



Timber Committee
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe



European Forestry Commission
Food and Agricultural Organization

**UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
“Monitoring forest resources for SFM in the UNECE Region”.**

REPORT

of the Inaugural meeting of the Team of Specialists
Geneva, Palais des Nations, 25-27 April 2005
(as approved by the participants)

Introduction

1. The UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC), at their joint session held in October 2004, took the decision to establish the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on “*Monitoring forest resources for SFM in the UNECE Region*”. The Joint Session and Bureaux of the Timber Committee and EFC endorsed the proposals coming from the Strategic Review of the Integrated Work Programme with regard to the Objectives, Mandate and Terms of References of the Team of Specialists.
2. Countries, institutions and organisations of the UNECE region nominated members of the Team of Specialists at the request from the Geneva secretariat. Further experts were invited to be members of the team on the basis of the individual expertise, experience and knowledge of the subject. The complete list of the ToS members is available at the website: <<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/FRA%20ToS%20Web/welcomeFRA.htm>>. The newly established team is the successor to the regional ToS on Forest Resources Assessment, whose Mandate and Terms of Reference (ToR) expired in 2004.
3. The first (inaugural) meeting of the ToS on “*Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region*” was held in Geneva on 25-27 April 2005. The meeting was organised by the UNECE/FAO secretariat in premises of the Palais des Nations, and the UNECE Economic Commission for Europe.
4. The experts from Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America attended the meeting. The representatives of the UNECE/FAO (Geneva), FAO (Rome), Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests (MCPFE-Liaison Unit Warsaw), European Forest Institute (EFI), European Commission - DG Environment, and EU Joint Research Centre (Ispra) participated in the meeting. The list of participants is attached (*Annex I*).
5. The opening, welcoming and introductory remarks were delivered by Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO), Mr. Kit Prins / Mr. Alex Korotkov (UNECE), and Mr. Roman

Michalak (MCPFE LUW). The speakers highlighted the main issues to be addressed by the current ToS meeting, as well as the expected outcome from the 3-day discussion. The participants were thanked for the acceptance of the invitation to the Team of Specialists, and for participating in the first meeting of the new team.

6. The high level expertise of the members of the Team of Specialists and participants of its first meeting was underlined. The work within the Team was considered as an opportunity to combine the competency, intellectual values and merits of individual experts for achieving the common goals. The development of the “Team’s spirit”, and expected active participation and contribution from each of the participants, were noted as the important pre-requisites of the successful ToS work. The necessity of the partnership building with other relating regional and global processes was emphasized specifically.

7. Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner (*Austria*) and Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*) were elected by the participants to co-chair the first ToS meeting, and in a brief “round-table” each of the participants introduced him / herself.

8. The participants adopted the provisional agenda and timetable of the meeting (*Annex II*) with some minor adjustment in the timetable. This helped to accommodate the presentations and discussion of the global FRA 2005 issues within the first day of the meeting, and to include the presentation of the EU COST Action E43 under Item 3 of the agenda.

Team of Specialists getting started

9. The participants of the meeting were informed about the motivation and background of the establishment of the new ToS on “*Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region*”. The details of the ToS setting up by UNECE/FAO parent bodies, guiding and organisational aspects, including objectives, mandate, modalities of work and working procedures, were presented. The Team of Specialists is to work under the auspices of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, following the guidance provided by parent bodies with regard to its scope of work. Partnership building with related initiatives and processes is vital for the successful work of the team. The background documentation and decisions on the setting up of the ToS is available at <<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/tc-docs.htm>>.

FRA- and C&I -relating developments in 2004 - 2005

10. A number of important FRA- and C&I- related events during the period 2004-2005 have had an important implication on the UNECE/FAO work in this area, and on the future activities of the newly established Team of Specialists. The information about some of these events provided the background for the discussion at the first ToS meeting.

a) ToS on Forest Resources Assessment - Final meeting (USA, September 2004)

11. The final meeting of the regional UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on the Forest Resources Assessment was held in Washington DC (USA) from 15 to 17 September 2004. The ToS came up with some practical recommendations on the global FRA 2005 implementation by countries of the region, proposals for the preparation to the next round of the MCPFE reporting on sustainable forest management, on the cooperation between MCPFE and Montreal processes, etc.

12. The ToS recommended to the UNECE/FAO secretariat to elaborate, together with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, a “Road Map” (including a detailed timetable) for the preparation of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007/08*”, taking into account the specifics of the global FRA update 2005. This “Road Map” was approved by the session of the UNECE/ FAO Working Party in March 2005.

13. The ToS recommended that the MCPFE countries should be informed about the background, scope and format of the required reporting on C&I for SFM well in advance of the reporting itself, so that to prepare national forest resources assessment structures. The contents, scope & definitions for the next MCPFE C&I reporting should be compatible to the extent possible with the global FRA reporting in order not to duplicate the work of National Correspondents in providing data.

14. The team advised that the UNECE/FAO Secretariat and MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw should be supported in the preparation and implementation of this work by sufficient resources, and the new Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region*” should play an important role in the process. The complete report of the final meeting of the predecessor team is available on the Timber Committee website.

b) MCPFE Expert Level Meeting - ELM (Poland, October 2004)

15. Dr. Roman Michalak (*Poland*), representative of the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, presented the results of the latest session of the Expert Level Meeting (ELM) held in Warsaw on 14-15 October 2005. The ELM sent a clear message for the establishment of reporting process on SFM for the up-coming Warsaw Conference, and provided some directions for the preparation of the MCPFE 2007/08 Report (C&I country reporting). The major aim of the forthcoming C&I reporting is to extend the knowledge about the status of forest management, and the implementation of SFM principles in Europe.

16. The ELM (MCPFE statutory body representing countries of the region) noted in particular that both qualitative and quantitative indicators should be taken into account when preparing the report on SFM for the Warsaw Conference. The reporting should be harmonized (to the extent possible) with relevant international processes. Additionally to the information, which will be provided by countries in response to the MCPFE 2007/08 Enquiry (questionnaire), which is being elaborated by UNECE/FAO, LUW will elaborate the plan of gathering data from other international data providers. In order to have this report completed on time and to be able to make the best use of existing networks and expertise “involved partners should be working together in a rather informal and flexible way”.

17. The MCPFE General Coordinating Council indicated that the Liaison Unit Warsaw should perform the reporting for the Warsaw Conference in co-operation with the UNECE/FAO secretariat, and this work would be supported by the Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*”. The work should be done according to the set of the MCPFE Indicators for SFM endorsed in Vienna in 2003. The LUW was in the process of establishing the MCPFE Advisory Group (AG) to guide this work. The draft Terms of Reference of the Advisory Group was available at the ToS meeting for

references. The latest Expert Level Meeting details are available at < <http://www.mcpfe.org/documents/minutes/arcdoc/elm>>.

c) Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions - 3rd Meeting (Rome, January 2005)

18. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie informed the participants about the 3rd Expert Meeting on *Harmonizing Forest-related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders*, which was organised by FAO in January 2005. This process will have a long-term impact on the FRA/ and C&I-related activities. A wide range of stakeholders, such as forest managers, forest inventory and assessment specialists, biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification experts, non-governmental organizations and the private sector were represented at the meeting. Among the participating organisations were UNFF, IPCC, ITTO, CIFOR, UNEP, UNECE, IIASA, MCPFE, IUFRO, amongst others.

19. The main focus of the meeting was the analysis of definitions relating to “*Forest Origin and Composition*” and “*Managed and Unmanaged Forests*”. The detailed comparative analysis was done in working groups on the related terms and definitions, including natural forests, planted forests, forest plantations, trees outside forests, and managed forests. The multilingual aspects of forest terms and definitions were considered specifically.

20. The FRA and C&I for SFM community contributed significantly to the discussion, also by presenting a number of well elaborated definitions, which might potentially serve as the basis of their further harmonization. The experience with countries’ reporting according to the FRA definitions was an important element in the discussion. The complete Report (Proceedings) of the Third Expert Meeting on Harmonising Forest-Related Definitions was published, and available to the ToS meeting participants.

d) EU COST Action E 43 developments (October 2004-April 2005)

21. Mr. Erkki Tomppo (*Finland*) presented the *EU COST Action E 43” Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe*”, its current activities and work plans. The organisational aspects and substantive work of the Action’s three Working Groups (WGs), and the state-of-the-art products were presented as well.

22. The COST Action E43 aims to support countries to develop their national inventories, so that they could meet “national, European and global level requirements in supplying up-to-date, harmonised and transparent forest resource information for decision /policy making”. The Action promotes the use of scientifically sound and validated methods in forest inventory designs, data collection and data analysis.

23. Mr. Claude Vidal (*France*) presented the details of work, which had been done by the COST Action E43 Working Group 1 on “*Harmonized definitions and measuring practices*”. The WG1 elaborated the questionnaire, which was intended to contribute to the harmonization of definitions and measuring practices. The questionnaire was sent to 27 countries, and by the time of the ToS meeting 23 answers were received. The seminar in Florence (Italy) was an important input to the project. The first analysis of the countries’ replies provided important information on national elements of definitions, inventory methods, and estimation processes.

24. During the discussion of the subject, the participants noted that the previously implemented EU EFICS study was in line with the current COST Action E43 work, and its

findings might contribute to the outcome of the Action. The process of harmonization of national classifications, terms and definitions, and, ultimately, national forest inventories, will take a long time, which might be significantly longer than the 3-year term of the COST Action E43. This aspect should be taken into account as well. The more detailed information on the activities in this area is available at <<http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e43>>.

e) Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics

25. The participants were informed about the last session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (*Geneva, March 2005*), and its guidance relating to the work of the Team of Specialists.

26. The Working Party (WP) commended the “outstanding work done by the regional ToS on Forest Resources Assessment during the last years”, and expressed their expectation of comparable standards of performance from the successor Team. The Working Party approved the report and recommendations of the final ToS meeting (September 2004), and endorsed the provisional agenda for the inaugural meeting of the new ToS.

27. The WP welcomed the well-established coordination between regional and global FRA teams in the process of FRA 2005 implementation. It noted the time-consuming and challenging process of providing the required data by countries, checking and validation of these data, as well as the lessons learned from the process. The Working Party urged those countries, which have not yet provided FRA 2005 country reports to do so as soon as possible.

28. The necessity to maintain the continuity of classifications, terms and definitions applied in the regional and global FRA- and C&I- related work was strongly emphasized. The role of the regional Team of Specialist in this respect was noted.

29. The Working Party approved the ToS proposals with regard to the UNECE/FAO contribution to the MCPFE 2007/08 reporting on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe*”, including the “*Road map*” of the process, suggested timetable and modalities of this work. It was noted that the timetable is subject to adjustment, depending on the finally established date of the Warsaw Ministerial Conference. The strong cooperation between the UNECE/FAO secretariat and MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw (LUW) was noted and supported.

30. The Working Party recommended that the technical details of the Enquiry (questionnaire) for the MCPFE 2007/ 08 reporting be carefully discussed at the first meeting of the ToS, and made some practical suggestion with regard to reporting C&I data. The WP underlined the need for a strong cooperation between the UNECE/FAO ToS and the MCPFE Advisory Group (to be established), and noted the mutually supportive role of these two groups.

31. The Working Party supported the regional ToS' efforts to contribute to the harmonisation of the countries' reporting on C&I for SFM between the MCPFE and Montreal processes, while respecting the autonomy and decision making procedures of each process. The necessity to establish a working relation in this respect with the Technical Advisory Committee of the Montreal Process was noted.

Global FRA 2005 implementation

32. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO Forestry Department*) presented to the Team of Specialists the status of the global FRA 2005 implementation, including the major developments and issues in the process. The FRA 2005 process has shown that the network of national correspondents and regional focal points is extremely valuable, and that countries expressed strong wish to continue collaboration and networking, also between the assessment rounds. The FAO targeted support for national forest assessments is needed, also for a number of the UNECE countries in transition.

33. The information given by Mrs. Wilkie was followed by a roundtable discussion of lessons learned from the FRA 2005. The participants of the meeting, representatives of the UNECE region who had been involved in FRA 2005 implementation (some 20 persons), presented their views and comments on the subject. The continuity of applied classifications, terms and definitions was noted as one of the most important aspects of the FRA reporting process. Exchange of the information on the FRA implementation at the regional and sub-regional levels was important.

34. Among other main issues, which were highlighted during the discussion, was the absence of data in some countries for certain variables (non-wood forest products, other wooded land (other than extent), forest characteristics and designation, below-ground biomass, and carbon in litter and soil). Many participants noted that substantial time and financial resources were needed to prepare the FRA 2005 country reports. Providing FRA-required data from other institutions of the country, as well as the information on privately owned forests, was a challenge for FRA national correspondents. All the countries represented at the ToS meeting had submitted their draft reports, although many of these were received very late.

35. Mrs. Mette Wilkie answered specific questions and highlighted the main lessons learned by the global FRA team from the process. She informed the participants about the immediate next steps and some of the main activities planned as a follow up to FRA 2005, including an in-depth evaluation of the process, variables included, and the planning for the next global FRA round – FRA 2010 (early agreement is needed). She confirmed that any derived data (e.g. presentation of trends and of averages per hectare), which would be included in the main FRA 2005 reports, would be sent to countries (NCs) for validation.

a) FRA Advisory Group meeting (January 2005)

36. The 4th meeting of the global FRA Advisory Group (AG) was held in January 2005 at the FAO headquarters. The main objectives of the AG meeting were to review progress and aspects of the FRA 2005 implementation (regional workshops, country reports, analysis of data), to provide guidance on issues related to the publication of the main FRA 2005 report (discussion on the focus and outline of the report), and to provide guidance on post FRA 2005 activities.

37. The Advisory Group discussed and made some suggestions concerning the evaluation of the FRA 2005 process and preparations for the next round of the global FRA (FRA 2010). The Advisory Group recommended that the network of FRA national correspondents should remain operational, and possibly evolve, taking into consideration other reporting processes, including the MCPFE C&I reporting.

38. The necessity of maximum possible transparency of the global FRA process, as well as the modalities of maximising synergies between FRA and C&I- related activities at the regional and global levels, were considered by the AG members as an important feature of the cooperation in this area. Close regional-global cooperation would also contribute to reducing the reporting burden on countries. The ToS was informed that other regions are interested to create analogous Teams of Specialists, which would contribute to the global FRA, as it is the case for UNECE region. The AG report (pre-final version) was available at the ToS meeting.

Preparation for the C&I for SFM reporting to the MCPFE Conference 2007/2008

39. Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner (*Austria*) presented the first draft (outline) of the Enquiry (National Data Reporting Forms), which is being elaborated as a tool for the MCPFE countries' reporting on Sustainable Forest Management to the Fifth pan-European Ministerial Conference to be held in Warsaw. He also presented his views on the scope and modalities of the MCPFE 2007/08 reporting (MCPFE Report "*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007/08*"), and on the process of C&I reporting in general.

40. The participants discussed the subject at plenary, and then in the *ad hoc* Working Groups. The document "*Some notes on social and economic MCPFE indicators*", prepared Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*) specifically for the ToS meeting, provided the background for these discussions as well. The intensive debate on monitoring forest resources in the UNECE region were accompanied by a detailed review of the Mr. Rametsteiner proposals, including the outline and scope of the draft Enquiry.

Working Groups discussion and outcome

41. Three *ad hoc* working groups (WGs) were set up by the Team of Specialists to review and analyse the first draft (outline) Enquiry for country reporting on the pan-European Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (*National Data Reporting Forms*). The Enquiry is expected to be the main instrument (structure and guidelines) for the countries' reporting on SFM to the next pan-European Ministerial Conference, to be held in Warsaw in 2007/2008.

42. The expected outcome from the WGs was proposed to participants, and formulated as follows:

To review in detail the draft Enquiry (*National Data Reporting Forms*), prepared by Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner, and to provide:

- a) Comments, proposals to contents, structure and outline of the Enquiry in general;
- b) Comments, proposals to contents, structure and outline/ design of each Reporting Form of the Enquiry (25 statistical) + 12 "qualitative";
- c) Include consider indicators which are not on the draft form, with regard to country reporting;
- d) Review the variables / parameters proposed in each Reporting Form against the list of the MCPFE C&I with regard to:
 - completeness
 - suggested formulation of variables/ parameters
 - visibility/ feasibility for reporting by countries

The Working Groups were asked to answer questions, and comment/ respond to the discussion points and notes, indicated in corresponding Reporting Forms of the draft Enquiry.

43. The Working Group I covered quantitative Indicators of the Criteria C1 “Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Forest Resources and their Contribution to Global Carbon Cycles” (4 indicators – C1.1, C1.2, C1.3, C1.4), and C3 “Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)” (3 indicators – C3.1, C3.2, C3.5). It also considered qualitative indicators B1 “Land use and forest area and other wooded land (OWL)”, B2 “Carbon balance”, B4 “Production and use of wood” and B5 “Production and use of non-wood goods and services, provision of especially recreation”. The WG I findings and recommendations are presented in *Annex III*.

44. The Working Group II covered quantitative Indicators of the Criteria C2 “Maintenance of Forest Ecosystem Health and Vitality” (4 indicators), C4 “Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems” (5 indicators), and C5 “Maintenance and Appropriate Enhancement of Protective Functions in Forest Management (notably Soil and Water)” (2 indicators). It also considered qualitative indicators B3 “Health and vitality”, B6 “Biodiversity” and B7 “Protective forests and other wooded land (OWL)”. The WG II findings and recommendations are presented in *Annex III*.

45. The Working Group III covered all the social and economic indicators of the Criteria C3 “Maintenance and Encouragement of Productive Functions of Forests (Wood and Non-Wood)” (3 indicators – C3.2, C3.3 and C3.4), and C6 “Maintenance of Other Socio-Economic Functions and Conditions (11 indicators)”. It considered each of the 14 indicators in turn, including those where the background document showed that the data should come from international data providers, e.g. Eurostat.

46. The Working Group III recommended that MCPFE LUW should make early contact with these international organizations, to check that they can provide data to the stated definitions and classifications, and to establish their data coverage (countries and date). For indicators, where underlying data are already held by UNECE Geneva (wood consumption and trade), the WG recommended that the indicators should be calculated by UNECE, showing the details of calculations, then validated by the national correspondents. The qualitative indicators were only considered briefly, because the WG considered that the FRA national correspondents are not the best persons to respond to these questions." The WG III findings and recommendations are presented in *Annex III*.

47. The draft Enquiry will be finalized on the basis of the Working Groups’ suggestions and proposals. The final draft Enquiry has to be reviewed by the MCPFE Advisory Group, and after the further processing and approval by MCPFE governing structures, it will be sent to countries for reporting.

Potential areas and modalities of cooperation between MCPFE and MP

48. The potential for harmonization and streamlining of C&I countries’ reporting within the MCPFE and Montreal Processes (MP) was discussed on the basis of presentations provided by Mr. Mark Gillis (*Canada*) and Mr. Roman Michalak (*MCPFE LUW*).

49. Mr. Mark Gillis provided the detailed information on the reporting schedule and milestones in the Montreal Process, and on planning of the revision of the MP indicators

(June 2005 – February 2006). The role of a workshop, which will be organised in October 2005 in Poland (see below), to explore possibilities for common definitions and reporting protocols for the MP, MCPFE and ITTO was noted specifically. With regard to the process of the revision of MP indicators, organisations and experts interested to participate in this work were invited to contact either the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) convenor directly, or the MP Liaison Office.

50. Mr. Roman Michalak informed that the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting (October 2004) emphasised that there is a “need for further development of cooperation among the MCPFE and other C&I processes, in particular the Montreal Process.” He confirmed that the “*Inter-C&I processes harmonization workshop*” is invited to be held in Bielowieza (Poland) on 11-13 October 2005. Among the issues to be addressed at the workshop is an attempt to reach a consensus on the meaning of the collaboration in C&I processes, to evaluate needs (and audience) for the national sustainable forestry reports, and to discuss improvements in C&I reporting. It was expected that ToS should be represented (and contribute) to the Bielowieza C&I workshop.

51. The ToS recalled the earlier suggestion to organize an informal meeting to better clarify the ToS relations with the Montreal Process in connection with IUFRO World Forestry Congress to be held in Brisbane (Australia) in August 2005. Some Team’s members, namely Claude Vidal, Erkki Tomppo, Michael Köhl, Marco Marchetti, Andreas Schuck, Roman Michalak, and Ewald Rametsteiner, were planning to participate in the IUFRO/Brisbane Congress. There should also be represented colleagues from USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand (TAC convenor), and possibly Russia, that might be willing / able to join this ToS informal meeting.

52. The goal of the meeting could be an informal exchange of views & discussion. One important topic is the relation of the ToS to the TAC of the MP (i.e. technical expertise exchange) in more detail, including on the possible contribution of the ToS to the MP review of indicators, their improvement, and on work towards further harmonization of terms and definitions. This meeting could also provide input to a MP / MCPFE / ITTO C&I harmonization meeting scheduled for October 2005. It was agreed that the ToS members, who plan to participate in the IUFRO Congress, will communicate, with help from the secretariat, and take action to organize this informal ToS meeting in Brisbane.

Terms and Definitions aspect in C&I reporting

53. One of the key issues in the FRA- and C&I- reporting is “how to overcome differences in the national, regional and global FRA definitions”. The process of T&D improvements, and efforts to make the collected information internationally comparable, should also contribute to ease the burden for countries’ reporting. As noted earlier, the issue of harmonisation of definitions between countries and processes is not the sole responsibility of any one institution. The priorities identified by each individual process are backed by a number of sets of non-comparable definitions and consequently result in non-comparable FRA- and C&I- related databases.

54. The FAO global (and UNECE regional) FRA work have adapted to a large extent to the information needs identified by C&I processes, but there are significant differences in a number of specific terms and definitions, as well as in classification schemes, applied in MCPFE and Montreal Processes, and in the global FRA 2005. The paper prepared by Dr.

Ewald Rametsteiner “*Analysis of Scope, Coverage and Methodological Approaches for the Regional UNECE/FAO Work on Forest Resources Assessment in the Global FRA Context*”, which was presented to the previous ToS in September 2004, provided a profound analysis of the situation and identified existing contradictions and gaps. This paper also identified a need to adopt some MCPFE definitions and classifications to the best findings of the global FRA 2005.

55. The EU COST Action E43 activities, the FAO-led global process on harmonizing definitions, the planned MP / MCPFE / ITTO C&I harmonization meeting (October 2005) are the key processes in this area. The ToS on “*Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region*” is open for the cooperation, and ready to contribute to the above T&D processes as the reliable partner.

Availability of the required C&I information at the national level

56. Mr. Aljoscha Requardt (*University of Hamburg, Germany*) presented the results of his study on forest resources data availability, reliability of data, and future perspectives for this work. The study was based on the analysis and evaluation of the situation in Liechtenstein, with regard to the country’s capacity (and possible sources of information) for reporting on the 35 quantitative indicators for SFM (correspond to some 200 variables/ entries) from the pan-European process.

57. The ToS discussed the availability of the required C&I information at the national level. The results of the study could not be directly compared to the situation with the data availability in other countries, but the usefulness of extending such analysis for other regions / countries was noted. The perspectives of further research in this area might include other national case studies, analysis and evaluation of networking structures, contribution to Forest Information System as it is the subject of the EU-NEFIS project, development of the “*Conversion Toolkits*”, integration and improving use of remote sensing, etc.

58. The ToS congratulated Mr. Requardt on the interesting and useful work. The participants noted the need for additional funding of this type of work, and discussed possible sources of funding. The issue of the regional and national capacity building for C&I reporting (objectives, potential, limitations) was linked to the findings of the Mr. Requardt’s study.

59. Mr. Jesús San-Miguel-Ayanz (*EU JRC, Ispra*) presented to participants the “*Initiatives of the European Commission on Forest Monitoring*”. The establishment of the “*European Forest Information and Communication Platform*” (EFICP), as a follow-up to the earlier EU EFICS / EFIS projects, was presented, as well as the details of the data flow and management. The Common EU Forest Data Platform is a response to the “lack of comprehensive/ harmonized information at the EU level” and the situation of “existence of multiple forest information sources”.

60. Among the other EC initiatives and projects on the forest monitoring activities under the Forest Focus regulation (EEC 2152/2003) were presented namely: a) continued monitoring of atmospheric pollution on forests, b) forest fire prevention – forest fire database, c) Soil / Biodiversity /Climate Change and Carbon sequestration /Protective functions of forests. The Land Cover Mapping (EEA-JRC CORINE), Land Use/ Cover Area – frame Survey (LUCAS), and other relating EU activities in this area were also noted. The presentation will be made available at the ToS webpage.

Monitoring and assessment of the social and economic aspects in forestry

61. Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*) presented his analysis of the “*Social and economic MCPFE indicators*”, and the notes on the subject, which were prepared specifically for the ToS meeting. Mr. Gillam identified the 14 social and economic indicators in the MCPFE set, and summarised the extent to which they were covered in previous reporting, as well as their relevance to Montreal process. For each of the above indicators their rationale, classifications, assessment of feasibility for reporting, as well as specific comments, were provided. Mr. Gillam’s document contributed to the discussion in working groups (see above). The presentation and document will be made available at the ToS website.

62. With regard to the question on “*How to address legal-institutional aspects in C&I reporting?*” the participants concluded that discussion on this issue requires a specialized expertise, and the legal-institutional aspects should be reported according to the pan-European qualitative indicators through the MCPFE contact points.

Future activities of the Team of Specialists

63. The future role and practical work of the Team of Specialists are defined by its Mandate (Objectives and Teams of Reference), and more specifically in the nearest period, by its contribution to the implementation of the “*Road Map*” for the preparation of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007/08*”. As noted earlier, the “*Road Map*” was endorsed by the UNECE/ FAO parent bodies, and supported by the MCPFE governing structures.

64. The “*Plan of action of the Team of Specialists for 2005-2007*” should include the following main activities:

- Finalizing the first draft of the MCPFE 2007/08 Enquiry (*National Data Reporting Forms*), and its accompanying documents;
- Presentation and review of the second draft Enquiry at the *ad hoc* MCPFE Advisory Group in July 2005;
- Contribution to the Montreal and MCPFE process in possible coordination / harmonisation of the countries’ C&I for SFM reporting;
- Adopting the MCPFE Advisory Group comments and recommendation in the draft Enquiry;
- Wide and open consultation with countries, interested institutions and other stakeholders on contents and structure of the C&I reporting to MCPFE 2007/08 (scope of the Enquiry);
- Organization of an informal ToS meeting in conjunction with the IUFRO World Forestry Congress (Brisbane, August 2005), to discuss the ToS relation to the TAC of the MP (technical expertise exchange, possible contribution to the MP review and revision of indicators, etc);
- Presentation of the final draft MCPFE 2007/08 Enquiry to the UNECE /FAO parent bodies, most visibly to the UNECE Timber Committee (September 2005);
- Contribution to the MP / MCPFE / ITTO C&I harmonization workshop to be held in Poland in October 2005;
- Endorsement of the MCPFE 2007/08 Enquiry by the Advisory Group and MCPFE governing bodies (end-2005);

- Dispatch of the Enquiry to the MCPFE member countries focal points for the C&I reporting (beginning of 2006);
- Preparation for processing of the countries C&I data to be provided in response to the MCPFE 2007/08 Enquiry;
- The second ToS meeting to review the developments (spring 2006);
- Contribution to the preparation of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007/08*” within the ToS Mandate and ToR (second half of 2006 - 2007).

65. The implementation of the above activities will be led and coordinated by the ToS Bureau (Leader and Deputy Leaders) and the UNECE/FAO secretariat, in close coordination with the MCPFE LUW, global FRA, and the MP TAC. The timetable and resources for the implementation of the above activities are the subject of specific consideration and decisions of the ToS parent and governing bodies.

Election of the ToS Leader and Deputy Leaders

66. The role of the Leader and the Deputy Leader(s) in the successful and efficient work of the Team of Specialists is important. Professor Michael Köhl (*Germany*) proposed two candidatures for these ToS positions, namely Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner (*Austria*) and Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*). Professor Erkki Tomppo (*Finland*) proposed to elect Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner the Leader of the Team of Specialists, and Mr. Simon Gillam and Mr. Claude Vidal (*France*) - the two Deputy Leaders. Mr. Johannes Hangler (*Austria*), and Mr. Mark Gillis (*Canada*) seconded this proposal.

67. As the result of the vote, **Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner** (*Austria*) was unanimously elected the Leader of the Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring forest resources for SFM in the UNECE Region*”, and **Mr. Simon Gillam** (*United Kingdom*) and **Mr. Claude Vidal** (*France*), the Deputy Leaders of the TEAM. The newly elected ToS Bureau was warmly welcomed and congratulated by the ToS meeting participants. The modalities of leading the ToS activities, and sharing responsibilities between the Leader and Deputy Leaders, will be defined in consultation between the ToS Bureau members and the secretariat.

Next meetings of the Team of Specialists

68. Mr. Michael Köhl (*Germany*), the Leader of the predecessor UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists, invited the next meeting of the Team on “*Monitoring forest resources for SFM in the UNECE Region*” to be held in Hamburg, in premises of the University of Hamburg. The participants accepted the invitation with gratitude. The meeting is tentatively planned for spring 2006, but, depending on the MCPFE 2007/08 reporting timetable, the schedule could be reconsidered. The exact date of the ToS meeting will be agreed in consultation between the UNECE/FAO secretariat, ToS bureaux, and Professor M. Köhl.

69. Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*) kindly offered to participants to organize one of the following meetings of the Team in Edinburgh (*Scotland, UK*), provisionally at the end-2006 – beginning 2007. The organizational details of the ToS meeting in Edinburgh will be discussed during the next meeting of the TEAM, when this invitation would be more definitely confirmed.

Other matters

70. The excursion was organized for participants to the Geneva Botanical Garden (*Jardin Botanique*), which is located near *Palais des Nations*. Mr. Roger Beer, forestry engineer and scientific deputy of the Botanical Garden, presented forest plants, including the tree species, and highlighted of the Garden remarkable features. The Botanical Gardens consist of a collection of 16,000 plant species from all over the world (<<http://www.cjb.ville-ge.ch>>, or http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/?rubrique=0000000473&lang=_eng>). The guided tour of the *Palais des Nations* was organized as well by the UN visit service at the request from ToS meeting participants.
