

THE NATIONAL FOREST AND WOOD PROGRAMME (PNFB) 2016-2026

Forests cover vast terrestrial ecosystems, totalling some 4 billion hectares, including 16m hectares in metropolitan France and 8.5m in French overseas territories. They are integral to the major contemporary goals and issues for the world, Europe and France.

In addition to their environmental and social importance, forests are a major source of economic wealth, employing nearly 440,000 people in the forestry & wood sector. Over the next few decades, the creation of jobs and value-added, the exploitation of wood for adaptation to, and mitigation of climate change, the preservation of biodiversity, the protection of soils and water quality, the energy transition and the rebalancing of foreign trade, as well as regional development, will all be challenges going forward which the forestry & wood sector can contribute to overcoming through sustainable, multifunctional forest management. A National Forest and Wood Programme (PNFB) has been put in place under the French Law on the Future of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (LAAAF). This defines focuses for forestry policy on publicly and privately owned woodland on both metropolitan and overseas French territory for a period of ten years. Operating on the basis of a renewable, sustainably managed resource, the forestry & wood sector has been designated as a sector with a bright future: the PNFB enables its goals and issues to be addressed on the basis of four ambitious objectives rolled out, and adjusted as necessary, in a large number of practical initiatives.



MINISTÈRE
DE L'AGRICULTURE
DE L'AGROALIMENTAIRE
ET DE LA FORÊT



The National Forest and Wood Programme (PNFB) has been designed **in close consultation with all stakeholders** in the forestry & wood sector as well as with several government ministries. It defines the focuses for forestry policy over the next ten years. The PNFB comprises **four objectives and an action plan** along with detailed arrangements for its roll-out at national and regional levels.

The programme's goal is to **generate value-added and jobs** using the rich resource of French woodland, doing so in strict compliance with sustainable management.

A PROGRAMME WITH FOUR OBJECTIVES:

- Its first objective is to increase the harvesting of wood in France while at the same time ensuring **woodland renewal**. French forests are currently underexploited and have been constantly expanding over the last century. Improved management will help develop the economy of the forestry & wood sector and prepare for the future.
- The second objective sets out to take fully into account what the general public expects from forests. This is because woodland is both a place for recreation and a space for preservation of the biodiversity that makes for attractive landscapes. It is also a **source of jobs in the regions and economic wealth**. Lastly, forests provide wood for heating and energy generation. This means that it is important to **raise the awareness of the general public through communication** on forestry issues, particularly by means of educational initiatives. The national programme will be **adapted to fit each French region** by being rolled out as a series of Regional Forestry and Wood Programmes (PRFB). The PNFB provides for involvement of regional government bodies in local, sustainable projects.
- The third objective is based around the need to **address climate change**. Woodland has a major role to play in absorbing carbon, thereby **reducing greenhouse gases**. Climate change will also have a direct impact on forests and their biodiversity. Hence the necessity of preparing for the future.
- The fourth objective is aimed at establishing commercial outlets for products from French forests and adjusting forest management to match actual market needs. This is so because while France has one of the world's most attractive national hardwood forests (oak, poplar, etc.) and ranks as the second-biggest producer of sawn hardwood in Europe, the requirement for wood for construction, fixtures and fittings and even furniture is concentrated on softwood such as conifer, pine and spruce.



THE REGIONAL FOREST AND WOOD PROGRAMME

Each region will need to bring together the local actors in its forestry & wood sector for consultations for a proposal for a Regional Forest and Wood Programme (PRFB) to match the needs of each local area. The discussions will take place in the Regional Forest and Wood Committee (CRFB), which is chaired jointly by the Prefect for the region and the President of the Regional Council. The aim is to ensure that the national and regional programmes are correctly interfaced.

The national programme can thus be reviewed on the basis of feedback and suggestions for improvement from the regions.

SETTING UP A MONITORING BODY

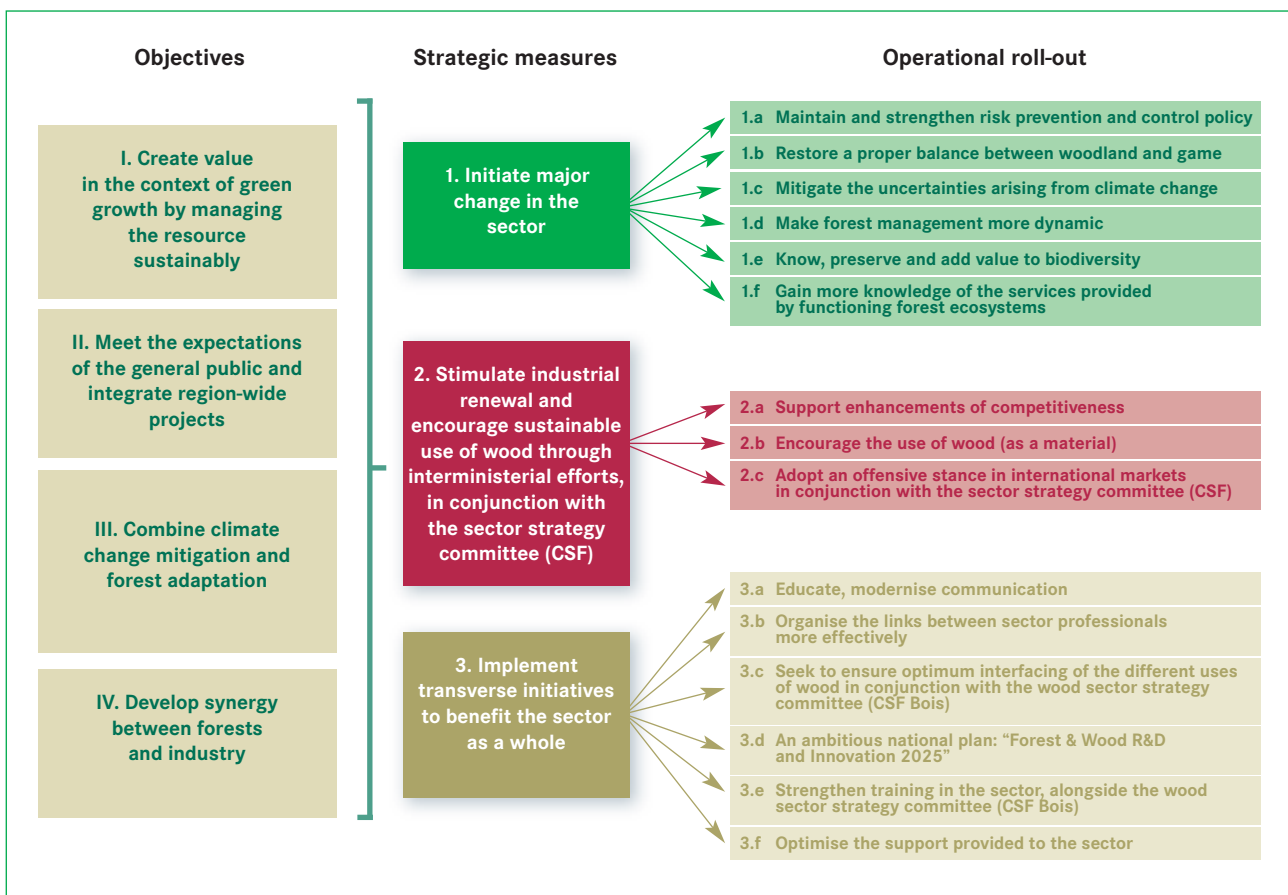
Monitoring of the National Forest and Wood Programme will be ensured by implementing new measurement tools to track and evaluate application of the PNFB. Use of existing indicators and the design of new ones will be the subject of coordination at regional and national levels.

AN ACTION PLAN FOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE FOUR OBJECTIVES:

- Forests must be protected if they are to satisfy all that is expected of them. That is why the PNFB maintains and strengthens risk prevention and control policies. It is also necessary to provide **better regulation of the development of certain types of game animal** that prevent proper growth of young shoots. Actions have been proposed to reduce the uncertainties arising from climate change, **based on research and development** aimed at proposing new models for forest management. The PNFB **encourages the formation of groups of forest owners** with a view to improving woodland management. Energisation of the forest sector also requires **the use of digital technology** to ensure that every owner has easy access to on-line platforms providing economic and mapping data.
- The PNFB also drives action downstream in the sector supply chain, aiming to **enhance competitiveness by modernising manufacturing resources and processes**, in particular **by means of innovation**. Such modernisation must also bring about improvements in the working conditions of employees, thereby helping to make jobs in the sector more attractive. It must also contribute to adding value to hardwood through the use of **innovative**

processing methods. Central government, using its public procurement programmes, can encourage the use of wood, especially in the building industry. And lastly, the forestry & wood sector must adopt **a more offensive approach in international markets**, thereby expanding **exports of processed product**, making use of France's diplomatic networks.

- In conclusion, the National Forest and Wood Programme intends to develop communication on the sector in order to **present the role of forests and wood to the general public** and **explain that forest management** offers a real opportunity, bringing solutions and services with it as it does. Campaigns targeting a young audience will need to be stepped up. Such communication must be conducted at both national and local levels.



FORESTS

EUROPE'S 4^E LARGEST NATIONAL FOREST

16 31%
million hectares of metropolitan France

PERCENTAGE OF WOODLAND IN THE FRENCH DÉPARTEMENTS

- 40-60%
- 30-40%
- 20-30%
- 0-20%



WHO OWNS FRANCE'S FORESTS?

75% privately owned

publicly owned (local government) **15%**
by central government **10%**

FORESTS IN FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES (in hectares)

Guiana	8,000,000
Reunion	139,000
Guadeloupe	66,000
Martinique	50,000
Mayotte	14,000

RICH IN BIODIVERSITY...

138
species of forest tree



WHAT ARE THE MAIN SPECIES?

Oak Beech Pine
Spruce, fir, chestnut.
As well as: hornbeam, ash, maple, poplar, etc.

71% hardwood
29% softwood



FORESTS ARE HOME TO:



73
species of mammal



120
species of bird



72%
of all flora in metropolitan France

44% of Natura 2000* area is woodland

* All European nature sites identified as remarkable for the rarity or vulnerability of wild animal or plant species and their habitats.

...AND BENEFIT THE ENVIRONMENT



Woodland captures **15%** of France's annual CO₂ emissions

1 cubic metre of wood stores 1 tonne of CO₂



1 cubic metre of wood used construction material saves 1 tonne of CO₂ otherwise emitted for the manufacture and use of another material



Forests filter dust and microbial pollution from the air



Forests play a role in regulating water supplies and cleansing water

