

NATIONAL FORESTRY POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NFPS) FOR ROMANIA (2001-2010)

Introduction

Forests affect our lives at many levels; economic, social and environmental. International concern for the protection of the environment and an awareness of forests in this context has been increasing in recent years. The world's forests play an essential role in life and economic development, in the protection of ecosystems, freshwater, biodiversity and genetic material and in climate balance. Their protection, sustainable management and development has therefore become an international issue.

Romania's forests constitute a valuable natural and renewable resource with the potential to contribute positively to national economic development and the well being of Romanian citizens. Forests cover approximately 27% of Romania's land area and include some of the last and largest tracts of natural and virgin old-growth forests still remaining in Europe.

Forestry is neither a stand-alone nor a self-contained sector. It has linkages with agriculture, rural development, industry, trade and the protection of the environment. Due to of its multi-faceted nature and interaction with the environment and other areas of economic and social importance, planning for the development of forestry at national level must be both comprehensive and integrated.

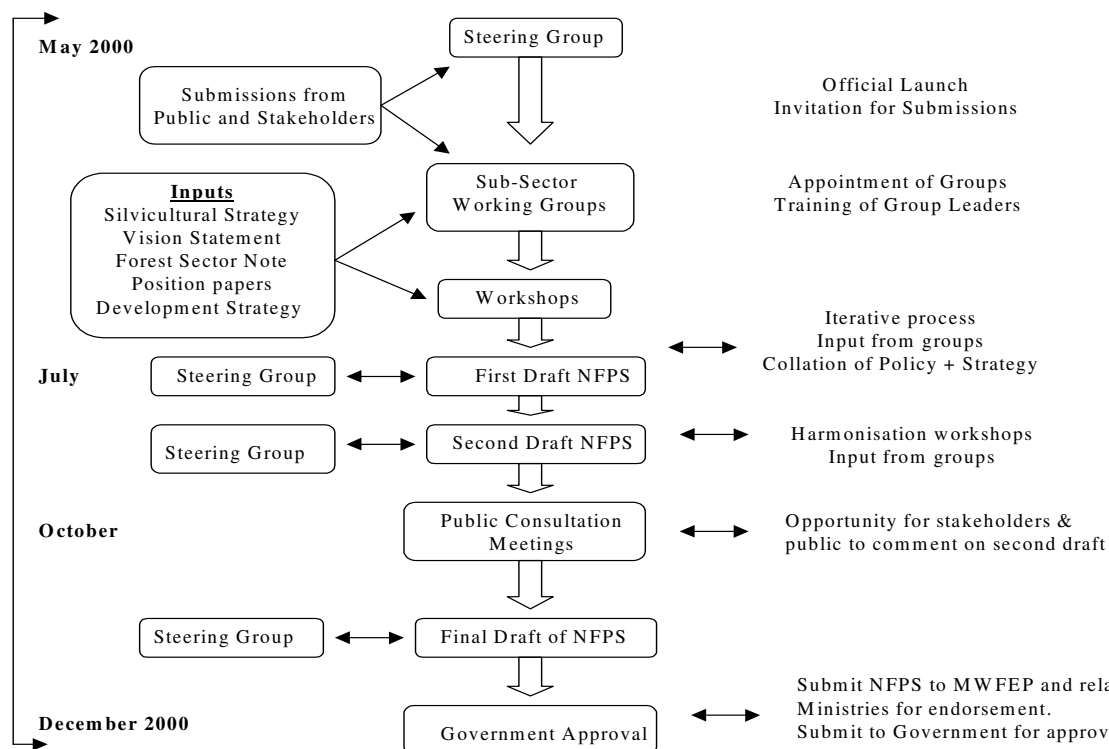


Figure 1: The NFPS Process

This National Forestry Policy and Development Strategy (NFPS) has been developed through an open, consultative and participatory process, involving stakeholders from all related sectors (Figure

1). It represents a comprehensive and integrated framework for the sustainable development of Romania's forestry sector.

The NFPS, in addition to defining overall forestry policy at national level:

- Sets out and prioritizes a series of specific strategic actions to achieve on policy goals; and
- Provides the basis for the co-ordinated and sustainable development of the sector.

Overall Goal

The overall goal of the forestry policy is:

“The development of the forestry sector to increase its contribution to the improvement in the quality of life, based on the sustainable¹ management of the forest resource.”

Overall Strategic Objectives

The achievement of this overall goal together with specific sectoral policies for silviculture / management, logging / wood processing, marketing and research / education, is supported by three overall strategic objectives at Governmental level:

1. *The development of an institutional framework to implement in a coherent and sustainable fashion, the development strategy for the forestry sector;*
2. *The development of the legislative framework for the forestry sector; and*
3. *The encouragement of the association of private forest owners, logging, transport and processing companies in professional or patronal organizations.*

Sectoral Policies

There are four principal policy statements encompassing the sustainable development of the forestry sector:

A) Silviculture / Management:

Policy: To ensure forest management according to the principles of sustainable management of natural resources, taking into account the diversity of forest land ownership.

B) Logging, Transport and Wood Processing

¹ The stewardship and use of forests and forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality, and their potential to fulfill, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.

Policy: The better utilization of wood resources through the integration of logging and wood processing activities within the concept of sustainable management of the natural resource

C) Marketing

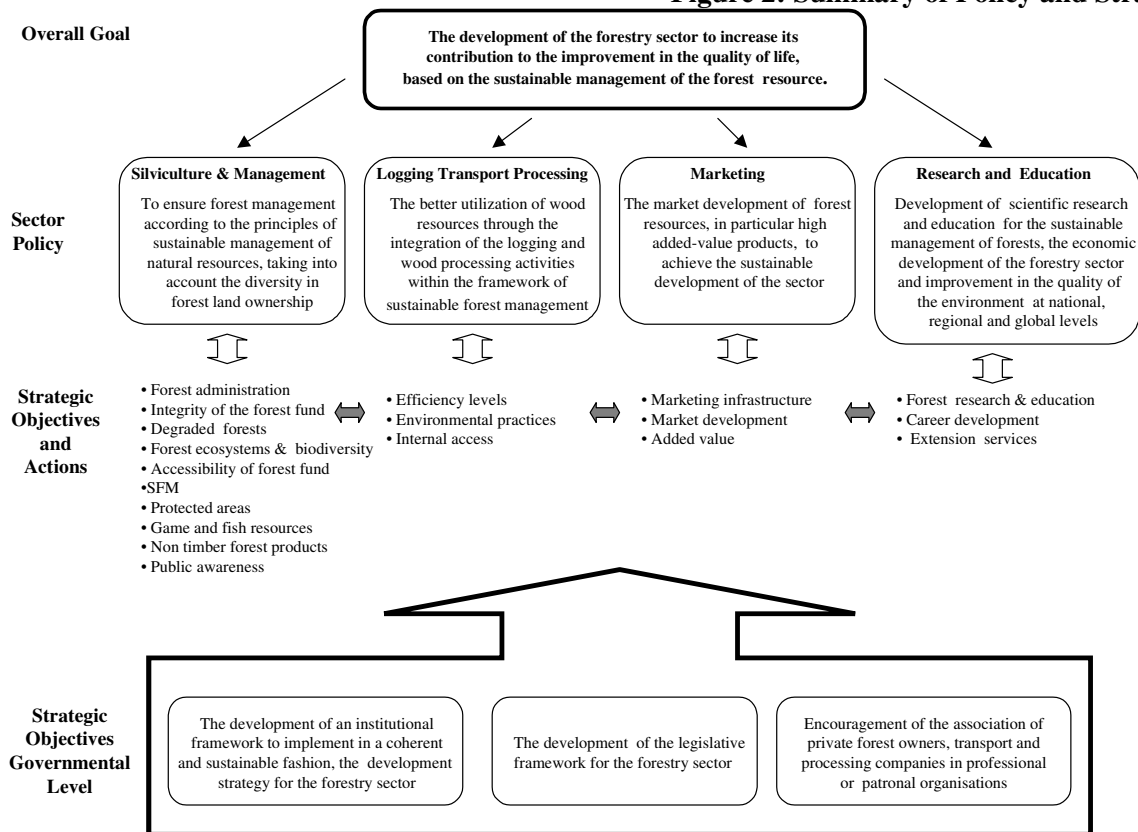
Policy: The market development of forestry resources, in particular high added value products to achieve the sustainable development of the sector.

D) Research, Education and Career Development

Policy: The development of scientific research and education for the sustainable management of forests, the economic development of the forestry sector and the improvement in the quality of the environment at national, regional and global levels.

To achieve on policy aims for each of the four sectors, specific strategic objectives and actions are defined. These are prioritized and the main organization(s) responsible for implementation together with the agreed supporting partner organization(s) are identified. This partnership type approach towards collective responsibility for achievement of objectives will facilitate successful implementation and achievement of policy goals.

Figure 2: Summary of Policy and Strategy



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OVERALL GOAL for the forestry sector

The development of the forestry sector to increase its contribution to the improvement in the quality of life, based on the sustainable management of the forest resource.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES at governmental level:

- **The development of an institutional framework to implement in a coherent and sustainable fashion the development strategy for the forestry sector.**
- **The development of the legislative framework for the forestry sector.**
 1. Review and harmonization of existing legislation relating to the sector;
 2. Harmonization of national legislation with EU legislation, international agreements and conventions to which Romania is a signatory;
 3. Modify and frame the existing legislative framework to support and promote the market economy mechanisms and instruments in the sector;
 4. Review and promotion of the legislative framework for the management of the national forest fund through forest districts, irrespective of the type of ownership;
 5. Modify and frame the legislative framework relating to harvesting and wood processing activities to meet the requirements of environmental al protection and conservation;
 6. Improvement of legislation relating to forest land restitution and the promotion of regulations to avoid over-fragmentation of the private forestry fund through sale and succession;
 7. Promotion of legislative framework (based on a participatory process), regarding:
 - Incentives for forest land owners to ensure the stability and improvement in the functional efficiency of forest ecosystems; and
 - Management of protected areas.
 8. Modify and frame existing regulations to provide incentives to all land owners for the conservation of game and fish species;
 9. Elaboration and promotion of financial and compensatory mechanisms targeted at biodiversity conservation activities and the management of protected areas;
 10. Drafting and passing of specific norms and regulations for companies involved in the forestry sector, to facilitate their efficient (financial and operational) performance; and
 11. Drafting and passing of regulations to provide incentives for the beneficiaries of research activities and for those who invest in research and development activities.
- **The encouragement of the association of private forest owners, logging, transport and processing companies in professional or patronal organisations.**

A. SILVICULTURE / MANAGEMENT

Policy: TO ENSURE FOREST MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DIVERSITY IN FOREST LAND OWNERSHIP

Strategic objectives and actions:

A1. To modify and develop the organizational structures for forest administration and control of law enforcement adapted to the diversification in forest land ownership

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A1.1. The drafting and passing of administrative and control mechanisms, and instruments based on market economy principles and private land ownership.	1	CPAS	FLO SFA
A1.2. The development of administrative structures to suit the existing working units and forest districts, irrespective of land ownership.	1	CPAS	FLO SFA
A1.3. Updating the forest administration information system at central and local levels.	1	CPAS	FLO SFA
A1.4. The harmonization of the forest administration system with European practice.	2	CPAS	SFA FLO
A1.5. The extension of the forest administration to afforested meadows and other important categories of lands covered by forest vegetation.	3	CPAS	FLO SFA

A2. To establish the institutional framework to implement the principles of sustainable forest management and to ensure the necessary implementation framework through the management planning process

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A2.1. The development and implementation of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.	1	CPAS	RI, U FLO, NGO
A2.2. The development of a National Program for sustainable forest management.	1	CPAS	RI, U, FLO
A2.3. The establishment of a Geographic Information System (GIS) for forest management in Romania.	1	CPAS	RI, U
A2.4. The development of the information system for the forestry fund ² (National Forest Inventory).	1	CPAS	RI, U
A2.5. The modernization of the forest management planning system.	2	CPAS	RI, U
A2.6. The upgrading of the forest land register/cadastré in compliance with the general land register/cadastré requirements.	2	CPAS	RI, U

² Forest fund as defined in articles 1-8 of Forest Code, Law No. 26/24 April 1996

A3. To ensure the integrity and enlargement of the forest fund, and to increase the area covered by forest vegetation on other lands

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A3.1. The monitoring of the maintenance of the integrity of the forest fund at national level.	1	CPAS	RI, U, NGO
A3.2. Support the afforestation of lands in areas with low forest cover through the provision of technical support and the supply of regeneration (propagation) material.	1	CPAS	FLO, SFA
A3.3. Increase the forest area and other types of forest vegetation, including the afforestation of degraded lands, outside the existing forest fund.	2	CPAS, CPAA	SFA, FLO, ALO
A3.4. Support the establishment of forest plantations on those agricultural lands no longer used for agricultural production, in accordance with the requirements of sustainable agriculture.	2	CPAS, CPAA	SFA, FLO, ALO
A3.5. Support the establishment of shelterbelts, alignments and other categories of plantations, outside the existing forest fund.	3	CPAS, CPAA	SFA, FLO, ALO

A4. To ensure the stability and improvement in the functional efficiency of forest ecosystems

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A4.1. The protection of forests with natural or quasi-natural structures.	1	CPAS	RI, SFA, FLO
A4.2. Increase the percentage of natural regeneration through adequate intensive silvicultural treatments.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO
A4.3. The extension of tending operations, regionally differentiated, to assure stand stability and quality.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO
A4.4. The development and implementation of a permanent monitoring system for the health status of forests.	2	CPAS	FLO, SFA
A4.5. Increase the use of biological control agents for the control of forest pests and diseases.	2	CPAS	SFA, FLO, RI
A4.6. The optimization of afforestation composition and schemes in conformity with the regulations for species promotion and changes in site conditions.	2	CPAS	SFA, FLO, RI
A4.7. The use of biotechnology to produce forest reproductive material for ecologically and economically valuable species which cannot be reproduced from seed.	3	CPAS	RI, U
A4.8. The selection and promotion of tree bio-types resistant to damages and their utilization in forest regeneration.	3	CPAS	RI
A4.9. The protection of forest soil quality.	3	CPAS	SFA, FLO

A5. To improve the accessibility of the forest fund

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A5.1. Upgrading and consolidation of the existing forest roads.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO, RI
A5.2. Increase the density of the forest road network.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO, RI
A5.3. The development of the access network within forest compartments.	2	CPAS	SFA, FLO

A6. To reconstruct degraded forests- (economic and ecological)

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A6.1. The ecological reconstruction of those forests affected by degrading factors or considered structurally inadequate.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO, RI
A6.2. The extension of works related to watershed management and flood control.	2	CPAS	FLO, SFA,RI

A7. To support of forest land owners for sustainable forest management

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A7.1. The development of incentives to support association(s) of private forest owners and/or their integration within the existing structures for forest administration.	1	CPAS	FLO, SFA
A7.2. The assurance of “free of charge” technical assistance for private forest owners.	1	CPAS	FLO
A7.3. The development of incentives for land owners to produce afforestation material and afforest their land.	2	CPAS	FLO, PC
A7.4. The sourcing and use of international funding.	2	CPAS	FLO

A8. To conserve the forest ecosystem biodiversity and develop the necessary institutional framework

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
A8.1. The development of management structures for protected areas from the forest fund, and the development and implementation of management plans for these protected areas.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO
A8.2. The inclusion of aspects relating to biodiversity and the management of protected areas in the forest management plans.	1	CPAS	RI, PC
A8.3. The inventory and protection of rare, endemic and endangered species from the forest fund.	1	CPAS	RI, SFA, FLO
A8.4. The conservation of virgin and quasi-virgin forests.	1	CPAS	RI, SFA, FLO
A8.5. The active sourcing of funds for projects related to the conservation of biodiversity in forest ecosystems and the management of protected areas.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO, RI, U, NGO

A8.6.	The re-population of those ecosystems with species lost from their natural area.	2	CPAS	RI, HFA
A8.7.	The rehabilitation of damaged /degraded habitats.	2	CPAS	RI, HFA
A8.8.	The reconstruction of dwarf pine areas and their inclusion in the forest fund to assure proper administration.	2	CPAS	RI
A8.9.	The integration of biodiversity and protected areas management issues within the information and monitoring system of the forestry sector and correlation of this system with the national monitoring system for biodiversity.	2	CPAS	RI, U, PC

9. To integrate representative forest ecosystems in the national network of protected areas

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
9.1. Identification of forest ecosystems and habitats with high biodiversity value.	1	CPAS	RI, U, NGO
9.2. The inclusion of all representative types of forest ecosystems in the national system of protected areas.	2	CPAS	RI, U
9.3. The identification and delineation of connection corridors to prevent the fragmentation of habitats and their inclusion in the forest management plans.	3	CPAS	RI, U, SFA, NGO

10. To sustainably manage the game and fish resources

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
10.1 The elaboration of sustainable management plans for the main game and fish species and groups of species.	1	CPAS	RI, HFA
10.2 The elaboration of management plans for game and fish species for each hunting/fishing area.	1	CPAS	RI, HFA
10.3 The improvement in measures and resources to prevent poaching.	1	CPAS	HFA,
10.4 The harmonization of management plans between the interests of game and fish management and the goals of sustainable forest management	2	CPAS	RI, HFA SFA, U
10.5 The development of a modern information system for hunting and fishing sector in Romania.	2	CPAS	RI, HFA
10.6 The upgrading of the inventory methods for game and fish resources.	3	CPAS	RI, U, HFA

11. To develop the supply of non timber forest products and services

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
11.1. The acceleration of the integration of non timber forest products and services in national and international markets.	1	CPAS	FLO, PC
11.2. The evaluation and silvo- tourist zoning of forest land and the design of management models for forest lands of touristic importance.	1	CPAS	FLO, RI, U, PC
11.3. The establishment of partnerships with local communities, NGOs and other stakeholders to develop silvo-tourism.	2	CPAS	FLO, NGO, PC
11.4. Support the privatization and investment in the sector.	2	CPAS	FLO, PC

12. To heighten the public, forest land owners, decision makers and politicians awareness regarding the value and the importance of national forest resources

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
12.1. The promotion of public awareness of forests, fauna and eco-tourism.	1	CPAS	FLO, U,
12.2. Increase the awareness of politicians and decision makers of the benefits derived from the sustainable use of the national forest resource.	1	CPAS	FLO, RI, U, NGO
12.3. The development and promotion of extension activities, technical assistance and consulting services in the forestry sector.	2	CPAS	RI, U, PC, SFA, FLO

B. LOGGING, TRANSPORT AND WOOD PROCESSING

Policy: THE BETTER UTILIZATION OF WOOD RESOURCES THROUGH THE INTEGRATION OF LOGGING AND WOOD PROCESSING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES

Strategic Objectives and Actions:

B1. To increase the general efficiency levels in logging, transport and wood processing

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
B1.1. Increase in the level of wood utilization, including small size material of low quality and residues from wood exploitation and processing.	1	CPAIT	PPA, PC, FLO
B1.2. The modernization and development of the logging and wood processing capacities by stimulation of local and foreign investments (including the promotion of long-term contracts) in accordance with the size and structure of forest resources.	1	CPAIT, CPAS	PC, PPA, SFA
B1.3. Development of market information and the revision / upgrading of procedures for the disposal / sale of assets and equipment.	2	CPAIT	RI, PC
B1.4. Support the organization of the logging and wood processing industry, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).	2	CPAIT	PPA, PC

B2. To promote environmental friendly practices in logging and wood processing

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
B2.1. The promotion of logging methods and technologies that are non-aggressive on forest ecosystem components.	1	CPAS, CARD, CPAIT	RI, U, PPA, PC
B2.2. The promotion of wood processing technologies with reduced impact on the environment.	2	CPAS, CARD, CPAIT	RI, U, PPA, PC

B3. To improve the internal access of the forest fund, in accordance with modern exploitation methods and technologies, while respecting the requirements for the protection of the environment

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
B3.1. Increase in the accessibility of forests, by designing an internal skidding/collection network, oriented towards reducing the average skidding/collection distance and use of environmentally friendly methods and technologies.	1	CPAS, CPAIT	RI, U, SFA, FLO, PC
B3.2. The development of an integrated skidding /collection system in order to protect the forest.	2	CPAS, CPAIT	RI, U

C. MARKETING

Policy: THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY RESOURCES, IN PARTICULAR HIGH ADDED-VALUE PRODUCTS, TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTOR

Strategic Objectives and Actions:

C1. To establish a marketing infrastructure for the forestry sector

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
C1.2. The establishment of a system for data collection / management for market information and ensuring access to specific information for all interested people /companies.	1	CPAS	FLO, SFA, PC, PPA
C1.1. The development of a central facility / register for the sale and purchase of all categories of forest products.	2	CPAIT	FLO, SFA

C2. To strengthen and maintain market share in traditional external markets and gain access to new markets by promoting especially high added-value forest products

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
C2.1. The promotion of forest and chain of custody certification.	1	CPAS	SFA, FLO
C2.2. Support the collaboration with well-known/recognized companies, specialized in the marketing and sale of high added-value products.	2	CPAIT	PPA, PC
C2.3. Support the promotion of Romanian brands on the market.	2	CPAIT	PPA, PC

D. RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

***Policy:* THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AT NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS**

Strategic Objectives and Actions:

13. To re-evaluate and adapt forestry research and education in line with sustainable forest management requirements, taking into account the market economy conditions

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
13.1. Improvement in the institutional and regulatory framework (including financial system) for research-development and educational activities, and their infrastructure, in line with national and international demands.	1	CPAE, CARD	RI, CPAS
13.2. The promotion of multi-disciplinary research on quasi-natural forest ecosystems, biodiversity conservation, and on forest structural and functional processes.	1	CPAS, CPAE, CARD	SFA, FLO, RI, U
13.3. The development of research on national and international priority domains – climate change, ecological reconstruction, improving forest health and development of a management system taking into account all forest values, complex management of watersheds and flood catchments, environmental technologies for wood logging and wood studies.	1	CARD, CPAE, CPAS, CPAIT	RI, U
13.4. The reorganization and adaptation of curricula and syllabi to promote courses specific to market economy, forestry legislation and practical activities.	1	CPAIT, CPAS, CPAE	U, RI
13.5. The establishment of national centers for –(i) development and diversification of hunting and fishing research, (ii) monitoring and control of forest health and (iii) an international center for the protection of natural and quasi-natural forests.	1	CARD, CPAS, CPAE	RI, U, PA, PC, NGO
13.6. Encourage the research-development sector to contribute to the improvement of technologies in the logging and processing industries.	2	CARD, CPAE	RI, U, PC, CPAIT
13.7. Curricula development and institutional reorganization of forestry education, and its integration with research-development activities.	2	CPAE	U, RI, CARD, CPAS
13.8. The development and enforcement of performance criteria for research-development and educational institutions for evaluation, authorization and accreditation.	2	CPAE, CARD	
13.9. The improvement of systems for the recruitment and promotion of all levels of teaching personnel in forest education institutions, to increase efficiency, exigencies and performance.	3	CPAE, CARD	CPAS, CPAIT, U
13.10. The inclusion of forestry research findings in national and international scientific publications, and to attract external financing resources.	3	CARD, CPAE	RI, U, PC

D2. To put in place career development and training

Strategic actions	Priority	Responsibility	Partners
D2.1. The periodic training of forest owners in sustainable management of forests and enforcement of the forest regime.	1	CPAS	FLO, RI, U, PC
D2.2. The establishment of a career development system, and granting of	2	CPAS, CPAIT	SFA, PPA

professional grades on this basis.			
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Abbreviations:

- CPAS - Central Public Authority for Silviculture
- CPAIT - Central Public Authority for Industry and Trade
- CPAA - Central Public Authority for Agriculture
- CPAE - Central Public Authority for Education
- CARD - Central Public Authority for Research and Education
- SFA - State Forest Administration
- RI - Research Institutes
- U - Universities
- HFA - Hunting and Fishing Associations
- FLO - Forest Land Owners
- ALO - Agricultural Land Owners
- PPA - Professional and Patronal Associations
- PC - Private Companies and Investors
- NGO - Non-Governmental Organizations