on the medium-term (normally 10 years) and plan their environmental care in detail for each stand.</p> <p>FMPs are not used as a tool for evaluation of implementation of the forest legislation. This is done, amongst others, by means of the system described above.</p>
SI	<p>Yes (Act on Forests 1993) irrespective of ownership and size of property.</p> <p>a) regional FMPs > 70,000 ha, every 10 years</p> <p>b) plans for forest management units, average size 5,000 ha, every 10 years</p> <p>c) silviculture plans (implementation plans for 20-100 ha of forests)</p>
SK	<p>Yes (Forest Act 2005), for every forest holder.</p>
UK	<p>No, but strong encouragement at UK and country level. Forestry grants are dependent on having a forest plan and this will be strengthened in the next rural development plans to 2020.</p>

3 - With regard to the **CONTENT**:

We would invite Members of the Committee to describe what is required as regards the content. To facilitate this task, we provide in an on exhaustive manner some areas where further details would be welcome:

1. *Do Management Plans contain a description of the broader environment of the forest?*
2. *How do the Management Plans address multifunctionality?*
3. *How are different uses of the managed forest area balanced?*
4. *Does MP address, where appropriate, the protection of infrastructure, human settlements, productive soils and surface as well as groundwater from adverse impact?*
5. **Biodiversity aspects-** *how Birds and Habitats Directives are integrated into the FMP, wider protection of forest beyond Nature legislation, need to minimize degradation, restoration of degraded forest by silvicultural means, biodiversity of woody and no-timber species, conservation at landscape level.*
6. **Monitoring** – *registration, mapping and periodic monitoring of the issues, monitoring of biotic and abiotic factors that may affect forest (pest, diseases, overgrazing...).*

AT

1. Some do; at least Management Plans required under nature conservation law and the forest land use plan “Waldentwicklungsplan” (Forest Development Plan) include such descriptions.

In Austria, forest management is regulated at federal level, by the Austrian Forest Act 1975 (Federal Law Gazette No. 440/75, as amended). The Forest Act distinguishes between four effects of forests: their economic, protective, environmental, and recreational effects. These effects are described in the all-Austrian Forest Development Plan, the instrument for area-wide forest land-use planning in Austria. The differentiation already indicates the manifold forest functions and effects – maybe most vividly illustrated by the important protective function of forests in a mountainous country like Austria – from which the whole society benefits. To ensure these effects for the long term, we need intact forest ecosystems with high biological diversity. For the content of plans according to the Rural Development Regulation, see points 1 and 2.

2. The basis of Austrian forest management in Austria is multifunctionality and sustainability (Section 1 of the Forest Act), which therefore also has to be taken into account in FMPs.

In Technical Forestry Plans as set out in Section 10 of the Forest Act, forest treatments serving specific purposes can be determined for defined forest areas.

3. The Forest Act 1975 (Section 1) is based on the multifunctionality of forest areas. There are special rules and regulations concerning the treatment of forests which are to serve specific purposes (e.g. protection forests, protected forests, biotope protection forests, recreational forests). Furthermore, everybody has the right to use forests for recreation (in a more specifically defined manner).

4. FMPs have to meet the requirements of the 1975 Forest Act or other federal acts, for example the 1959 Water Act, or those of the provincial acts, for example the laws of nature conservation, which means that specific goals and objectives like those mentioned above must be taken into account. The Austrian Forest Act includes a separate sub-chapter on forests requiring special treatment (protection forests, protected forests, forests subject to rights of use, and forests which include special habitats).

5. Biodiversity considerations:

The Natura 2000 guidelines are integrated at least in the nature-conservation driven management plans for Natura 2000 areas. Further biodiversity considerations are provided for in other regulations of nature conservation law. Also FMPs like those of ÖBf AG target (special) biodiversity issues and take them into

	<p>account.</p> <p>In addition, the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy, which is oriented towards the Biodiversity Strategy of the European Union, is currently being prepared.</p> <p>Presently a broad-based participative process to revise the Austrian Biodiversity Strategy is going on; it is to be completed by 2014. On forest areas owned by ÖBf AG numerous actions to support rare animal and plant species are going on already. Partly they are carried out in cooperation with NGOs and/or the Federal Provinces.</p> <p>6. For monitoring, assessment and reporting on forest management in Austria the thematic frame is given by criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. In addition to the six pan European criteria on SFM and the 35 quantitative pan-European indicators for SFM Austria established through a brought participatory process (Austrian Forest Dialog) one additional criterion (Austria's international responsibility for SFM) and 35 additional Austria-specific indicators for SFM. For 67 of these indicators quantitative and descriptive targets were set in order to allow measuring progress towards SFM over time.</p> <p>In response to this thematic framework a number of inventories and surveys are carried out and data are collected continuously. These data are basis for assessing the situation and progress in relation to SMF in Austria. The statistical representativeness of the surveys does not allow judgement at management unit level, however it provides for assessments on key indicators for the national, provincial and district level as well as for ownership categories.</p> <p>Since 1962 Austrian forest areas have been monitored at regular intervals (Austrian Forest Inventory). Periodic surveys are conducted every five to six years. The content of the parameters surveyed is continuously extended and adapted; in particular, parameters of relevance to biodiversity have been added. Also the monitoring of Austria's biodiversity (MOBI-e) includes regular surveys of specific parameters of relevance to biodiversity (such as the naturalness of the tree species composition – indicator W1).</p> <p>As regards the impact of game in Austrian forests, provincial surveys are conducted periodically in the framework of the game impact monitoring (in German abbreviated "WEM"). Every year a forest protection monitoring of abiotic and biotic damage, in particular of pest calamities, is conducted. Furthermore, the nature conservation laws of the Provinces provide for monitorings in respect of certain protective purposes. The survey of the forest-statistic data (Forest Statistics - FOSTA, annual removal report – HEM, documentation of the factors of forest damage – DWF) comprises all forest conditions of the entire federal territory and is carried out annually. These data are collected on federal, provincial and district level and relate to the forest conditions of all privately and publicly owned forests in the relevant administrative area (coverage). Also information from non-forestry institutions that is of relevance to forests is used for this purpose.</p>
BE-WL	<p>1. Yes. A MP contains, amongst others, a description on the forest condition and identifies priority zones for water and soil protection or conservation purposes. It targets biodiversity measures, volume of wood to be harvested, thinning measures, landscape conservation.</p> <p>The minimum content of a FMP:</p> <p>1° description of state of the concerned forests and identification of zones having priority for protection (water quality in soils) and conservation (maintenance of sensitive old grown forests);</p> <p>2° designation and hierarchysation of specific SFM objectives, incl. balancing fauna and</p>

flora.

3° taking into account N2000 measures, and, if appropriate other protected areas;

4° planification of management acts in order to assure perennial forests and as far as possible to promote mixed and uneven forest stands;

5° the volume of timber to fell to assure coherence with expected increment and forest growth;

6° biodiversity measures;

7° for non-fragmented forests > 100 ha, identification of zones accessible for vocational training/therapeutically treatment and of zones for depositing timber;

8° financial means for forest works and estimation of revenues;

9° identification of exploitation modus foreseen, incl. working with horses to assure soil and water protection;

10° landscape protection measures and cultural elements thereof.

The FMP determines its duration of validity. The government can add general rules to complete and detail the content of the FMP.

2. see 1

3. see 1

4. see 1

5. Biodiversity aspects

In case a public forest is to be managed, the proposal for a MP is to be submitted for opinion to :

- the Commission de conservation des sites Natura 2000 for forests near/in a Natura 2000 site;

- the Commission consultative de gestion des reserves naturelles domaniales for forests in a public natural reserve;

- the reserve manager for forests in a recognised natural reserve;

- the Conseil supérieur wallon de la conservation de la nature for forest reserves;

- the Commission de gestion des parcs naturels for forests in natural parcs.

For public and private forests, the legislation offers sufficient guaranties for limiting negative impacts of silviculture on biodiversity. It also set rules for limiting clear-cutting areas, artificial drainage and prohibiting pesticide use, burning of residues, use of autochthonous species and the need for authorising owners before forest products are leaving the forests, etc.

Moreover, for public forests, there are provisions for prohibiting the use of branches < 4 cm of diameter and other provisions to enhance biodiversity.

6. Monitoring

It is carried out at two levels:

- The NFI assures at regional level at 5 years intervals (dendrometric, sanitary, pedologic, floristic parameters, deadwood, regeneration, etc.). This information is in first line used for assessing the conservation status of N2000 areas.

- Management criteria have been elaborated, as well as updates of cartographies

	<p>and a report is presented each year to the forest owners.</p> <p>For sanitary aspects, the Observatoire Wallon de la Santé des Forêts has been established. Its roles are scientific observation, early warning based on a network of observers, and proposals for management measures in case of biotic or abiotic problems.</p>
BG	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FMPs should contain biological diversity issue and appraisal of ecosystem services. 2. FMPs contain information regarding the ecological conditions, biogeographic characteristics, health state of the forests, hydrological conditions, geological structure and petrographic composition, climate, soils and levels of soil and air pollution. <p>Only the Management Plans for Nature and National Parks that are developed according to Regulation for development of management plans for protected territories include the landscape characteristics.</p> <p>FMP contains separate chapter for the non-wood products where an appraisal and forecast for their utilization can be found. The quota for utilization of non-wood material forest resources are in size that guarantees their regeneration and preservation.</p> <p>FMP should contain data from the research and monitoring of the biological diversity. This includes recording of a rare, threatened or representative ecosystems, as well as stands for preservation of the forest genetic resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. FM Plans obligatory contain prescriptions for utilization of wood and non-wood forest products in the different categories of the forests, according to their function– protective, special, industrial (Chapter 2, Section I of the Law on Forests), that are consulted with all stakeholders. For instance, according to Regulation № 3/16.10.2000 for the conditions and order for studying, planning, adoption and exploitation of sanitary-protecting zones around the water resources and equipment for provision of drinking water and around the mineral water resources, used for treatment, prevention, drinking and hygienic needs, extremely strict limitations for timber utilization in the water provision areas and other protected areas are foreseen. 3. Yes, in Regulation № 6/5.02.2004 for the planning of the forests and lands of the forest fund and of the hunting management regions in Republic of Bulgaria (publ. SG 27/1.04.2004, in force from 1.04.2004, amend. SG 80/7.10.2005) there is a requirement for this. 4. 5. Biodiversity aspects - N2000: compatibility assessment by Ministry of Env. and waters. N2000 SFM and fire guidelines exist. Restoration only for the main tree species foreseen. <p>According to Chapter II, Section I art. 4, par.(3), 1 of the Law on Forests as “special” are defined those forest territories that are included in the borders of the protected territories in terms of the Law on protected territories (publ. SG 133/11.11.1998, last amend. 19/8.03.2011), announced in accordance with the Law on Biological diversity (publ. SG 77/9.08.2002, last amend. SG 66/26.07.2013), as well as those in which according other laws are defined and introduced special statute and regimes. For those areas, a separate Chapter of the FMP is elaborated called “Compatibility assessment” (art. 13, par. 12 from the Law on Forests), that has to be approved by Ministry of Environment and Waters. All activities in the areas are in unison with the prescriptions for the relevant areas, as the legislation responds to the restrictions of the Habitats and</p>

	<p>Birds Directives.</p> <p>According to Regulation № 8/05.08.2011 for fellings in the forests (SG 64/19.08.2011, amend. And suppl. SG 63/16.07.2013, in force from 16.07.2013) in the forest territories included in Natura 2000 relevant forest management regimes must be implemented, e.g. concrete silvicultural systems, aiming preservation and restoration of specific habitats are foreseen. (Chapter IV).</p> <p>The degraded forests have to be supported in terms of natural regeneration or via forestation, according to the single case. Restoration and regeneration of the forest territories is implemented depending to the type of forest habitat.</p> <p>FM Plan contains tables in terms of the species diversity, but restoration is foreseen only for tree species. In addition, the Hunting Management Project, which is an integral part of the FM Plan, prescribes measures for improvement of the main game species populations.</p> <p>Actions for conservation of biodiversity at landscape level are planned in the Management Plans for the Nature and National Parks. In Bulgaria there are 3 National Parks at the Ministry of Environment and Waters, and 11 Nature Parks at Executive Forest Agency. These measures are foreseen in the Management plans for Natura 2000 protected areas only if it is explicitly mentioned in the Terms of Reference a requirement for their elaboration.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - Maps on damages for last 10 years as orientation for new FMP.</p> <p>In addition to the FMPs, the following types of maps are elaborated – for the management activities, for the fire prevention activities, for Natura 2000 areas, ownership maps, and others. The FMP also consists of a special Chapter with analysis of the executed activities, foreseen in the previous FMP. On the 5th year the acting the Plan is been monitored, and report and prescriptions for the remaining 5 years are prepared.</p> <p>Each next FM Plan reflects all damages for the previous 10-years period. Measures for their elimination are prescribed. Special maps for the fire prevention activities are developed. Where needed, grazing restrictions are introduced.</p>
CY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed description of the forest functions incl. Cultural and historical information. 2. Principles of - multi-purpose forestry, -of holistic and integrated management, - of sustainability and - of wide participation in decision making. Multifunctionality is achieved through the management measures proposed under each management plan which include actions for habitat protection, recreation management, removal of dead and diseased trees, etc. 3. Management Plans contain specific prescriptions on management practices like timber harvesting. To maintain the sustainable capacity of forests to produce timber, the size of the harvest and the timing, by location, are specified in logging plans prepared biannually. These plans are based on the results of forest inventories. Fellings are also carried out using marking rules which aim to the cultivation of the forest. 4. Infrastructure, soil and water are addressed. According to article 19(2) of the Forest Law, specific conservation measures aiming at the landscape improvement should also be considered. Additionally, landscape diversity, is maintained through fire prevention measures and through the protection of the most important land features (river valleys, gorges, cliffs etc.). 5. Biodiversity aspects - FMPs incorporate conservation provisions of N2000implementation laws. Restoration of degraded areas is a priority, as well as eradication of IAS. Any FMP detrimental to biodiversity needs revision. There are specific conservation measures for landscape improvement. The restoration of

	<p>degraded areas constitutes a management priority. Also, felling is restricted or excluded from degraded or marginal areas, from easily eroded areas and areas of low growing stock. Additionally, the eradication of invasive alien species is extensively applied. The biodiversity of woody and non woody species is not differentiated. According to article 18(4), any Management Plan which is proved to be detrimental to the biodiversity or to the natural environment, should be revised.</p> <p>6. Monitoring- Various databases and geo-databases have been developed for most FMPs. These are revised annually according to the availability of newer information on all aspects including land use change. Monitoring is accomplished by evaluation and assessment of risks and threats related to the study area and establishing within the management plan protection measures.</p> <p>According to the forest law N.25(I)/2012 (Article 18(6) Part V) forest management plans are reviewed whenever this is deemed necessary or every ten years the latest.</p>
CZ	<p>1. Yes, FMP contains three parts: forestry maps, text book as a general overview and management book as a proposal of the forest management. The text book contains description of the broader environment of the forest.</p> <p>2. The FMP addresses multifunctionality of the forest by the implementation of the Framework Management Recommendations, which are part of Regional Plans of Forest Development (RPFD). RPFD are methodical tools of the state forest policy and recommend principles of forest management in accordance with multifunctionality.</p> <p>3. The FMP contains specific parts which is named Framework Management Recommendations. This part describes how to manage forests according to their functional potential and to balance all segments of sustainable management. FMP contains specific prescription on management practices (size of the harvest, the amount of logging, etc.), so called binding provisions of FMP according to the Forest Act..</p> <p>4. The minimum share of soil-improving and reinforcing species for stand regeneration is one of the binding provisions of FMP. This way, more variable tree species composition is enhanced. The already mentioned system, which includes the Framework Management Recommendations, targets appropriate management respecting natural conditions of a particular forest stand. This way, restoration of degraded forests is also addressed.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - "Care Plan" elaborated by nature protection authority. Restoration of degraded land via binding soil-improving measures.</p> <p>6. Monitoring- There are different simultaneous information systems that relates to the described issues: Regional Plans of Forest Development, National Forest Inventory, ICP Forests, Forest protection service and others. Relevant factors are subject to separate monitoring and FMP reflects on current state and expected trend of these factors.</p>
DE	<p>The implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy's forest targets is the responsibility of the federal counties (Länder). This explains 16, partly different, replies to the questions. For way of example, DE asked the following Länder to reply to the questionnaire: Brandenburg, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Hessen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Sachsen and Thüringen.</p> <p>1. Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - factors determining the forest site, such as geology, growing area, geography, topography, stand density), - the objectives for each of the FM (multifunctionality –which functions are targeted? Which functions for the owner's benefit? Which for the public (e.g.

infrastructure, settlements, soil, groundwater etc.)?

- the restrictions for the FM (e.g. legal provisions favouring protective functions or N2000 areas,
- the planned sustainable volume of harvested wood during a given period (e.g. 10 years),
- the planned management proceeding (technical procedure, intensity of fellings) and related restrictions to respect (e.g. on special protection sites),
- if relevant, measures related to other measures (e.g. protection of special heritage issues).

5. Biodiversity aspects: Since decades DE applies an integrative approach on SFM respecting all forest functions, incl. biodiversity conservation, framed by the DE Forest and nature protection legislation. DE forests are already biodiverse rich: 77% of existing forests stand on land forested since more than 200 years. These forests are characterised by typical species compositions which corresponding to the ambitious targets of nature conservation.

Most of the forests are characterised by economic use. Forest management is extensive if compared to other land uses. This contributes to the conservation and development of a forest-typical biodiversity.

Forests managed according to the close-to-nature principles (anchored since more than 20 years in the German forest policy) do have many synergies with the conservation and development of forests as habitats for flora and fauna.

The DE ENV ministry developed in 1999 a coherent concept for contributing sustainably to biodiversity conservation. Increased awareness raising on biodiversity and a better understanding of ecosystem related interrelations at the level of policy making, population and forest owners can be noted. This goes back to a plethora of measures implemented, partly with EU support, in the fields of research, information to the public, support of close-to-nature forest management and nature conservation contracts.

As a result on federal level there are more broadleaved than coniferous forests, most of the forests are regenerated naturally, clear-fellings do have no role in forest management any more, special habitats (such as old-grown trees) benefit from preference treatment, deadwood volume increased and programmes for the conservation of rare and endangered tree species are implemented.

The certification area with high ecological relevance increased: end of 2011 around 70% of the German forest area was PEFC and around 5% FSC certified.

The German Forest Strategy foresees to improve the already high biodiversity richness of forests according to the targets of the national strategy on biodiversity, e.g. through non-intervention areas, increasing deadwood, multiplication of natural forests parcels and implementation and connexion of N2000 forest areas. Publicly owned forests, in particular state forests, are serving as best practice examples. At federal level, more than 100,000 ha state-owned land have been transferred to the Länder as National Nature Heritage (2/3 of them are forests), as well as to nature conservation associations.

- Integration of biodiversity in FMPs

For managing forest sustainably, it is of utmost importance that the forest owner/the management authority is informed about all relevant data and facts, such as: is a given forest area overlapping with N2000, which N2000 issues are at stake, what needs to be

taken into consideration to protect them in case the forest needs to be managed?

Bearing in mind the fact that N2000 MPs do not yet exist for many of the N2000 sites and in view of the long periodicity of the FMPs (10 years), it will take some years until all concerned forest land is covered by FMPs in N2000 sites.

- Wider protection of forest ecosystems, minimization of degradation in FMPs

FMPs in DE contain a special reference on relevant measures for the protection of habitats and species in a given area subject to the plan. These measures are additional to the legal provisions and the legally agreed protection sites.

- Provisions for continuous biodiversity improvement

In addition to the FMPs special nature conservation concepts exist in state forests. These contain e.g. measures for conservation of deadwood, habitat trees and whole nature reserves, besides forest areas of special nature conservation interest. The concepts are accompanied and completed by programmes related to nature protection contracts in private and communal (Körperschaftswald) forests. All of these measures aim at enhancing biodiversity.

- Restoration of degraded forests

Where degraded forests exist special consideration needs to be given in the FMPs to restoration measures. In DE, degraded forests are practically non-existent.

Mountain forests which risk losing their protective function are supported by the federal program for restoring protective forests.

- Biodiversity conservation at landscape level

31% of German territory is forest land and more than half of it is public and communal forest land. Therefore, FMPs essentially contribute to biodiversity objectives.

General and supplementary measures and planning for biodiversity conservation are part of the land use plans, which are embedded in the planning systems of the Länder. FMPs are required to take them into due consideration.

Monitoring

Long term observation is taking place on special forest sites (Level II) in terms of air quality, input and output of polluting agents, climatic and vegetation changes and soil quality.

There are also monitoring systems of environment agencies aiming at observing specific biodiversity indicators.

Some of the Länder also monitor the tree composition of forest regeneration and the impact of game thereon. Many research projects also contribute to an intense debate on this subject.

Another control and information instrument is the regular meeting of the competent services at federal and Land level. Last not least, interested citizen and associations and media are important monitoring and control instruments.

At local level, the authorities competent for forests and nature conservation assure that the forest owners respect the existing provisions for a decent forest management.

There are different information systems and mechanisms assuring SFM at federal and Land level:

- Federal forest inventory (every 10 years) provides a huge catalogue of forest characteristics, such as specific biodiversity relevant information on

	<p>deadwood, tree composition, age classes, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal soil monitoring (Bodenzustandserhebung) in forests provides a series of forest soil characteristics, incl. Biodiversity relevant data. - Yearly crown condition monitoring gives indication on tree vitality. <p>(See more on monitoring under point 6 “additional comments”).</p>
DK	
EE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mandatory description in forest inventory of site type based on soil and vegetation. 2. Multifunctionality also assured in Nature Conservation Act and at regional level in the process of general planning. 3. FMPs suggest felling types, areas, volumes, etc. FMP can contain suggestions for different uses based on legislation and owner’s ambition. 4. Water Act, Road Act, etc. address infrastructure threatened by adverse impacts. 5. Biodiversity aspects - FM restrictions in N2000 by mandatory conservation plan of the site. HNV forests addressed in FMPs. Protection through Forest Act, Nature Conservation Act, Water Act. No known degraded forests exist. FMPs at landscape level guided by general planning. 6. Monitoring - NFI data have to be submitted to the Forest register and be < 10 years old. Damages reflected in FMPs, as well as restoration over the last 10 years.
ES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FMPs contain description of geology, bio geographical and landscape features, site history, and env. characteristics of each of the area where forests are located. 2. All management options have to be justified and respect a calendar. 3. 4. FMPs need to avoid ecological fragmentation. Soil erosion, fire risks, snow damages, wind storms, etc. not included in FMP, but description of measures for reducing damages. FMPs address protected areas and possible impacts on landscape. 5. Biodiversity aspects - Biodiversity and Natural Heritage Act requests drafting conservation guidelines for N2000 areas. 6. Monitoring
FI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In state forests a broader description is included. 2. Management and land-use plans are devised for the nature conservation, wilderness and hiking areas. In the natural resource planning process, the characteristics of an area are assessed in terms of economic, ecological and social sustainability. The main goal of ecological planning is to ensure the preservation and spread of the local flora and fauna. In social planning, area use is evaluated from the perspective of, among others, the requirements of recreational use and/or nature-based economies. Various alternative calculations are made to facilitate the assessment, making it possible to illustrate any correlation between the different operating practices, as well as advantages and drawbacks. 3. Operational planning: silviculture and felling plans. In natural resource planning, use of the land and water areas that are under Metsähallitus’ administration is planned with multiple goals. This means that the use and management of natural resources is broadly reviewed from the perspective of their different forms of use. The goal is to reconcile the possibilities offered by natural resources with the needs of different parties to form

	<p>an effective whole. Different forms of use of state lands are, among others, nature conservation, forestry, recreation, eco-tourism, real estate development and the sale of soil resources.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Ecological planning to ensure the preservation and spread of the local flora and fauna. Forest and mire restoration in operational planning. In privately owned forests, sustainable timber production and good silviculture are promoted.</p> <p>6. Monitoring – Public forests: GIS database regularly updated. Privately owned forests: forest resource data updated every 10-15 years.</p>
FR	<p>1. FMPs contain :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a reference to the forest types as described in relevant regional framework documents • analysis of economic, environmental and social stakes according to all relevant regulations • game species presence and hunt plans • logging and works program <p>Regional or national authorities approving the management plans are in charge of verifying the compatibility with regional framework documents, which address multifunctionality and provide prescriptions according to the local forest types.</p> <p>In some regions, regional framework documents have integrated Nature and site history legislation and zoning. It facilitates for the private forest owners the compliance with the relative regulations (in particular Natura 2000). Otherwise, owners or managers have to provide an evaluation of the environmental impact before proceeding to a logging if their forest belongs to a Natura 2000 zone</p> <p>2. FMPs contain game species presence and hunt plans. Regional framework documents provide prescriptions according to the local forest types.</p> <p>3. FMPs contain felling and work programmes.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Owners/managers have to provide an evaluation of environmental impact before logging if their forest belongs to a Natura2000 site.</p> <p>6. Monitoring</p>
GR	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. The specifications for the elaboration of forest management plans include issues to be dealt such as maintaining and, if possible, improving the stability, vitality, regenerative capacity, resistance and adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems towards stresses, including their protection against fire, pests, diseases, game and other agents of damage such as overgrazing. The prevention and control of large-scale biotic and abiotic damage should be supported. Special attention should be paid to maintaining and, if needed, to improving the quality of forest soils. Silvicultural practices emulating nature should be encouraged. Afforestation should be conducted in a manner that does not negatively affect ecologically interesting or noteworthy sites and landscapes. Native species and local provenances should be preferred where appropriate.</p> <p>Management Plans are required to contain specific prescriptions or restrictions on management practices (e.g. methods, timing, size of the harvest, etc) in accordance with</p>

	<p>the Sustainable Forest Management principles and any site specific conditions.</p> <p>3. Forest law regulations secure theoretically at least forest protection from excessive interventions of owners and third persons as well as from natural factors. For land use changes and forest and other wooded land expropriation, actions which can considerably affect their protection, provisions were made in the 1975 Constitution and in the laws mentioned above. Article 24 of the Constitution prohibits forest land use changes, unless it is enforced by public interest. State and private forest and other wooded land areas destroyed by fires and other causes are obligatorily under reforestation regime and their disposal for other purposes is prohibited (par.3, article 117 of the Constitution). Expropriation of forest and other wooded land that belong to natural or legal persons governed by public law is permitted only in favour of the state, but without changing their forest character (par.4 of the same article). Law 998/17979 designates per case or category of cases the terms under which the forests or their segments can change their use or serve other uses for reasons enforced by public interest (indicative articles 46, 47 and 51-57).</p> <p>Material and non-material products and services are produced through the organised management of the country's forests. Articles 134-138 of Law 86/1969 and Presidential Decree 963/1979 "Sale of forest products produced from the state forests, by auction", legislatively regulate the exploitation of forests. Also important regulations on the exploitation of Greek forests were implemented by Law 1541/1985 "The procedure of concession of the exploitation, protection and improvement of forests" and Presidential Decree 126/1986 which was issued in application of the above law. This decree allows the exploitation, protection and improvement of forests belonging to the State and to legal persons of the public sector to Forest Co-operatives without their paying rent.</p> <p>4. Yes.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - According to the paragraph 1 of article 2 "protection of biodiversity and landscape" of law 3208/03 (G.G. 303 A '/24-12-03), when planning the management and exploitation of forest ecosystems, special measures must be taken to ensure as far as possible the protection of landscape and biodiversity conservation. Forestry operations and practices, such as the selection of forest species in any type of afforestation or reforestation, management methods, forest harvesting and handling of wood and generally interventions in forest ecosystems, are designed in a way that ensures the protection of habitats of species of flora and fauna and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Especially for Special Protected Areas designated pursuant to the Birds Directive there are posed certain provisions by Ministerial Decision 37338/1807/E103/2010 for the protection and conservation of wild avifauna and its habitats, measures that had already were into consideration in the management of forests ecosystems, such as: when logging takes place, trees with nests are not allowed to be felled, at least 10% of the stand with mature and over mature trees to be maintained, as well as dead and malformed trees, ban of logging or riparian vegetation within 20m from the banks and in streams, the conservation of fruit trees and shrubs, aromatic, ornamental and medicinal forest species, and their enhancement through silvicultural practices.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - In the management plans there is provision for reporting biotic and abiotic threats.</p>
HR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FMP contains info on history, natural characteristics (geology, water, soil, climate, vegetation). 2. 3. FMPs describe how forest products are to be used and limited in their use.

	<p>4.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Provisions of the Nature Protection Act regulating N2000 are linked to FMPs.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - General Forestry Information system under development needed to adjust separation of private and public land. Harmful agents are addressed in all FMPs. ICP forest monitoring.</p>
HU	<p>1. RFMPs contain a broad description of the environment.</p> <p>2. Main forest functions are guiding principles.</p> <p>3. Harvest plans with calendar, method of fellings, reforestation, addressing also N2000 areas.</p> <p>4. FMPs address protection aspects and respective restrictions.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Impact assessment for N2000 in preparation. Preparation of the nature conservation management plan is delayed, but nature conservation aspects are incorporated in RFMPs. Landscape planning.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - RFMPs are part of Forest Management Administration information System: data collected every 10 years. Database is the land register of the forest area. Damaging agents are documented.</p>
IE	<p>1. FMPs usually contain a basic description of the receiving environment, but other than where support is requested under rural development or state aid rules and a Biodiversity Map is needed (registered foresters) there is no statutory obligation to do so.</p> <p>2. Almost all forest areas in Ireland are managed with a view to the multifunctional role of forests. However, over and above the minimum statutory environmental protection obligations (Surface Water regulations, Wildlife Acts, Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines etc.) the forest owner determines which forest functions are given greatest emphasis in their FMP, for example production or nature conservation.</p> <p>3. If a FMP exists, it contains clear requirements. A fire plan is needed for forests > 10 ha. FMP produced by Coillte every 5 years contains detailed information on forest functions.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Specific conservation plans for N2000. Generic Conservation Objectives for all N2000 sites (Specific Conservation Plan, not mandatory for private forests). Guidelines specific to water, landscape, biodiversity etc. are linked to FMPs. Biodiversity Map needed when a private forest is first planned.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - GIS-based forest information system exists and supports both the preparation of applications (registered foresters) and assessment, including risk-based inspections (Forest Service inspectors), of applications for statutory consents (felling licence and forest road approvals) or requests for support under rural development or state aid rules.</p> <p>Ireland's national forest inventory is a multi-resource assessment of the forest estate that is repeated on a 5 year cycle in order to assess changes in the forest estate over time.</p> <p>Under the EU Plant Health Directive forests are nationally monitored for harmful pests and diseases. Official surveys are conducted as required for 16 specific pests and diseases and the monitoring reports are submitted annually to the European Commission. The national pests and disease surveys are supported by a network of</p>

	<p>observation points laid down following a systematic grid many of which include bait log and pheromone traps.</p>
IT	<p>1. Yes.</p> <p>2. Usually at least the main functions of the forest resources are considered (production of goods and services, protection, recreation, amenity, etc.).</p> <p>3. All these are pre-requisites for an acceptable MP, which must compulsory take into account the sustainability of all the forest intervention provided by the MP itself.</p> <p>4. Yes. Management Plans are required to contain specific prescriptions or restrictions on management practices (e.g. methods, timing, size of the harvest, etc), as MPs must be in line with the forest and general legislation locally in force.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects</p> <p>MPs take into account the prescriptions provided by other instruments of territorial planning, including Natura 2000 MPs. They provide a detailed description of the environmental characteristics, therefore all the peculiar naturalistic features are considered in order of their protection and eventually of their sustainable use.</p> <p>Is there any measure of action 12 not covered by Management Plans?</p> <p>In general the measures are covered by MPs; although some of them could not contain explicit thresholds or limits (e.g. quantity of dead wood per ha). As regards the compliance with international SFM guidelines, this is assured by the respect of national legislation (D.lgs. 227/2001), which adopted MCPFE's SFM criteria.</p> <p>There could be provisions for continuous improvement in terms of biodiversity (e.g. enhancement targets for biodiversity) in some cases, but there is not a general rule.</p> <p>Do Management Plans address restoration of degraded forests by silvicultural means? If so, how? Do they cover the biodiversity of woody and non-timber species?</p> <p>In presence of degraded forest MPs provide specific silvicultural interventions targeted at the improvement of the ecosystem. Provisions in this regard vary from case to case and can apply to various species, including non-woody ones.</p> <p>How does the MP fit into biodiversity conservation at landscape level?</p> <p>MPs take into consideration these aspects being inspired at the general concepts of the sustainable management.</p> <p>6. Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How/in how far do forest information systems ensure registration, mapping, periodic monitoring in relation with the issues described in the above questions? <p>The National Forest Inventory and the CONECOFOR program (national survey for forest health assessment and other ecological conditions) are the components of the national information system for forest monitoring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do Management Plans address monitoring of biotic and abiotic factors that may affect forests? (incl. pests, diseases, overgrazing, overstocking, fire, air pollution, management operations) <p>This kind of information is derived from the forest monitoring system mentioned above and not from MPs.</p>
LT	<p>1. Law on Forests of the Republic of Lithuania determines that a forest management project is a document upon which forestry is organized and reforestation, use and forest land management works are performed. In accordance with the Law on Forests of the Republic of Lithuania two types of forest management projects are prepared in</p>

Lithuania:

1. Forest management schemes - documents of special territory planning, prepared for region territories and purposed for defining of the general forest land use policy and preparing their management concept;
2. Internal forest management projects (further - forest management plans) - documents planning forestry activities, prepared for all forest governors and private forest estates or for forest land in a non-forest estate and purposed for defining a concrete system of management means.

Forest management projects are prepared upon the Regulations on preparing forest management schemes and internal forest management projects approved by the Order No D1-406 of the Minister of the Republic of Lithuania of 1st September, 2006.

The goal of a **forest management scheme** is all State and private forest estates in a specific region. The objectives of a forest management scheme are to determine forestry development tendencies of that specific region; evaluate possibilities of increasing forest cover; evaluate needs and opportunities of conversion of forest land; evaluate current attribution to one of the forest groups depending on the main function of the forest; evaluate current administrative distribution of forests and present suggestions on how to improve it; determine the features of designing forest management measures; evaluate the dynamics of indicators characterizing the quality of forest resources. Legal persons have the right to prepare forest management schemes when their governing documents determine the activities of territory planning and forest management.

2. Yes. Forest management plans of state forests are valid for 10 years. Forest management plan of state forest consists of explanatory paper, attachments (forests data sheets, plans of forestry activities), cartographical data (stand's plans, maps of administrative distribution). Internal composition of each forest management plan of state forests also includes a project of recreational management and forest environmental protection action plan. The analytical part of the explanatory paper includes the history of the forest estate, overview of forest management, the forecast of economic and social needs of the users of the forest estate, physical and geographical characteristics of the forest governor's territory (area, location, peculiarities of topography, climate and soil, water bodies, forest cover and its change, etc.), forest distribution by administrative units, the functional purpose, type of ownership and the analysis of the previous year of economic activities. The project part includes forest felling, reforestation volumes, sanitary, fire protection and other measures. Economical, ecological and social evaluation of the forest management plan is provided in the closing part. Recreational management project provides the projection of recreational facilities (installation of rest areas with wooden furniture, educational and recreational tracks) and fellings for landscaping design. Forest environmental protection action plan contains information about the state protected areas in the territory (regional parks, state and municipal nature reserves, genetic reserves and European ecological network "Natura 2000" territories), objects of state protected natural heritage and Lithuanian Red Book, woodland key habitats, as well as providing environmental protection, economical measures for biodiversity protection (forest fellings restrictions in the protected bird nesting sites, measures for protecting rare plants, selection and arrangement of individual biodiversity trees, protection and management of woodland key habitats, etc.).

3.

4. The planning process of forest management schemes involves the following steps:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory - setting the goals and objectives of planning; approving the program of the planning; public announcement of the decision on the beginning of preparation of forest management schemes; • Document preparation - analysis and evaluation of data, territory planning documents and problems, preparation of concept and specifying the solutions; • Evaluating the consequences to the environment caused by the solutions of the document; • Closing - consulting or public hearing, settling disputes, coordination, approval and registration. <p>Forest management schemes are approved by the order of the Minister of Environment and from the time of their approval they are valid for ten years. Approved forest management schemes are given to the State Forest Service which manages the State's Forest Cadastre. Also they are submitted for registration to the Register of Territory Planning Documents and the decisions are recorded in the Bank of Territory Planning Data.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects</p> <p>6. Monitoring</p>
LU	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All FMPs (1-3) contain description of broader forest environment except SFOPs as regards landscape and site history. 2. All FMPs address forest resources, social, economic and env. issues, except SFOPs as regards social and env. issues. 3. All FMPs address forest resources, felling series, allowable cut, working cycle, working plan, except SFOPs as regards allowable cut. 4. FMPs and SFMPs address infrastructure, cultural assets, rare biotopes, biodiversity, water and soil conservation and SFOPs only infrastructure. 5. Biodiversity aspects - N2000: FMPs contain textual and cartographic info, SFOPs textual info. FMPs and partly SFOPs address forest vegetation, flow net, rare biotopes, forest functions, biodiversity, deadwood. FMPs don't fit into biodiversity conservation at landscape level. 6. Monitoring - All FMPs address damage caused by game animals, skidding damage and health status of forests.
LV	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4. Content laid down by the Cabinet of Ministers. Regulations in draft stage foresee targets, area/location, info on resources, FM measures (harvesting, restoration, nature protection, etc), landscape formation, public consultation. 5. Biodiversity aspects - Forest inventory identify areas with protection regimes. FM possible in N2000. Detailed legislation for special protection zones. FMP needed for subsidising degraded forests. 6. Monitoring - State Forest Register contains all info. Monitoring of harmful agents. Obligation to inform State Forest Service + link to State Forest register.
MT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 3. 4.

	<p>5. Biodiversity aspects</p> <p>6. Monitoring</p>
NL	<p>1. FMPs usually contain a description of the broader environment, but there is no governmental obligation to do so.</p> <p>2. Almost all forest areas in the Netherlands are managed as multifunctional forest. In some of these forests one of the forest functions is emphasized, but it is not known which part of the management plans is mainly focused on for example production or nature conservation.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4. Since forest management plans are not compulsory, neither are their contents. However, in September 2013 168.408 ha (46%) of forest in the Netherlands is FCS certified. This implies that they are managed under forest management plans that fulfil the FCS criteria for the Netherlands (56 items), which includes the protection of species and habitats and involvement of stakeholders in monitoring. In addition, the PEFC Forest Standard for the Netherlands was approved in December 2012. At the moment (September 2013) no forest area has been PEFC certified as yet, but there will be in the near future. For PEFC certified forests, forest management plans will be required which meet the PEFC standard.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects: An unknown number of hectares of forests are located within N2000 areas in the Netherlands. They do have management plans; however, it is unknown to what extent these plans include targets and measures related to the Bird and Habitat Directives. There is no specific landscape policy in the Netherlands.</p> <p>6. Monitoring Forest management plans are not formally screened nor periodically monitored by the government. There is no government-controlled forest information system in the Netherlands. However, receivers of subsidies under the Subsidy Scheme for Nature and Landscape are obliged to make explicit efforts to reach one or more protection targets which have to be monitored and reported. Alternatively, they can go for certification. These obligations are not connected with Forest management plans, though.</p>
PL	<p>1. FMPs include stand description, habitats, soil, stem volume, increment, geographical location, state of forests and wood resources, forest production capacity as well as , objectives, tasks and methods of management.</p> <p>2. Multifunctionality is addressed (resulting from the definition of sustainable forest management (Article 6(1)(1a) of the Act on forests)and includes: forest protection and ecology, timber harvesting, non-wood products, tourism management, hunting, infrastructure, water and soil conservation and other features.</p> <p>3. FMP includes key information: harvest size, timing.</p> <p>4. Yes, both in the context of stand descriptions and general descriptions.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Yes, both in the context of stand descriptions and general description biodiversity is a subject of many parts of a management survey. FMP (pursuant to Article 15 of the Act on forests) include the more extensive protection of forest ecosystems through recognising particularly valuable ecosystems as protective forests, e.g. water protective forests, soil protective forests, valuable parts of native nature. A part of FMP is the Nature Conservation Program that includes description of protection tasks and methods for their implementation. In case of N2000 the FMPs are developed in cooperation with the bodies supervising the Natura 2000 network . SFM based on FMPs. Infrastructure, landscape and soil objectives exist. Preservation of</p>

	<p>marshes and peat land in forests, fire protection.</p> <p>6. Monitoring</p> <p>Revision of the implementation of FMP has to be done prior to the development of subsequent one. This includes a thorough analysis of the all components and environmental impact assessment of FMP. In addition, monitoring of the implementation is performed on the regular basis internally in the State Forests, and periodic inspection is conducted at least once during the FMP term for each forest district.</p>
PT	<p>1. 2. 3. 4. Content of PROFs: data on the region for determining homogenous sub-regions, strategic analysis, main functions (production, soil and water protection, habitat and species conservation, grazing, hunting, renewable energy, landscape functions), sensitive zones, operational guidelines.</p> <p>Content of PGFs: on the basis of guidelines defined in the forest regional plan, they determine over space and time the interventions and exploitation of resources. They address territorial context, forest stands, grazing areas, hunting/fisheries and a biodiversity management program if overlapping with N2000 and other protected areas.</p> <p>Content of PEIFs: description of resources, focussing on an operational plan (map of interventions recommended, indicators) and estimated budget.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Biodiversity Management Programs (BMP) are included in the FMPs for forests designated as Natura2000 site. Protection measures beyond Nature legislation are taken up by the adoption of general national and municipal plans and regulations. FMPs include measures for the recovery and enhancement of biodiversity values for both forest and non-forest species. Landscape level considered in FMP.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - National Forest Inventory (NFI) every 10 years (5 years in Autonomous Region of Madeira - RAM). FMP does not need to include specific procedures for the monitoring of biotic and abiotic factors. But the forest manager, being responsible for implementing the plan, follows and assesses the evolution of the relevant factors, adjusts the measures to be implemented and included in the FMP and may also propose revisions of the Plan if the situation so requires.</p> <p>There are other monitoring systems, in addition to the NFI, like for Forest Fire information System or the Pinewood Nematode control, for instance, that provide relevant information, both at national/regional and municipal/local levels.</p> <p>Like in the Mainland, in RAM, the monitoring of these factors does not need to be included in FMP, nevertheless due to its importance in the region, it may be included in a global forest protection plan – PGPF- covering pests and diseases, fires, air pollution, anti-erosion, among others.</p>
RO	<p>1. Yes, the FMP contains concrete data and information.</p> <p>2. Environmental, social and economic functions are established for each territorial forest unit (stand).</p> <p>3. FMPs include specific provisions for each species or group of species. Harvesting conditioned by assigned functions. Size of the volume to be harvested is determined by scientific method.</p>

	<p>4. Yes, FMP establishes appropriate protection functions for forest regarding soil, surface, water and groundwater. Forests surrounding human settlements are also assigned with protection functions.</p> <p>5. Biodiversity aspects - Objectives and specific conservation measures from Natura2000 management plans are taken into consideration. Protection functions and restrictions established in certain forests. FMP contains provisions for rehabilitation works with forest tree species appropriate to the site type. Biodiversity conservation and improvement is required at landscape level by FMP.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - Forest managers are required to permanently monitor the condition of forest and interventions carried out. FMP includes a chapter on biotic and abiotic factors in which countermeasures are provided. A system to detect, monitor and control pests and diseases and forest fires is being implemented.</p>
SE	<p>1. Yes, a FMP normally contains detailed data on site and property level</p> <p>2. As the Swedish forestry act has two equal goals – production and biodiversity- all forest operations have to consider multifunctionality in that respect. A broader level of multifunctionality is up to the forest owner to decide and a FMP is often used as a tool for addressing that.</p> <p>3. The main balance is made in the regulation of forestry (forestry act) together with mainly the Environmental Code and the Historic Environment Act. The forest owner is responsible for meeting the legislation requirements in the management, with support from extension services and information provided by SFA and other authorities.</p> <p>4. <i>Best integrate Green Infrastructure into forest management practices</i></p> <p>Sweden has worked for a long time with this kind of approach in forestry. For example, during the beginning of the 1990:ies all forest companies started to establish ecological landscape planes for their holdings. An important driving force to conduct ecological landscape planning is various certification systems such as FCS and PEFC. Swedish authorities have also a landscape approach in the selection of areas for nature conservation measures. In Sweden we do also have a number of biosphere areas, with a local “green infrastructure” approach.</p> <p>On 13 March 2014 the Swedish Government adopted bill 2013/14:141 – “A Swedish strategy for biodiversity and ecosystem services”. The Bill presents the work on strengthening biodiversity and securing ecosystem services such as water purification, production of food and fibres, as well as recreation and outdoor activities. By drawing up regional action plans in cooperation between business operators, public authorities and non-governmental organisations, the foundation will be laid for a well-planned green infrastructure. The Government aims to secure the ecological links in nature.</p> <p>The Government has also adopted milestone targets in order to enhance biodiversity and vital ecosystem services by 2020 to achieve Sweden's environmental quality objectives, as well as EU biodiversity strategy targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted in Nagoya in 2010 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.</p> <p>The Swedish ownership structure of forest land is a challenge in the implementation of green infrastructure. In Sweden 50% of the forest land is owned by small to medium sized forest owners, mainly families, and some 50% are larger holdings, state or company-owned. Owners of estates above 500 hectare, normally find it easier to work with green infrastructure such as planning for ecological corridors etc.</p> <p><i>Development or implementation of schemes on Payments for Ecosystem Services</i> Payment for ecosystem services, other than payment for timber and other wood products, has a long history in Swedish forestry. The name <i>Payments for Ecosystem</i></p>

Services is however rather new and there is a limitation of what types of ecosystem services paid for, so far. Some examples:

When establishing a forest conservation area such as a nature reserve or a habitat protection area for example, the forest owner is paid by the state either to modify and adapt his or her forest management for the purpose of the area or to not carry out any forestry at all (most common).

One other example is a conservation instrument called Nature conservation agreements. These agreements are signed by a forest owner and an authority, for the management in a specific area. The forest owner is paid by the state, but does not compensate fully the income foregone.

Another example is the KOMET-program which is a PES-scheme for testing new ways of protection of biological valuable forests. This voluntary scheme, initiated by the Swedish Government and introduced in spring 2010 is a partnership of three government bodies.

The KOMET-program focuses on biologically important forests and aims to raise the owners' awareness of the conservation value of their land, and to encourage them to enter nature conservation agreements or other forms of site protection for their forests. Agreements may last for between 1 to 50 years, depending on the significance of the site. Owners receive fixed-rate payments as compensation for the limitations placed on their management in the interests of nature conservation. For habitat protection sites and nature reserves, owners receive full compensation and an additional 25%. The KOMET- program will be evaluated during 2014.

Forest owners can also receive monetary payments if they certified their forest. Timber buying organizations pay certified forest owners an environmental premium. This is one of the driving forces behind the increased certifications in Sweden.

By engaging in certifications you get forest owners who manage the forest more consciously and more in the direction of responsible forestry. By paying forest owners an environmental premium forest owners also gets an incentive to pay more attention to the environment and in the end more species will be preserved.

In the above mentioned bill the Swedish Government presents measures for better integration of ecosystem services into economic decision-making, policy considerations and other decisions in society. For example, ecosystem services need to be included in environmental accounting, planning by public authorities, decisions on land use, the design of economic instruments and in collaboration with industry to develop business models, innovations and standards. To strengthen this work, the Government intends to appoint a national coordinator for ecosystem services. The coordinator will enhance skills and increase the knowledge base on biodiversity and ecosystem services in industry, municipalities and other public authorities.

5. Biodiversity aspects

Adoption of N2000 forest management plans in forests designated as Natura 2000 sites

In Sweden the County Administrative Boards have the overarching responsibility, at regional level, for Natura 2000 areas. The authorities have prepared the background material for the establishment of Natura 2000 areas, which than was decided by the government. Forest management plans, as used in forestry, are normally not used for Natura 2000 forest-areas. The management of these areas are regulated through conservation plans as the main part of Natura 2000 forest-areas in Sweden are nature reserves. Currently, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency is preparing guidelines for updating the existing Natura 2000 conservation plans.

The Swedish Forest Agency (SFA) is the responsible authority when it comes to forestry measures that could affect the environment in Natura 2000 areas. This responsibility is twofold, a) forestry measures within designated areas and b), forestry measures adjacent to or in vicinity of designated areas. The County Administrative Boards are the competent authority for other measures than forestry taken in forested and other types of Natura 2000 areas.

Permission needs to be obtained from the County Administrative Boards for measures that are likely to have a significant effect on the environment in Natura 2000 areas. In cases where the SFA is competent authority – i.e. concerning forestry operations – the SFA evaluates whether or not a planned activity or operation needs permission. Thus, the SFA safeguards that forestry operations that might affect a Natura 2000 area are not taken without prior consent from the County Administrative Board. The operator carries the responsibility to evaluate if the planned activities need prior consent and seek permission from the County Administrative Board. Extension services on the limitations posed on forest operations concerning Natura 2000 areas are provided to forest owners.

As mentioned under question 1.a) all forest owners have to send in a notification to the SFA when planning a final felling etc. The SFA then has six weeks to react – i.e. giving detailed instructions on how and where certain activities should be conducted or cannot be conducted. In those cases when a notification is received concerning a Natura 2000 area or in vicinity thereof, the SFA evaluates the planned activity in relation to the obligation of prior permission. The management restrictions included in the conservation management plans form the basis for that decision. In addition, frequent contact between the SFA and County Administrative Boards is a regular practice.

If the planned activity is not deemed to be subject to prior permission the matter it is treated like any other notification to the SFA. If the planned activity is deemed to be subject to prior permission the operator is informed in writing of SFA's decision. An activity might be partially allowed or allowed under specific preconditions (i.e. if certain precautions or adjustments as indicated by the SFA are taken), which is also communicated to the operator.

When an operator or forest owner applies for permission an environmental impact assessment has to be submitted. If the County Administrative Board gives permission under certain preconditions, the SFA is responsible for checking that those preconditions are followed.

6. Monitoring: Forest management plans are not used for monitoring and evaluation of forestry. SFA carries out monitoring in relation to the forestry act, with focus of regeneration and environmental consideration.

Already under questions 4 and 5 we provided some information on the functioning of monitoring, checks and controls, aided by the nation-wide GIS database. There are some more elements which complement this system.

National Forest Inventory - which forms the basis for national forest statistics as well as international reporting.

Satellite imagery and aerial photography - this is the basis of the nation-wide GIS database. By means of comparing imagery from year to year, the SFA can track harvests (by comparing the harvest notifications entered into the GIS system with the actual situation), rejuvenation of previously harvested stands, as well as other forestry operations and their effects (e.g. constructed forest roads). As stated earlier, this is then complemented by field checks when deemed necessary - e.g. when harvests are planned or conducted in the vicinity of areas of special environmental concern

	<p>automatically flagged by the system (i.e. Natura 2000 areas, nature reserves, high nature value biotopes, waterways, lakes, Sami villages' reindeer husbandry routes).</p> <p>In order to gain the latest data after storms, aerial reconnaissance is carried out immediately after events as a complement to the "fixed" monitoring intervals by satellite imagery and aerial photography. In case of indications of forest pests, helicopter inventories are carried out so as to be able to implement preventive measures in adjacent areas.</p>
SI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General part of the FMPs containing geographical location and natural, economic and social conditions. 2. Map of forest functions elaborated in 2001 and regularly updated is used for assessing the multifunctional goals set in the FMP. 3. National Forest Programme provides professional guidelines and determines the basis for multiple-use management of forests. 4. The Act on Forest provides 16 different forest functions, among ecological, social and productive functions. 5. Biodiversity aspects - FMPs are also designed by OP for Natura2000 Management when include N2000 sites. Guidelines from the Institute for Nature Conservation are taken into account. FMPs contain specific objectives, guidelines and measures beyond Nature legislation. All degraded forest should be restored. FMPs follow preserve and establish diverse landscape patterns. 6. Monitoring - Forestry information system includes sub-compartment level, forests stand level, function units and permanent sample plots regarding some variables. Biotic and abiotic factors are monitored mainly with the sample plots.
SK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, partially. Biogeographical and geological aspects are contained. No information on landscape features and site history. 2. FMP prescriptions, based on different management models, are differentiated according to functional forests categories. 3. Methods, timing of harvest and total volume of felled timber are laid down by forest law. 4. Yes, implicitly from protective function of forests. 5. Biodiversity aspects - Nature Conservation authorities are involved in the elaboration of FMP. Prescribed tree species composition and requirement for promoting natural regeneration are taken into account by FMP outside protected forest areas. FMPs promote the reconstruction of tree species composition towards natural one. Some aspects of non-woody species biodiversity can be covered. 6. Monitoring - National Forest Inventory and Monitoring every 5 years. Maps of forest site types and soils are updated periodically.
UK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, a through site survey and analysis is required for a forest plan. 2. Requirement to state and rank aspects such as landscape, biodiversity, social considerations, the historic environment. 3. UKFS has a specific requirement to maintain the ability of forests to produce a range of wood and no-wood forest products. Restrictions can be imposed on harvesting operations. 4. Yes. 5. Biodiversity aspects - Forestry proposals on Natura2000 sites are sent to the

	<p>statutory agencies for comment. Specialist guidelines on protecting aquatic environment. UKFS Climate Change Guidelines includes genetic diversity. Biodiversity improvements delivered in the framework of UK Biodiversity Action. Restoration of degraded forests is addressed in the FMPs. UK FS includes timber and non-timber species.</p> <p>6. Monitoring - National forest inventory maps all forest areas. Sample survey examines selected plots in detail. Revised plans are given for the next 5-10 years. Remote sensing or aerial surveys to assess the damage.</p>
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<p>4. With regard to GENERAL QUESTIONS (governance):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Are there obligations for public consultation of MP for publicly owned forests? Is it a requirement for privately owned forests? Who needs to be consulted and at what stages?</i> 2) <i>What entity/entities are authorised to prepare MP?</i> 3) <i>Are MP linked to general land use planning and/or the land registry?</i> 4) <i>What is the periodicity required for revising Forest Management Plans?</i> 	
AT	<p>1. There are no such obligations in connection with FMPs prepared voluntarily or required under the forest law (Forest Development Plan, Technical Forestry Plan). MPs required under nature conservation law are prepared with public (often local) participation and the involvement of stakeholders.</p> <p>2. A Technical Forestry Plan has to be prepared by professional foresters or civil engineers for forestry. A Forest Development Plan (see Question 5) has to be provided by the Provincial Governor (only professional foresters are authorised to formulate it) and is subject to the approval of the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.</p> <p>3. The forest land use plans are expressly linked to general land use planning; biotope protection forests have to be presented in the Forest Development Plan as well. But also the Forest Management Plans must meet the requirements of land use planning. Management plans subject to nature conservation law have to be taken into account in land use planning.</p> <p>4. Eligibility for funds from the rural development support programme requires an up-to-date Forest Management Plan. Management plans subject to nature conservation law are updated when this is necessary to achieve the planning goal. Forest Development Plans are usually revised at intervals of about 10 years.</p>
BE-WL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes. No legal requirements for privately owned forests. 2) The Département de la Nature et des Forêts (DNF) establishes the plan for the owner (Communes, Provinces, other public bodies, not for private owners). Once DNF agreed, it can decide to launch a public consultation. After the public consultation (only for

	<p>public forests), the opinion of the Wallonian Environment Council for Sustainable Development is asked. The Code de l'Environnement identifies the information to figure in the report on environmental incidences (RIE). The owner takes them into account and adopts the MP.</p> <p>3) Land management requirements are systematically taken into account when elaborating management issues, as well as the cadastre references of the forest parcels.</p> <p>4) The DNF plans the revision of the MPs with the aim to revise plans for 12,000 ha per Year. This results in a revision after 20 years. Each MP has a validity of 20 to 30 years.</p>
BG	<p>1.) Yes, for the publicly owned forest - no for privately owned forests. Public consultation with all interested stakeholders as the Ministry of Environment and Waters (MEW), Regional Forest Directorates (at Executive Forest Agency), State Forest/Hunting Enterprises (at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food) , Basin Directorates(at MEW), private forest owners, Regional Directorates for Environment and Waters(MEW), Municipalities, and others, is organized before the Second Forest Management Planning Meeting (about 1.5 years after the beginning of the field work), minutes with recommendations and opinions to be taken into account in the completion of the FM Plans prepared.</p> <p>2) The Law on Forests determines the forest territories inventory and elaboration of FM Plans and programs for management and development to be executed by traders who are registered in the Public register of the Executive Forest Agency, according to art. 242.</p> <p>The Management plans for Nature and National parks and other protected areas are developed (according to the pointed out in the response 3 Regulations) by a team of experts depending to the requirements, explicitly noted in the Terms of Reference, prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Waters.</p> <p>3) FMPS are linked to register of forests and lands.</p> <p>4) 10 years.</p>
CY	<p>1) Interservice and public consultation mandatory. Interservice consultation for all interested government departments and public presentation to all local administrations and government organisations.</p> <p>2) Department of Environment responsible for MPs in non-public N2000 areas.</p> <p>3) Link to and taking into consideration of land use planning.</p> <p>4) Revision of FMPs whenever this is deemed necessary. Existing FMPs cover 10 years.</p>
CZ	<p>1) Legal entities and individuals whose rights and legally protected interests may be affected, and public forest administration authority may submit their comments and requirements with respect to the preparation of plans or guidelines no later than within the deadline specified by the approving public forest administration authority.</p> <p>2) Only licensed operators (agencies) are authorised to prepare FMPs.</p> <p>3) Land registry provides the basis for a FMP preparation (map of the forest parcels belonging to the owners).</p> <p>4) 10 years.</p>
DE	<p>1) In case forest owners let participate the public in establishing FMPs, this happens on a volunteering basis. Forest owners, if state, communal or private, in DE are not obliged to consult the public. One reason for this is the fact that FMPs can contain a plethora of internal data on the management entity. However, the Länder require presenting the</p>

	<p>FMPs for approval to the competent forest authority.</p> <p>2) In DE FMPs may only be established by specially qualified experts. For state owned forests, the Länder created specialised services which establish the FMPs.</p> <p>In private and communal (Körperschaftswald) forests, free-lance experts establish the FMPs in most of the cases.</p> <p>All FMPs need to be presented to the competent forest authority for approval.</p> <p>3) FMPs of public owners are part of the general land planning, which they implement through sectoral planning.</p> <p>In case of planning of public projects through which forest areas are needed or whose impacts could concern forest land, the forest functions need to be taken into due consideration. The authorities competent for forests have to be informed on the project planning and ensuing measures planned to be taken (§ 8 Bundeswaldgesetz).</p> <p>A link of FMPs to the cadaster is not foreseen and is not needed and makes no sense.</p> <p>4) every 10 years. Exceptionally 20 years (mountain forests at high elevation, very small forest ownership). In case of need, e.g. after widespread damage cause by disasters, FMPs can be reviewed and adapted before 10 years.</p>
DK	
EE	<p>1) There are no provisions for consultation in the Forest Act. However, State Forest Management Centre, manager of the public forests, presents its FMPs on public meetings, local press and its homepage. Private plans are usually not publicly introduced.</p> <p>2) FMP prepared by licensed companies.</p> <p>3) FMPs not directly linked to land use planning.</p> <p>4) The inventory data have to be no more than 10 years old to be valid.</p>
ES	<p>1) Public consultation is mandatory in some of the Autonomous Communities.</p> <p>2) Link to land use planning is mandatory in some of the Autonomous Communities.</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4) every 15 years</p>
FI	<p>1) Statutory requirements form the basis for FMP for family forests</p> <p>2) For family forests, forest owners are free to purchase forest planning services from any company operating in the market.</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4) 10 to 15 years</p>
FR	<p>1) For state forests, ONF has to consult municipalities. In private forests, there is no requirement on the status of the person in charge of preparation.</p> <p>2) FMPs for public owned forests are prepared by ONF (National Forests Office).</p> <p>For state forests, ONF has to consult the municipalities which support and surround the forest and take their opinion on the forest management plans into account.</p> <p>For forests owned by territorial authorities, the management plans must be approved by the competent territorial authority.</p> <p>In privately owned forest, there is no requirement on the status of the person in charge</p>

	<p>of preparation. It can be the owner himself, a professional manager or a cooperative.</p> <p>Management plans maps are cross checked with land registry (cadastre).</p> <p>3) FMPs cross checked with land registry (cadastre).</p> <p>4) Validity period of 10 to 20 years.</p>
GR	<p>1) There is no obligation for public consultation of management plans for the state forests, nor for the management plans for private forests. The latter ones are checked and approved by the competent regional Forest Authorities.</p> <p>2) For forests above a certain area (2.000,00 ha) these can be assigned to free-lance foresters, that will prepare them within the respective legal framework. The management plans for non-state forests are prepared by freelance foresters and are approved by the competent Forest Service.</p> <p>3) No</p> <p>4) 10 years. FMP needs revision before expiration.</p>
HR	<p>1) Public consultation.</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3) Link to land use planning.</p> <p>4) every 10 years</p>
HU	<p>1) Public consultation mandatory for RFMPs which are agreed upon by the Forestry Directorates of the County Government Offices.</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4) every 10 years</p>
IE	<p>1) Public consultation not mandatory, but done in practice for Coillte FMPs and NPWS for National Parks. Public consultation not mandatory for private forests.</p> <p>2) FMPs submitted by forest owners where support is requested under rural development or state aid rules must be prepared by a registered forester.</p> <p>3) No specific link to land use planning, except for Coillte forests.</p> <p>4) Usually every 10 years for private forests and every 5 years for Coillte forests.</p>
IT	<p>1) Are there obligations for public consultation of Management Plans for publicly owned forest? Is it a requirement for privately owned forests? If so, who needs to be consulted and at what stages (i.e. preparation, field work, completion)?</p> <p>There are no national obligations. Public consultation is managed by local competent Administrations.</p> <p>2) Professionals enrolled in the national register of Agronomists and Foresters are authorized to prepare MP. They can also operate on behalf of private or public agencies</p> <p>3) FMPs must be compliant with other planning instruments.</p> <p>4) Usually 10 years in average.</p>
LT	<p>1) Public consultation.</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3) Link to State's Forest Cadaster.</p>

	4) 10 years. Forest management plans for private forest estates of less than 10 hectares are valid for 20 years, for private forest estates of 10 hectares and more for 10 years.
LU	1) No obligation for public consultation. 2) 3) No link to land use planning/land registry. 4) 10 years
LV	1) Public consultation for FMPs obligatory (not for private forests). 2) FMPs can be prepared by owners on the basis of inventory data. 3) FMPs not directly linked to land use planning. 4) Inventory every 20 years mandatory.
MT	1) 2) 3) 4)
NL	1) No governmental obligation; consultations are obliged for the monitoring of FSC and PEFC certified forests. 2) No authorisation is required. 3) There is no formal linkage. 4) Not required. However, most organisations having FMPs in place revise their FMPs once every 10 years.
PL	1) Yes, draft FMP are subject of consultation. 2) Basic requirements address a technical equipment and staff potential necessary for proper and timely performance of management works, with consideration given to education. One of the possible contractor can be the state-owned enterprise called The Bureau for Forest Management and Geodesy with a long-standing experience in drawing-up the FMP. 3) Spatial development plans are needed for establishing FMPs. 4) every 10 Years (NFI every 5 years)
PT	1) The public consultation is mandatory for publicly and community owned forests. In the case of private forests, public consultation is mandatory only when the FMP refers to a Forest Intervention Zone (ZIF). 2) The legal framework does not provide for restrictions on the type of organization authorized to prepare the FMP, it only provides for the obligation to identify the technical entity that take responsibility for the plan 3) Yes, the legal framework requires the identification of the holdings' registers comprised in the area subject to the Plan; in addition, it also requires the linkage to the main land management tools prescriptions (eg. land use municipal plans, watershed management plans) and forest higher hierarchy plans (e.g., RFP, municipal plans for forest fire protection). It is worth recalling that RAM does not have PROF and PGF yet. 4) The FMP is valid for the same period as the respective regional forest plan, while the same legal framework provides that the maximum validity of a regional plan is 25 years.

	At any time the FMP can be revised when there are relevant changes in the conditions underlying its elaboration.
RO	<p>1) Yes, public consultation is done both for public owned forests and for private forests.</p> <p>2) FMP developed by Forest Research and Managing Planning Institute and design companies.</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4) Every 10 years, except for poplars and willows, which are valid for 5 years.</p>
SE	<p>1)</p> <p>2)</p> <p>3)</p> <p>4) every 15 years</p>
SI	<p>1) Public consultation is mandatory. Forest owners and interested public.</p> <p>2) The Slovenia Forest Service.</p> <p>3) FMP used as guidelines in the preparation of Spatial Planning Acts.</p> <p>4) Every 10 years.</p>
SK	<p>1) Public consultation mandatory for both public and private forests. It involves local authorities, non-forestry public organizations and stakeholders. Two stages of obligatory consultations: before the beginning of FMP elaboration and before FMP approval.</p> <p>2) Licensed operators (supervised by state authorities).</p> <p>3) Yes.</p> <p>4) Every 10 years.</p>
UK	<p>1) Public consultation takes place on the FMP for all forest in public sector. For private sector, FMP are available for public comments.</p> <p>2) No restrictions.</p> <p>3) Not directly linked to wider land use planning, but asked to take into account planning policies.</p> <p>4) Every 5 years.</p>

5. With regard to **EQUIVALENT INSTRUMENTS**,

- Which ones, if any, are recognised and what share of the forest area do they cover?

AT	<p>In Austria Forest management plans and equivalent instruments are considered useful tools for forest managers; however the instrument to induce and verify sustainability in the context of forest management in Austria is a comprehensive mechanism consisting of the following interdependent components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conceptual framework of SFM based on the resolutions by the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference 2. A solid legal framework with clear provisions on rights and obligations
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. An effective institutional framework for law enforcement and knowledge management (research and development, education, training and advisory services) 4. A well balanced Financial framework built by revenues from economic activities, private public investments in forests, taxes and subsidies 5. Broad participation in policy development and implementation 6. Monitoring, assessment and reporting on SFM indicators and related targets
BE-WL	Equivalent instrument: Plan simple de gestion.
BG	No equivalent instrument exists.
CY	Equivalent instruments: the national forest program. This leads and steers the forest policy development and planning. It provides policy guidelines and a set of minimum standard for the sustainable development of the forest sector. The nfp covers all state forests.
CZ	<p>Equivalent instruments: To enable the establishment of the state of the forests and the execution of state administration, forest management guidelines shall be prepared for forests of an area under 50 hectares in the ownership of individuals or legal entities if no plans are prepared for such. Guidelines are prepared, as a rule, for a period of ten years, and remain valid in the specified area for the same period of time. The preparation of the guidelines is commissioned by the relevant state forest administration body.</p> <p>Share of Forest Management Guidelines is approximately 15% of forest area.</p>
DE	<p>Equivalent instruments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -proof of an agreed certification, e.g. PEFC, FSC etc., -Waldfunktionspläne (functional forest plans), - Natura 2000 MPs, - Flächennutzungspläne(land use plans), - Landschaftspläne (landscape plans), - Schutzwaldsanierungspläne (sanitation plans for protective forests), - Nationalparkpläne (national park plans), - Schutzgebietsverordnungen, die Wald betreffen (regulations on protectedforestareas). <p>These equivalent instruments are abundant in number and differ from Land to Land and in detail intensity, as well in application level.</p>
DK	
EE	Equivalent instruments: For major fellings valid inventory data in Forest Register are needed. Inventory data are submitted to Forest Register by licenced companies. Forest Register is a GIS system involving data about forest area, volume, location, condition, owner, use and restrictions of use. The Forest Register contains inventory data about 100% publicly owned forest and about ca 70% privately owned forest.
ES	Equivalent instruments exist for small holdings, age of the stand, dynamic of forest. At national level: FMPs, forest mensuration plans, technical plans, etc...

FI	
FR	
GR	
HR	Equivalent instruments: Tree marking in private forests not covered by a FMP.
HU	No equivalent instrument exists.
IE	No equivalent instrument if not for MPs for National Parks and Conservation Plans.
IT	Italian Forest Resources are 100% legally bound. The two main bindings provided by the laws n. 3267 of 1923 and n. 431 of 1985 compel private and public owners to strictly respect limitations concerning the use of their forest resources. As a matter of fact, each exploitation of forest resources must not compromise their perpetuation and therefore, any change of land use; this for the sake of hydro-geological, landscape and environmental protection in general (the same limitations apply also to burnt forest and OWL, due to the law n. 353 on forest fires approved in 2000). As a consequence not only unplanned cuttings are always forbidden on the whole forest area, but local prescriptions fix precise silvicultural rules to be observed (only exception made for productive forestry plantations, such as poplar stands, usually located on plains and managed according to intensive silvicultural techniques). These local prescriptions apply to the 87.6% of the national forest area and have been usually considered as an equivalent instrument of forest planning. Nevertheless this share of forest can also be covered by proper MPs, which characterizes the 15,7% of the national forest extent. Moreover and as already mentioned above, the national legislation (D.lgs. 227/2001) provide the adoption of international (MCPFE – Forest Europe) SFM criteria, which are therefore implicitly taken into account in all forest plans, measures and interventions, including the ones financed by Rural development programs.
LT	
LU	No equivalent instrument exists.
LV	Equivalent instruments based on inventory which leads to a plan of forest land. Besides, large areas of unmanaged forests. 93 % of forests managed under FMPs/equivalent instruments, Forest cover 52%, state forests 47%, municipal forests 1 % and private forests 52%.
MT	
NL	No equivalent instrument exists.
PL	A non-public forests an area up to 10 ha, in such cases forest management tasks are determined by a local governor decisions on the basis of the forest inventory. This refer in total to a very marginal percentage of the total forest area in Poland .
PT	The Portuguese forest legislation does not foresee the existence of equivalent instruments to the FMP.
RO	No equivalent instrument exists.
SE	
SI	No equivalent instrument exists.
SK	No equivalent instrument exists.
UK	No, if not felling licence.

6. Additional information	
AT	
BE-WL	Owners of < 20ha = < 1% of surface (from these, 40% are certified PEFC and need a MP).
BG	
CY	
CZ	
DE	<p>1. <i>Sind Regelungen für einen finanziellen Ausgleich von Ökosystem-Dienstleistungen der Wälder geplant?</i></p> <p>Die Bereitstellung von Ökosystemleistungen, die über die Erfordernisse einer nachhaltigen Waldbewirtschaftung, z. B. im Rahmen von Schutzgebietsausweisungen (Natura-2000/FFH-Gebiete) hinausgehen, hat aufgrund einhergehender Bewirtschaftungsreglementierungen eine Bedeutung für den Wert der Fläche. Sofern Waldeigentümern von der öffentlichen Hand Investitionen zur Optimierung von Ökosystemleistungen verbindlich abverlangt werden sollen, ist hierfür eine rechtliche Regelung unerlässlich. Eine entsprechende Planung dazu besteht auf nationaler Ebene bislang nicht.</p> <p>Im Übrigen wird beispielhaft auf die Antwortbeiträge der Länder Brandenburg, Berlin, Baden-Württemberg, Hessen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Sachsen und Thüringen verwiesen (Anlagen).</p> <p>Views on involvement of the SFC in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy</p> <p>When implementing the new EU FS, Germany will strive to further develop the SFC towards an improved entity for all policy fields relevant to forests. The SFC should not only react to these policies, but also actively coordinate when applying its advisory role so as to bring in coherence the many demands put on forests. This can e.g. be done by elaborating detailed measures of the MS for implementing the BS, through an intense exchange of information between and within MS, as well as MS and Commission . At a later stage, the impacts of the measures taken on the different policy fields would have to be evaluated by the SFC in order to identify further measures.</p> <p>SFC contribution to the mid-term review of the BS</p> <p>First of all, there should be an intense exchange of views at SFC level on the planned methodology of the mid-term review with the aim at extracting thereof a general coherent methodology which takes into account all relevant aspects. During the ensuing interpretation of the outcome it should be the task of the SFC (as described before) to develop recommendations for measures which could reply at equal footing to the demands of different policy fields.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p><i>Frage 3 – Monitoring, Tired 2: Wie werden in Managementplänen biotische und abiotische Belastungsfaktoren für die Wälder erfasst / angesprochen (insb. Schaderreger, Krankheiten, Überweidung, „Overstocking(!?)“, Waldbrand, Luftverunreinigungen, Waldarbeit etc.)?</i></p> <p>Eine Managementplanung erfordert eine Zustandserfassung des Waldes. Dabei werden Belastungsfaktoren für den Wald erfasst, soweit sie für den Betrieb relevant sind. Methodisch werden dabei, je nach Betriebsgröße und organisatorischen Möglichkeiten, Stichprobenerhebungen oder Schätzungen eingesetzt, zum Teil gestützt und ergänzt durch Messungen oder spezielle Erhebungen (z. B. Rücke- und Fällschäden, Wildverbiss,</p>

	<p>Schälschäden).</p> <p>Für ein betriebsübergreifendes Monitoring können diese Informationen jedoch nur selten verwendet werden, da sie zu verschiedenen Zeitpunkten und mit unterschiedlichen Methoden erhoben werden. Außerdem liegt die Information aufgrund der gegebenen kleinparzellierten Besitzstrukturen ohne forstliche Managementpläne (siehe oben) nicht flächendeckend vor. Die forstliche Managementplanung ist somit <u>kein</u> Monitoringsystem, das repräsentativ und mit einheitlichen Methoden systematisch und betriebsübergreifend Daten über biotische und abiotische Belastungsfaktoren für die Wälder sammelt.</p> <p>Zur Erfassung betriebs- und regionenübergreifender Information werden auf Landesebene daher spezielle, auf die jeweiligen Gefährdung abgestimmte Monitoringsysteme genutzt (z. B. zum Borkenkäfer, Nonne, sonstige Waldschädlinge, Waldbrandwarnsysteme, Wildverbiss). Wichtige Monitoringinstrumente zur Erfassung von biotischen und abiotischen Belastungsfaktoren für die Wälder sind die jährliche Kronenzustandserhebung, die Bodenzustandserhebung sowie Messprogramme zur Erfassung von Witterungsdaten, Luftverunreinigungen und des Wasserhaushalts.</p> <p>Viele dieser Monitoringmaßnahmen sind sehr aufwändig und lassen sich nur im Rahmen überregionaler Mess- und Inventurprogramme realisieren und auswerten.</p> <p>Forstliche Managementpläne können auf Belastungsfaktoren reagieren und diese – soweit auf Betriebsebene möglich ist – in der forstlichen Betriebsplanung berücksichtigen. In feuergefährdeten Bereichen können z. B. Maßnahmen und Einrichtungen zur Vorbeugung und Bekämpfung von Waldbränden geplant werden; bei der Waldverjüngung entscheidet die Wahl der Baumart über die Anpassungsfähigkeit der künftigen Waldbestände gegen Klimaänderung und andere Belastungsfaktoren.</p>
DK	
EE	
ES	<p>Spanish Forest Act² modified in 2006 establishes in its article 33 point 2 that public and private forests should count with a forest management plan or equivalent instrument³.</p> <p>Forest holdings with a surface under the minimum established by the autonomous regions will be exempted from this obligation.</p> <p>The drafting of those instruments will be initially proposed by the forest owner (<i>titular del monte</i>) or by the forest body of the autonomous region. In any case the management plans will be approved by the forest body of the Autonomous Community.</p> <p>The minimum content of the management plans or equivalent instruments will be determined by the “basic guidelines for the forest management and harvesting”, which are still to be developed and approved by the Spanish Government.</p> <p>The drafting of these plans will be guided and monitored by professionals with background in forestry (university degree) and will have as a reference, in case it is deemed appropriate, the Forest Resource Management Plan at regional scale (PORF).</p> <p>Additionally, it is also possible for a small forest owner based in some Spanish regions to adhere to other major forest management guidelines approved by the regional forest administration, with the forest owner’s commitment to follow and implement the provisions set out in those guidelines; in this case, this forest area will be regarded as being managed with a forest management plan.</p>

² [Ley 43/2003, de 21 de noviembre, de Montes](#)

³ [Proyecto de ordenación de montes, plan dasocrático u otro instrumento de gestión equivalente](#)

	<p>The national act is further developed by the autonomous communities' legislation. In this document a few examples show how the national legislation is further developed and implemented in various regions.</p> <p>These plans must be finished before 2018, according to the Spanish Forest Act. In chapter three of the Act, a period of 15 years is given to all forests to achieve this management plan, either of private or public ownership.</p>
FI	
FR	
GR	
HR	
HU	
IE	Ireland is currently examining management plans with the focus of providing standard templates for use in private and public forests. This work is underway and it is hoped that a standardised format will facilitate licence and consent applications and improved reporting.
IT	
LT	
LU	
LV	
MT	
NL	The information above is derived from the latest Dutch FAO Forest Resources Assessment report which was recently submitted. If the monitoring of Item 3b is integrated with the FRA reporting system, double work could be avoided.
PL	
PT	<p>The answers that PT provided to the questionnaire in November 2013 cover both Mainland and the Autonomous Region of Madeira (RAM), since the information related to the Autonomous Region of Azores was not available.</p> <p>Forest owners also make use of voluntary market instruments, like internationally recognized certification systems (FSC and PEFC), or adopt practices consistent with "codes of good practices for sustainable forest management" developed based on the work developed within the Technical Committee for Standardization 145/IPQ (Portuguese standard NP 4406/2003 - sustainable forest Management Systems), which applies the pan-European criteria for sustainable forest management and operational level guidelines.</p>
RO	
SE	<p><i>Views on involvement of the SFC in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy</i></p> <p>Sweden considers a stronger involvement of the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) in the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to be paramount. As emphasized in the Council Conclusions of 19 December 2011 the Council recognizes the use of FMPs and equivalent instruments; and: <i>welcomes the ongoing work on the future EU Forest Strategy, and encourages the Member States, Commission and stakeholders to collaborate in order to strengthen the integration of biodiversity into policies affecting</i></p>

	<p><i>forests while addressing all three pillars of sustainability;</i></p> <p>Thus, the Council Conclusions give a clear recommendation to Commission and Member States to take a holistic approach to the biodiversity strategy, meaning that the biodiversity strategy cannot and should not operate in a vacuum but that collaborative effort with the upcoming EU Forest Strategy is necessary and beneficial, and moreover, that when matters concern forests and forestry, all three pillars of sustainability should be addressed simultaneously.</p> <p>EU discussions on sustainable forest management (SFM) fall under aegis of the SFC. The SFC is the forum for discussions on the interplay between sustainability's three pillars and thereby the most fitting place to discuss all aspects and functions of forests in a holistic way. Forests cannot be viewed from a narrow sectorial policy point-of-view – as soon as one only focuses on one of the pillars of sustainability, the other two are compromised, which ultimately leads to negative effects on all three.</p> <p>The SFC has successfully worked with the implementation of the Forest Action Plan (the implementing tool for the 1998 EU Forestry Strategy) as indicated by the FAP evaluations. Therefore, the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy would also benefit from the involvement of the SFC, especially when taking into account that many Natura 2000 areas are in fact forest lands and forestry activities take place within, adjacent to and in vicinity of Natura 2000 areas. And perhaps more importantly, Natura 2000 is only one of many different approaches aiming at achieving favourable conservation status of species and habitats. It is the national forest authorities that supervise forestry activities in the Member States that possess the expertise and know-how necessary to help implement the EU Biodiversity Strategy. It is in the SFC that these experts come together.</p> <p>Practically, Sweden could envisage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have joint meetings between the committee currently responsible for the implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the SFC when deemed appropriate. • When ad-hoc working groups are established under the auspices of the relevant Committee dealing with the EU biodiversity strategy, the SFC should be asked to also nominate member for that working group. • To discuss in the SFC, and maybe establish ad-hoc working group under the SFC to identify activities to promote synergies in the implementation of the EU BS and EU FS • In order to further promote synergies in the implementation of the EU FS and the EU BS, the two strategies should be treated in conjunction at EU Forest Directors meetings.
SI	
SK	
UK	

Acronyms used:

BMP Biodiversity management programmes

BS Biodiversity Strategy

- FMP** Forest Management Plan
- FS** Forest Strategy
- FSC** Certification under Forest Stewardship Council
- HNV** High nature value
- IAS** Invasive Alien Species
- M ha** million hectares
- MP** Management Plan
- N2000** NATURA 2000 directives
- NFI** National forest inventory
- OWL** Other wooded land
- PEFC** Certification under the 'Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification Schemes'
- PEIF** Specific forest intervention plan (Portugal)
- PGF** FMP at holding level (Portugal)
- PROF** Regional forest management plan (Portugal)
- SFM** Sustainable Forest Management

Periodicity of Forest Management Plans (situation June 2014)	
years	Number of EU Member States (EU-28)
5	1
10	17
10 to 20	5
20 to 30	2
No indication	3