



Nationales Waldprogramm für Deutschland

National Forest Programme for Germany – Manual for the second phase –

(adopted at the 10th Round Table held in BMVEL, Bonn, on 2/3 April 2001)

Based on the elements and principles formulated by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF), the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture initiated a social dialogue process to elaborate a National Forest Programme (NFP) in October 1999. Active participation in the NFP process was open to all governmental and non-governmental organisations and associations addressing forest issues and forest utilisation. After having held a total of nine round tables, with discussions on various forest-related topics with the actors, the first phase of the National Forest Programme was completed in October 2000. To shape the further phases of the NFP process, the actors agreed on a "manual" on 2/3 April 2001, outlining the structure of the process as well as the mutual relations of participants. The actors are free to make additions to the manual, if required, or to concretise it further to update it as a „living document“.

A. Future political classification of NFP

- 1. Intersectorality, binding power of results (political level), integration into national sustainability strategy**

We aim at a maximum degree of binding power for all actors, which is conditional on:

- a) the broadest possible consensus,*

b) a maximum degree of concretisation (aims, measures, respective actors, time frame, resource requirements), also documented in written form.

The NFP process defines concrete aims, if possible, in the sense of policy guidelines. These should set a framework for the Laender level providing guidelines for specific shaping. To implement the consensual recommendations for action, the actors use the instruments at their disposal (e.g. legislative initiative by the Federal Government, Bundesrat (Upper House of Parliament) initiative launched by some Laender, joint public relations work).

The aim is to introduce the NFP process results reached by consensus into the national sustainability strategy.

In view of intersectorality, NFP, as a joint programme comprising all actors, also includes all relevant Government departments.

B. Procedure and organisation of future round tables

2. Actors and their roles/ mandates, list of the names of all associations/ institutions involved

All actors in the process secure the required negotiating mandate of their association/institution. Observer status is exceptional. Each association/institution involved in the process is listed as a participant in the NFP process (in corresponding NFP documents).

3. Code of conduct/ procedural manual/ rules of procedure

The NFP process is based on a trusting partnership. This manual constitutes the procedural basis for the NFP process for the time being.

4. Transparency, consensus principle and handling of diverging opinions and written statements

A maximum degree of transparency applies to the NFP process. In detail:

- *all written statements are made available to all actors not later than three weeks prior to the respective meeting,*
- *BMVEL distributes statements immediately upon receipt as part of its co-ordinating function (precondition: transmission in time!).*
- *Position papers/written statements always refer to the basis of discussion, they are transmitted to BMVEL not later than three weeks prior to the respective meeting, bear the name of the responsible actor and are represented at the respective round table. In addition, written statements on the overall process may also be made.*

The broadest possible consensus is aimed at as a matter of principle. Diverging opinions are documented upon request. Rights of vote are not fixed and no votes are taken on matters of contents.

5. Establishing working groups (AGs)/ elaborating policy papers

Policy papers, following an outline still to be concretised, are being drafted for the round table discussions. These are drafted by working groups with representation on the basis of parity, also drawing upon external expert knowledge, if required. The working group presents the policy papers to the plenary session.

If required, the plenary may be divided into working groups. This is decided on a case-by-case basis.

6. Moderation, drafting group, minutes

Round tables are externally moderated. In the process, professionalism in moderation as well as specialist expertise are required. The outcome of the round tables is recorded by drafting groups, constituted on the basis of parity from among the actors. Minutes are drafted as soon as possible by an actor named at the beginning of the round table.

7. Handling of previous and subsequent results / monitoring/performance review

The process as well as the implementation of the proposals for action are being monitored. The monitoring results are presented to subsequent round tables. The round table determines three actors for this task.

The prerequisites for the monitoring of the implementation of the proposals for action are to be fixed in the pertinent discussions on the contents of technical issues.

8. Financial aspects (NFP process and NFP implementation)

BMVEL will bear the expenses for external chairmanship for the next two years (with two to three plenary sessions per year). The respective actors will have to finance the implementation of the proposals for action within the bounds of possibility. BMVEL will not finance the participation of actors in the NFP process. The actors will endeavour to arrange for the financing of external expert opinions, if required.

9. Glossary/ technical publications

To prevent a different understanding of specific definitions/ formulations and to avoid misunderstandings in the public, a thematic glossary on the relevant technical terms will be compiled, if required.

The actors can suggest technical publications as references on specific key topics. The plenary will decide on a concrete use of the publications as part of the process.

If required, annexes, containing specific basic information (e.g. structure of forest organisation of the Federal Government/Laender; fiscal substitution of non-forest products) may be added to the results /interim results of the NFP process.

10. Joint public relations

Within the bounds of possibility, the individual actors strive for public relations work suited to the NFP process as well as to its aims, contents and measures.

Wherever possible, synergies are being used and clear positions taken in public relations through concerted action/joint activities of the actors. The aim is to establish a broad and powerful alliance of actors for forests and their diverse functions.

11. Further items

It is suggested to provide the results and interim results of the German NFP process also in English to render the process itself as well as the contents and results of the process transparent at international level and to document them accordingly.