



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 third meeting of the Team of Specialists

Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, 21-22 May 2007
(to be approved by participants at the next ToS meeting)

Introduction

1. The Team of Specialists (ToS) on “*Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region*” was established by the UNECE Timber Committee (TC) and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) at their joint session in October 2004. The parent bodies endorsed the ToS objectives, mandate and terms of references. The ToS held the first inaugural meeting in April 2005 (Geneva), the second meeting in May 2006 (Hamburg, Germany), and the third in Edinburgh (Scotland, UK) in May 2007. The background information on the ToS scope and agenda is available at Timber Committee website <<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea2.html>>.

2. The third meeting of the Team was organised in Edinburgh at the invitation by the UK Forestry Commission (Mr. Simon Gillam, Head of Economics and Statistics), and held in the Forestry Commission premises (*Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road*) from 21 to 22 May 2007. The Forestry Commission sponsored the meeting by providing the conference room, logistical, financial and secretariat support. The Deputy Leader of the Team of Specialists Mr. Simon Gillam and his colleagues assured all necessary arrangements in an exemplary way.

3. 32 experts from 19 countries and partner organizations took part in the ToS meeting. The represented countries were Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States of America. The representatives from FAO, UNECE/FAO, Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests (*MCPFE-Liaison Unit Warsaw*), European Commission - DG- Joint Research Centre (*Ispira*) and EUROSTAT (*Luxemburg*) participated in the meeting. The list of participants is attached (*Annex I*).

4. The agenda of the meeting included the overview of “*FRA- and C&I- related developments in 2006-2007*”, discussion of issues related to the MCPFE, UNECE/FAO and FAO collaboration in the collection of data and elaboration of the Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” for the Ministerial Conference (MCPFE-2007), preparation of the FAO “*Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010*”,

cooperation with the Montreal Process and other regional C&I for SFM processes and institutions, and planning the future ToS work.

5. The opening, welcoming and introductory remarks were delivered by the ToS Leader Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner (*Austria*), Mr. Simon Gillam (*UK Forestry Commission*), Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO, Rome*), Dr. Roman Michalak (*MCPFE LU, Warsaw*) and Mr. Alex Korotkov (*UNECE / FAO, Geneva*). The speakers highlighted the main issues to be addressed by the meeting, as well as the expected outcome from the 2-day discussion. All participants were thanked by the UNECE and FAO secretariats for the efficient work, impressive representation at the meeting, and collegial atmosphere of discussion.

6. Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner, the ToS Leader, chaired the meeting. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO*) moderated the discussion of issues related to the FRA 2010. Each participant briefly introduced his / her current working positions and responsibilities in the brief “round-table” presentation. The meeting’s provisional agenda and timetable were adopted, including some additional items and slight adjustments, mainly in the order of presentations (*Annex II*).

FRA- and C&I -relating developments in 2006 – 2007 (Item 3)

7. The Team of Specialists was informed about the most important events, which were closely related to the Team’s area of the interest, and which had happened since the last ToS meeting (May 2006) at the regional and global levels. The UNECE and FAO contribution to the elaboration of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, and the preparation of the next global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010), were the key activities presented in line with the guidance provided by the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (March 2007).

8. The Team of Specialists was informed on other significant FRA- and C&I- related projects which had been implemented during the period 2006-2007, and which had the important implication on the UNECE/FAO current and future work in this area. The information about the most important events provided the background for the following discussion at the meeting.

a) *UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics and the Joint TC / EFC Bureaux, March 2007*

9. The Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics held its latest session in Geneva on 20 – 22 March 2007. The Working Party overviewed activities and provided guidance for the FRA- and C&I- related projects. It endorsed, in particular, the UNECE/FAO work on collecting and processing data on quantitative SFM indicators provided by countries in reply to the Enquiry, and appreciated the methodological and practical support to this work provided by the global FRA programme.

10. The Working Party (WP) welcomed the well-established coordination between regional and global Forest Resources Assessments, between UNECE/FAO and the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE), notably in the arrangements for the elaboration of the Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” for the next MCPFE Conference (Warsaw, November 2007).

11. The WP reviewed and endorsed the recommendations of the second meeting of the Team of Specialists (ToS) on “*Monitoring forest resources for SFM in the UNECE Region*” (Hamburg, May 2006), and the provisional agenda for the third ToS meeting (Edinburgh, May 2007).
12. The WP thanked Norway and the Czech Republic for the in-kind contribution of human resources (Dr. Stein M. Tomter and Mr. Richard Slaby) in collecting and processing criteria and indicators (C&I) data for the MCPFE-2007 Report, and for the EU DG-Environment and UK financial support to the MCPFE-2007 Report elaboration.
13. The WP endorsed the work, which had been done on the pilot enquiry and expected study on private forest ownership. This study will contribute to the reporting to the Ministerial Conference, as well as to other policy analyses. The necessity to validate and finalize the preliminary data with countries as soon as possible was noted.
14. The WP expressed concern about the availability of requested data on a number of MCPFE quantitative indicators at the regional and national levels. It also noted that there are some established forms of forest reporting systems such as economic accounts for forestry (EAF) or integrated environmental accounting on forest (IEEAF), both collected by EUROSTAT, which request partly the same data. Delegates asked the secretariat to take steps to harmonise the concepts, terms and definitions of these and other closely related systems with the FRA terms and definitions.
15. The WP urged countries to respond to the enquiry on qualitative indicators as soon as possible (the deadline was 28 February 2007). The Working Party expressed concern with regard to the current situation with the collection of data from other International Data Providers (IDP), as some data problems emerged, and very little time was available for the full process of validation. It urged the secretariat to take the initiative in developing a solution acceptable to all.
16. The WP welcomed the secretariat’s commitment to cooperate with the EU structures dealing with the forest resources data. Some reservations were expressed on the COST E43 workshop proposal on cooperation between the Montreal Process and the MCPFE on the technical aspects of the C&I countries’ reporting.
17. The need to maintain stability in the Forest Resources Assessment work to ease the reporting burden of countries and national correspondents was emphasized. This was especially stressed in the light of the on-going preparation for the global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA-2010).
18. The Working Party re-confirmed the necessity to maintain strong regional activities in this area in order to satisfy specific regional needs and mobilizing regional expertise for the forthcoming global FRA round, and endorsed the Work Area 2 (FRA and C&I) planning for 2007 – 2008.
19. The Joint Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission was held just after the Working Party session (23 March 2007). The Bureaux gave a positive evaluation of the implementation of the Integrated Work programme, including the WP outcome as a whole.

20. The Bureaux overviewed the situation with the MCPFE-2007 SFM reporting. Mr. Piotr Borkowski (*MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw*) welcomed the fruitful cooperation between the UNECE/FAO secretariat and the Liaison Unit. He noted that the Bureaux together with the General Coordinating Committee should be briefed on the draft report. The idea of the organization of a “pan-European Forestry Week 2008” was strongly supported by the Bureaux meeting participants.

b) MCPFE Expert Level (ELM) and Advisory Group (AG) meetings: focus on the forthcoming MCPFE-2007 Conference

21. Dr. Roman Michalak and Ms. Olga Zyrina, MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw (*Poland*), informed the Team of Specialists about the outcome of the *ad hoc* Advisory Group on the Elaboration of the Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, which held its 2nd meeting on 31 May 2006 in Hamburg. They presented also the recommendations of the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, held on 9-10 October 2006 in Warsaw.

22. The 5th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe will be held under the motto „*Forests for quality of life*” in Warsaw (Poland) on 5-7 November 2007. The key documents to be presented to the MCPFE-2007:

- Warsaw Declaration
- Warsaw Resolution 1 “*Forests, Wood and Energy*”
- Warsaw Resolution 2 “*Forests and Water*”
- Pan-European “*Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation*” with a special focus on mitigation and adaptation to climate change (*Supposed to be an agreed document by the MCPFE and the Environment for Europe/Pan European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (EjE/PEBLDS)*)
- Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”
- Report on Implementation of the MCPFE Commitments, 2003-2007

23. The programme of the Conference foresees a special “*Thematic session*” for the presentation and discussion of the Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”. The recent UNFF-7 emphasized the important role of the regional cooperation, which is being considered to be a very important contribution to the global forest policy dialogue, and this special session would be one more practical move in this direction.

24. The 2nd MCPFE Advisory Group meeting discussed, among other issues, the content, structure and arrangements for the elaboration of the “*Report on State of Forests and SFM in Europe 2007*”. This document is expected to be an official report provided by the Conference of Ministers. A balance should be maintained between different chapters (sections) of the Report. The AG noted that the Report should provide “*explanatory interpretation*” of reported statistics and information, as well as trends. The Report should be prepared in neutral manner and founded on factual basis. The Minutes of the AG meetings are available at the request in the LUW Warsaw. More specifically, the Advisory Group planned to address the above and other issues at the 3rd meeting to be held in Warsaw on 11-12 June 2007.

25. The ELM (October 2006) confirmed that MCPFE 2007 Report should be based on the set of pan-European C&I for SFM, including the qualitative indicators, endorsed in Vienna in 2003 and reporting should be “*harmonized with relevant international processes (e.g. FRA)*”.

26. The meeting suggested to exclude the Indicators 4.7 (*Landscape pattern*) and 6.4 (*Expenditures for services*) from this round of reporting on quantitative indicators. The meeting emphasized the necessity of the mobilization of external resources (manpower and financial support). The details of the Expert Level Meeting are at <http://www.mcpfe.org/me/m5/> or <http://www.mcpfe.org/documents/minutes/arcdoc05/elm05/>.

c) *FAO global FRA programme: general overview of developments (see Item 5)*

27. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO) informed the Team of Specialists about the global FRA Programme activities since the last ToS meeting and on the preparation of the new round of the global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. The FRA-2010 Assessment had been requested by the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) in March 2007. It should be based on a comprehensive country reporting process complemented by a global remote sensing survey. A number of special thematic studies linked to FRA 2010 and covering special issues should constitute an important part of the Assessment. The content of the new Assessment represents a further development of the FRA 2005 scope and coverage (*paras 66-73, Item 5*).

28. The comprehensive Enquiry with the Reporting Tables, Specifications and Guidelines should be the main tool for the FRA-2010 implementation. The draft set of the Reporting Tables had been elaborated on the basis of the FRA 2005 analysis and evaluation, recommendations from the Global FRA Expert Consultation held last year (*Kotka V*, June 2006), FRA Advisory Group (Rome, January 2007), and COFO-2007 directions. The tables had already been reviewed widely in a transparent way. The global FRA-2010 should employ 1990, 2000, 2005 and 2010 as the reference reporting years.

29. The 7th thematic element of SFM, namely “*Policy, Legal and Institutions (PLI) framework*” should be a new part of the FRA-2010 Enquiry. The following new variables were proposed: Forest policy, Forest legislation, Forest administration, Forest education and research, Domestic public expenditures of forestry institutions. Four new reporting tables have therefore been included. The contribution of these variables in assessing SFM and visibility to collect data/ information on them were in the process of discussion.

30. The “*Kotka V*” recommended that the FRA process should also provide the forest-related information for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity target of the CBD. COFO 2007 endorsed the recommendations from the “*Kotka V*” meeting and further recommended that FRA 2010 should take into consideration the Global Objectives on Forests agreed at UNFF. One new reporting table on forest establishment has therefore been incorporated into the current draft, as well as a couple of additional categories under forest designation and management (including the area of forest under sustainable forest management) and a new variable on invasive species.

31. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie provided the brief information on her recent visit to Russia to participate in meetings on forest inventory and monitoring, and to discuss a possible FAO involvement in the evaluation of the forest inventory system of the Russian Federation. The work was under the consideration in the light of the ongoing restructuring of the Russia's forest inventory, accounting and management planning system. The FAO support in this area could be provided in the cooperation with the World Bank. Terms of References for an initial assignment of an FAO expert that would support the current developments of a pilot national forest inventory were being elaborated.

d) Montreal Process C&I- related developments

32. Mr. Robert L. Hendricks and Mr. W. Brad Smith (USA) provided a brief general overview of work within the Montreal Process (MP), specifically on the status of the revision of MP indicators for SFM. The outcome of the MP meeting in Sapporo (Japan), where a draft of the new (revised) set of the 67 MP indicators was discussed was also presented. The revision of the core C&I had not yet been completed, and the final decision was expected during this fall at the meeting to be held in Argentina. The developing of a more effective C&I reporting scheme will continue (Strategic Plan).

33. The ToS was informed that the Liaison Office of the Montreal Process was moved from Canada to Japan, and the MP Technical Advisory Committee was located now in New Zealand. The issues of common interest and areas of possible cooperation between the ToS and the Montreal Process with regard to the C&I countries' reporting, as well as the outcome of the "*Inter-C&I processes collaboration workshop*", which was organized by MP, MCPFE and ITTO and held in *Bialowieza* (Poland) in June 2006, were addressed under Item 6 of the Agenda (see below).

e) Working Group on Forest Inventory and Monitoring, North American Forestry Commission (outcome of the recent meeting)

34. Mr. Mark Gillis (*Canada*) informed the participants about the results of the annual meeting of the Working Group on Forest Inventory and Monitoring of the North American Forestry Commission. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to share the information and the results of the research done in the region. The elaboration and setting up a database of forest land of the North America, and providing common products were discussed by the Working Group.

f) SEBI 2010 (Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators): pre-final set

35. The participants were informed on the current developments of the SEBI 2010 (*Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators*). The substance of the topic was presented by the UNECE secretariat on behalf of the European Environment Agency (*EEA*) on the basis of slides prepared earlier by Mr. Frederik Schutyser and Mr. Tor-Björn Larsson.

36. Set of biodiversity indicators for Europe (26 specific indicators within 16 EU headlines) includes the following forest related indicators: a) Forest: growing stock, increment and fellings (based on MCPFE); b) Forest: deadwood (based on MCPFE); c) Forest area (additional information based on UNECE/FAO Forest Resource Assessment to be added to "Ecosystem coverage" indicator). The indicators proposed are open for consultation at <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/information/indicator/F1090245995/rep135246>.

37. On the basis of biodiversity indicators, the EEA (with support from the EU DG-ENV) plans to produce an Ecosystem Assessment for Europe in 2012, which is currently in the design stage. The timetable of the elaboration of the Assessment looks as follows: 2007 - ongoing forest related work (within and outside SEBI 2010), landscape pattern and fragmentation (JRC), Forest Status indicator/CONECOFOR, European Forest Types, etc., publication of the EEA technical report; 2008 - Indicator based assessment report; 2010 - The biodiversity indicators will contribute to the State of the Environment report for Europe; 2012 - Ecosystem Assessment for Europe.

38. The participants were also informed about compiling by the EEA European Topic Centre Biological Diversity (ETC/BD) of the report "*European Forest Biodiversity - Ecosystem condition and sustainable use*". The draft report should be available in the autumn 2007, and after reviewing (standard EEA procedures), it should be published in spring 2008. The Report, which is to be mainly based on the FRA 2005 and MCPFE-2007 data, will be available at the CBD COP-9 meeting in Bonn, May 2008.

g) *EU COST Action E 43 (NFIs): status, developments and planning*

39. Professor Erkki Tomppo (*Finland*) presented the *EU COST Action E 43 "Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe"* activities, including the Action's organisational aspects and substantive work done in its three Working Groups (WGs). The 27 European countries, USA and New Zealand support the Action's activities and provide necessary data. The COST Action E 43 had approached the last year of the allocated timeframe (its initially established duration terminates by the end-June 2008), but a possibility to extent its activities was considered.

40. The Action implements an important work leading to its main objective: to improve and harmonize the existing national forest resource inventories in Europe, and to support new inventories in such a way that inventories would meet national, European and global level requirements in supplying "*up-to-date, harmonized and transparent forest resource information*" for decision (policy) making. The Action promotes sound and scientifically validated methods in forest inventory design, data collection and data analysis, thus contributing to the international FRA- and C&I- related reporting.

41. The ToS was informed about main results of the Action's practical work done in three Working Groups: WG1 "*Harmonized definitions and measuring practices*", WG2 "*Harmonized estimation procedures for carbon pools and its changes*", and WG3 "*Harmonized indicators and estimation procedures for assessing components of biodiversity*". The WGs were elaborating the concepts and ways towards harmonisation, and focused on a few key variables and reference definitions. The more detailed information on the COST Action E 43 and its WGs activities is available at <<http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e43>>.

42. The WG1 continued its efforts to provide recommendations on building the "national bridges" to overcome differences between definitions *via* (mainly) UNECE/ FAO "Reference definitions", which were applied in FRA processes (as a methodology of the future harmonization). "Building bridges" had currently appeared to be a challenging task, mainly due to differences in countries' field data definitions and methods of work, and also because of insufficient resources for this work. Case studies on "harmonization of possibilities" should support the results at the different quality levels. The quality of harmonization will depend on the data availability in individual countries.

43. The two other WGs cover: harmonized estimation procedures for carbon pools and its changes, identification of the core variables/ parameters, precision of the assessment of the above ground biomass, biomass expansion factors, sensitivity analysis of the stock change estimates, aspects of the quality assessment and error budget, forest types classification issues, and improvement of the uncertainty estimates.

44. The Action suggested that an “*European forest monitoring system*” needs to be built on National Forest Inventories (NFIs), taking a full advantage of the national knowledge, long time methodological work, and availability of data time series. The active support and participation from FAO, UNECE/FAO, MCPFE, JRC, EEA, DG ENV was considered important for achieving this goal. Generally, details discussed and elaborated by COST Action E 43 were more specific than those addressed at the FRA level, and they had a potential to provide a fundamental background for the future FRA- and C&I- related work, and specifically for the implementation of the global FRA-2010.

45. The interim results, which were achieved so far, might need a “new Action” to continue the needed work. The current situation, namely: involving the inventory teams with high commitment, the participation of the core experts and groups, preparation of a number of publications (country reports, covering the status in each participating country, 5-6 scientific papers, production of harmonised results), etc., all these arguments were presented to support a continuation of the Action’s work.

46. Mr. Claude Vidal (*France*), the *COST Action E 43* vice-chairman, explained the rationale behind the Action’s proposal to organise in cooperation with the MCPFE and Montreal Process, a technical/ scientific workshop, which would be also a follow-up to the *Bialowieza* C&I discussion. The availability of a significant financial support to such a workshop from the EU COST programme was conformed, and possible contents of the workshop was outlined.

47. The preparation of the workshop could start after the COST E43 proposal would be agreed (supported) by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Montreal Process, and the MCPFE LUW (Liaison Unit Warsaw), and possibly by the future MCPFE Liaison Unit Oslo. To achieve this goal, the workshop programme/ agenda, which would address needs and issues of all the parties concerned, should be prepared.

ToS contribution to the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” elaboration (Item 4)

48. The ToS Leader Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner, the UNECE/ FAO secretariat and MCPFE LUW provided brief introductions to the subject. Countries’ reporting on C&I for SFM to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE-2007) in response to the enquiries on quantitative and qualitative indicators, on private forest ownership (PFO), as well as the data collection process from other International Data Providers (IDP) were in the focus. This agenda item was discussed in two parts: one was dealing with the data collection and analysis (item 4a), and the second one – with the elaboration of the Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” (item 4b).

Data/ information collection and analysis: results of the process (Item 4a)

a) *MCPFE 2007 Enquiry – quantitative indicators: results and lessons learned*

49. The Enquiry on the quantitative indicators for SFM was dispatched to countries in February-March 2006 for implementation. The final countries’ replies with the data/ information were provided by the end-November 2006. The electronic National Data Reporting Forms was elaborated taking into account the FRA-2005 experience, and provided an opportunity of a further close cooperation with FAO in processing of the MCPFE C&I

data/ information, and setting up the electronic C&I database. The collected data on quantitative indicators were checked, validated and stored in the FAO FRA database.

50. Dr. Stein Michael Tomter (*Norway*) presented practical aspects of the national reporting to the MCPFE/ UNECE Enquiry (on a table by table basis). The challenges and issues of C&I reporting were discussed in detail, and specific recommendations were provided with regard to the most difficult elements. The ToS meeting participants provided comments and recommendations on the pan-European C&I database building and maintenance, and the further process of validation of countries' data.

51. The ToS members, those responsible for the reporting the countries' information on the quantitative indicators in response to the Enquiry, presented their evaluation of the process, perspectives of the reporting, and discussed problematic areas, which were met in the National Data Reporting Forms. The options on how to address those issues in the future FRA and C&I-related reporting were discussed.

52. Among the numerous challenges of responding to the detailed MCPFE-2007 Enquiry were, in particular, the following (noted by the National Correspondents (ToS members): difficulty to report the required information in break-down by sub-classes, species groups, to provide data on "other wooded land" (OWL), reporting on cultural & spiritual values and protected forests was a real challenge. One of the main issues was reporting on "costs of services", and reporting on "data quality". The availability of data on private forest ownership, especially on the management status, distinction between even-aged and uneven-aged forests, and reporting on "areas under regeneration", collection of data on non-wood goods and "marketed services", were considered as "difficult" ones.

b) MCPFE 2007 Enquiry – qualitative indicators for SFM reporting: issues

53. The Team of Specialists noted the current situation in the collection of information through the specifically prepared Enquiry on the "*Implementation of MCPFE commitments 2007 and Reporting on the MCPFE qualitative Indicators for SFM*" (legal, policy and institutional framework). The Enquiry (questionnaire) was addressed to MCPFE focal points in December 2006, with a deadline for responses of 23 February 2007. Some 27 replies were received by the time of the ToS meeting.

54. As decided by the last MCPFE Expert Level Meeting, the information on the qualitative indicators for SFM should be reviewed and analysed jointly with reporting on progress in the implementation of prior commitments arising from the Ministerial Conferences in Strasburg, Helsinki, Lisbon and Vienna Ministerial Conferences. The information received from countries through the enquiry should be made publicly available on the web.

c) Information from other International Data Providers

55. The MCPFE LUW informed about collecting and processing data supplied by the other International Data Providers (IDPs) such as ICP Forest (2.1 *Deposition of air pollutants*, 2.2 *Soil condition*, 2.3 *Defoliation*), EUROSTAT (6.2 *Contribution of forest sector to GDP*, 6.3 *Net revenue*, 6.5 *Forest sector workforce*). The information on the indicator 4.6 "*Genetic resources*" was obtained through the EUFORGEN correspondents network and "*Biodiversity International*" (former IPGRI and INIBAP). The information relating to the indicator 4.7

“*Landscape pattern*” had to be prepared as a case study by the EC-JRC in collaboration with EEA. The research report on the indicator 6.4 “*Expenditures for services*” was being prepared by the University of Hamburg.

56. The participants noted that some national statistics, especially socio-economic data, do not always correspond to data provided by IDPs (EUROSTAT, ILO). The additional efforts should be made in the process of the Report writing to provide the consistent and comparable data for writing the corresponding chapters. The data/ information received from different countries’ sources had been checked by national correspondents and being finalised.

d) *Forest Ownership” pilot study: database status, how to make the best use*

57. Mr. Richard Slabý (*Czech Republic*) distributed the handouts of preliminary analysis of the data/ information from the MCPFE countries on the Private Forest Ownership (PFO). This was the first phase of a pilot project, initiated by UNECE/FAO in cooperation with MCPFE and CEPF, which would finally aimed at the preparation of a pilot study on the subject. The information, which was collected on PFO in Europe (please, see the PFO questionnaire scope at << <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea2.html>>>), should contribute to the elaboration of the Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”. The ToS supported this work, underlying the lack of consistent information in this area at the European level, and recommended the maximum possible consistency of the PFO reporting with the main MCPFE-2007 Enquiry on quantitative indicators.

MCPFE Report preparation: state of the process, issues & possible solutions (Item 4b)

a) *Contents of the Report (Thematic Chapters) and recommendations to authors on specific topics*

58. The MCPFE LUW and the Editors provided the basic information for the discussion of the current status of the data analysis and the Report elaboration. The Report was structured according to the pan-European criteria and indicators for SFM. Taking into account the close involvement of countries, notably national correspondents, international partners and the scientific community in the C&I reporting process, the national data included into the Report were considered approved by countries.

59. The crucial role in the Report writing belongs to the group led by two Coordinating Editors, professor Michael Köhl and doctor Ewald Rametsteiner, and supported by coordinating Lead Authors (for each criterion), Lead Authors (for each indicator), Review Team and the MCPFE Advisory Group. The Report should be issued at the November 2007 Conference.

60. The contents and format of specific Chapters, as well as the ToS contribution to the elaboration of the Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” were presented and overviewed. The MCPFE General Coordinating Committee and the joint UNECE/FAO bureaux were being kept informed on the Report elaboration.

61. The 3rd Meeting of the *ad hoc* MCPFE Advisory Group on the elaboration of the report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” will be held in Warsaw on 11-12 June 2007. The Advisory Group will review and discuss the first draft of

the Report, which is expected to be available by the end-May. The Agenda of the meeting will cover status and trends in the Reports elaboration (by Chapters/ Criterion), “policies and institutions” part of the Report, suggestions for improvements, and further needs for completing the report (the targeted deadline was June 30, 2007).

b) Resources and support for the Report elaboration and publication

62. With regard to the availability of resources for the elaboration and publication of the Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, the ToS acknowledged the financial support provided by the EU DG-Environment and UK government, and noted that the quality of final output depended on a possibility to contribute more resources to that project.

63. Taking into account the limited resources, and the experience gained by FAO in the process of the global FRA 2005 implementation, the ToS sincerely welcomed the FAO’s offer to contribute to the preliminary pre-processing of the C&I information, including first of all the set of data to be collected on quantitative indicators, to hosting the corresponding electronic database. The ToS suggested that the Report should be a joint publication of MCPFE, UNECE and FAO with the proper acknowledgements of all authors to be engaged in the Report writing.

64. Dr. Jesús San-Miguel-Ayanz (*EU DG Joint Research Centre, JRC*) presented the JRC new product “*Forest-non forest map for Europe*”, as well as a number of relating case studies, which might constitute components of the MCPFE-2007 Report. The JRC would be also useful and should contribute to the implementation of the global Forest Resources Assessment 2010.

65. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO Forestry Department*) confirmed the earlier FAO’s offer to provide the support in hosting the MCPFE C&I electronic database and handling data/information on quantitative indicators for the MCPFE-2007 Report on SFM in the process of the Report elaboration. Additionally, the FAO will actively participate in the work of the MCPFE Advisory Group in the process of finalising the Report.

Regional contribution to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (Item 5)

66. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie presented and moderated the discussion of the global FRA activities (*paras 26-30, Item 3c*), and of the regional FRA work in the global context. The discussion covered the following lines: follow-up to “*Kotka-V*” global FRA Expert Consultation, Global FRA Advisory Group, FRA Remote Sensing component/survey, preparation for the global FRA 2010 (timetable/ schedule, country reporting tables, thematic studies, NC network), other specific points.

a) FRA-2010 Country reporting tables

67. The National Reporting Tables for FRA-2010, including their specifications and terms & definitions, were presented and discussed on a “table-by-table” basis (17 main tables). The round table discussion focused on the lessons learned from the FRA 2005, recommendations of the “*Kotka-V*” Expert Consultation and the global FRA Advisory Group. The list of ToS recommendations with the practical proposals is presented in *Annex III*.

68. The specification of National Reporting Tables should be sent to FRA National Correspondents for their comments, finalized and after that the accompanying guidelines, terms and definitions and reporting formats will be translated into the FAO working languages. This work had to be completed in the fall, and the set of the FRA-2010 documentation (including Templates for Country Reports) should be sent to countries (FRA National Correspondents) before the end-2007. The global meeting of FRA-2010 National Correspondents was foreseen for March 2008.

b) Remote sensing survey

69. The ToS was informed about the complementary remote sensing assessment, which should provide another important component of the global FRA-2010. The Remote Sensing survey aimed at obtaining better information about processes of forest change and trends related to forests at global, regional and biome levels. A series of meetings had been held with the remote sensing experts to discuss the methodological aspects of the RS survey. Sufficient resources and guaranteed funding of this project would be the key of its success. Among the expected ToS input: a) reviewing the proposed RS methodology, b) identification of focal points, c) proposal for a tool for validating forest/ non-forest map for Europe.

c) Thematic studies (a short overview)

70. There will be a number of special (thematic) studies, which complement the global FRA 2010 and cover special issues, especially those not covered by the National Reporting Tables. The preliminary list of potential thematic studies suggested at *Kotka-V* was revised by the FRA Advisory Group in January 2007, and additionally commented by the Team of Specialists. Among a dozen of suggested topics for thematic studies there were some of a "higher priority", e.g. "*Trees outside forest*", "*Policy Legal and Institutions*", "*NWFPs removals*", "*Informal removals of wood fuel*" and others. The ToS suggestions and proposals should be helpful for taking final decisions on the studies in the process of the FRA-2010 implementation.

d) ToS contribution to the FRA-2010 preparation and implementation.

71. Open discussion on the regional ToS contribution to the FAO global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 gave additional input at the crucial final phase of the preparation of the Assessment. The opinion of the ToS members, many of whom are the FRA National Correspondents, was well taken by the global FRA Leader Mrs. Mette Wilkie, who found the ToS discussion "very informative and constructive". The expressed opinions and suggestions will be materialized in the final FRA-2010 documentation.

72. The crucial importance of the establishing, updating and maintenance of the network of FRA national correspondents and regional focal points, as well as the regional and sub-regional workshops to support the FRA countries' reporting, was emphasized. The ToS noted that an adequate financial and logistical support for such ambitious reporting project should be secured, and availability of sufficient resources plays the decisive role in the success of the Assessment.

73. Mrs. Mette Wilkie reiterated the FAO's position on the importance and usefulness of the ToS work, especially with regard to the exchange of experience, sharing information, and facilitating the coordination in the FRA- and C&I- related data collection at the regional and

global levels. The ToS role is especially important in the UNECE region, in the situation where there are a lot of different actors and on-going activities, and where it had accumulated the long-lasting experience of the FRA work.

International Processes and C&I country reporting issues (Item 6)

74. Mr. Robert L. Hendricks (*USA*) informed the ToS about the outcome of the “*International Workshop on C&I processes*”, which was organized jointly by the Montreal Process, MCPFE and ITTO, with support from the UNECE/FAO, and held in Poland (*Bialowieza*) on 8-10 June 2006. This collaborative meeting gave an opportunity to exchange views on possibilities and limits of “coordination/ harmonization” between processes.

75. Among the issues addressed at the workshop was 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. The ToS Leader and the UNECE/FAO secretariat were represented (and contributed) to the *Bialowieza* C&I workshop. The outcome of the workshop was presented at Kotka V and the proceedings were published by the MCPFE LUW, Warsaw.

76. A “strong” coordination of C&I reporting among processes appeared difficult at this stage, as processes had their own history, established their proper agendas and methods of work, and had differing capacities. However, a regular mutual exchange of information between processes, as well as coordination (to some extent) of the countries’ reporting work, which was being done within processes, would be mutually beneficial, in particular to minimize the reporting burden on national correspondents.

77. Useful C&I process collaborative efforts might focus on: a) Clarification of common global, regional, country data threads, b) Understanding how special interest groups, users at lower levels of management, other sectors, decision makers etc. are audiences for which reports must be tailored, c) How to market national forest reports, d) Methods of analyzing indicator data e) Protocols for efficient data collection. The outcome and findings of the workshop could also be helpful in the preparation of the next Montreal Process Report on SFM (year 2010).

New MCPFE Forest Types classification: feasibility, issues of country reporting (Item 7)

78. Professor Marco Marchetti (*Italian Academy of Forest Sciences*) presented the study “*European forest types: Categories and types for sustainable forest management reporting and policy*” (EEA Technical report, No 9/2006). The study was launched by EEA in 2004, it has gone through the phase of testing and consultation with end-users, and the second edition of the report is now available on Internet. The study presents the formulation of a new Forest Types classification, which is constituted of 14 classes (76 forest types) covering the variety of forests in Europe. When formally adopted by the MCPFE process, the proposed classification might be applied as a tool for assessing biodiversity developments and reporting on the 7 MCPFE indicators for SFM (to be presented with a breakdown into forest types).

79. The Team of Specialists noted the significant research implemented in the process of the study elaboration, and acknowledged the good scientific work that had been done in developing this new forest type classification. At the same time, the participants expressed concern about the growing reporting burden for countries to provide data with an increase

from the current 3 classes (*coniferous / broadleaved / mixed*) to new 6 (on average) reporting categories per country. The issue of adopting the proposed classification by National Forest Inventories (NFI) was also raised.

80. The C&I reporting according to the proposed classification might complicate the presentation of the C&I data/ information in a user-friendly format and oversized/ overload (in several times) MCPFE reports as a whole. The opinion was expressed that some countries had probably underestimated potential problems when they had said that it would be easy to report on the new types from their existing National Forest Inventories.

81. The ToS noted that more case studies and testing would be needed, also possibly within the COST Action E43, before the new classification can be recommended for adoption for the MCPFE C&I reporting. The suggestion to use the new types for reporting on only one indicator (forest area) without a breakdown of other 6 indicators by any forest type was voiced, despite being a certain modification of the current set of the MCPFE C&I for SFM. The application of the newly proposed classification as a tool for assessing the biodiversity developments in special studies, as well as in other relating analytical work, would possibly be an area to use the new classification.

82. The participants of the meeting could not reach an agreed position on the matter, emphasizing that further work and testing would be required to come up with an acceptable way for the application of the new forest types for their incorporation into the MCPFE C&I reporting.

Potential indicators for analyses relating to forests and climate change - initial discussion (Item 8)

83. Mr. Simon Gillam gave the presentation on the topic "*Forestry and Climate Change – issues and potential indicators*". The presentation provided an interesting summary of the background aspects and questions in this area, in order to obtain the ToS opinion on the subject. Among the questions addressed were: "*Carbon - how do trees affect the carbon balance?*", "*How else do trees impact on climate?*", "*How does changing climate affect trees and forest habitats?*", "*Carbon balance – what are indicators to capture all aspects*".

84. Mr. Neil Grant presented some questions from a UK Public Opinion of Forestry survey, which asked about "*How much of an impact do you think climate change will have on the UK?*", views on ways in which forests and woodlands in the UK can impact on climate change and views on how UK forests and woodlands should be managed in response the threat of climate change. An open discussion followed on issues related to the "forest-climate change" interaction and monitoring. Although there were no definite formulations and answers provide by the participants, the discussion was interesting and useful. Possibility of a "*Forest-Climate change*" thematic study in the FRA-2010 framework could be considered. The idea of bringing the "hot topics", like this one, to the agenda of the next regular ToS meetings was proposed.

Some other issues (additional items to the agenda)

85. The participants were briefly informed about the EU DG ENV study on major causes of the forest die-back/ deterioration in Europe. The data for this study are being collected through the questionnaires sent to countries. The Institute for World Forestry and the

University of Hamburg (*Prof. Michael Koehl, Dr. Aljoscha Requardt*) were involved in the study implementation. It was suggested to present results of this study at the next ToS meeting.

86. Dr. Aljoscha Requardt (*Germany*) presented first results of his study on “*Networking Structures and Data Potentials of International Data Sources*”. The study is based on the thorough analysis of the history and activities linked to C&I for SFM within the Forest Political Dialogue, and implemented by the long list of institutions, organizations and processes (52 international data sources and 21 institutions). This was important to understand the complexity and to see the “big picture” of interactions between data supply and demands.

87. The challenge of modeling of C&I correlation networks (at national and international levels) could be seen from the analysis of data potentials and data availability, data flows and structures, possibilities of data aggregation/ harmonization, institutions and data sources linkages and synergies, data consistency gaps and discrepancies, and other aspects. A distinction between the “*core indicators*” and “*deficit indicators*” was suggested.

88. This study was welcomed by the ToS and considered as a useful “scientific contribution to the pan-European process on C&I reporting and analysis”. The answer to the practical question on “*How much information of each criterion is covered by which institution?*” and proposing the “*Correlation Network of the 35 pan-European Indicators*” (correlation models), were some of the key results of the study.

89. Ms. Elina Mäki-Simola (*EUROSTAT*) presented the information on the related EUROSTAT statistical work, in particular explaining the forest reporting systems such as Economic Accounts for Forestry (EAF) and Integrated Environmental Economic Accounting for Forests (IEEAF). It was decided by Eurostat that the EAF should be integrated into the IEEAF and that the data collection for the “new” integrated IEEAF would begin later in summer 2007. This issue was brought to the discussion as a follow up to the request from the UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economic and Statistics (*see para 14*).

90. The IEEAF and EAF reporting requests from countries “partly the same data” as the global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and there is an obvious need to take steps to harmonise the concepts, terms and definitions of these and other closely related systems with the FRA programme. While developing the excellent cooperation on forest products statistics, especially the common work on the collection of data through the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ), a more close coordination between EUROSTAT users of forest resources (FRA) data/ information is required and would be helpful. This is a very complex issue, as single data concepts had been used / applied for a variety of purposes.

91. ToS noted a number of important discrepancies in IEEAF and EAF publications in comparison with the well established FAO and UNECE Forest Resources Assessments classifications, categories, terms and definitions. The differences in the format of the requested information create an additional burden to countries’ correspondents to provide comparable and consistent statistics. The publication of different figures on forest resources for the same countries by different bodies are misleading for users of data, and raising the questions for clarifications. The ToS proposed that EUROSTAT experts (those responsible for national accounts) would discuss the issues with UNECE/ FAO (Geneva) and FAO (Rome) and, as the first step, a letter from Geneva to EUROSTAT inviting to consider the matter would be helpful.

92. Some points on issues in estimating value-added in the forestry sector were raised by Mr. Simon Gillam (different value-added measurements, gross value-added in basic prices, national accounts, which are based on Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), “growth of standing timber” notion applied by IEEAF, reporting on the basis of an “extrapolation” from “limited datasets”, etc). The ToS proposed to bring EUROSTAT collaboration and related issues to the agenda of its next meeting.

93. Open round-table discussion of all the key FRA- and C&I- related reporting issues, and their proposals / suggestions on what should be done in this area were run in a “forward-looking” atmosphere, and had provided an important input to the ToS current and future work, and contributed significantly to planning ToS activity.

Future ToS activities and work planning for 2007-2008 (Item 9)

94. The regional FRA- and C&I- related work, its direction, organization and implementation of activities will follow guidance by the Joint FAO / UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, and its parent bodies, the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission (*paras 9-20*). The ToS identified the practical steps to be done currently and in the future, marked working elements and specific activities to be implemented.

95. The Team of Specialists’ work in 2007-2008 should mainly be focused on the facilitation of the C&I reporting to the pan-European Ministerial Conference (MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”), regional contribution to the global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, and on MCPFE-2007 follow-up. The list of ToS (or ToS member) activities and contributions, responding to the Team’s objectives and taking into account its future role, are the following:

- Practical contribution to the 3rd meeting of the MCPFE Advisory Group (AG) on the preparation of the Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*” (Warsaw, 11-12 June 2007). The outcome and proposals of the current ToS meeting should contribute to the AG discussion and recommendations;
- Wide and open consultation with countries, interested institutions and other stakeholders on contents of the MCPFE-2007 Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe*”;
- Active participation in finalising and reviewing the content of the MCPFE-2007 Report before its publication;
- Contribution to the preparation and active participation in the Pan-European Forest Week, which is planned by the joint TC/ EFC Bureaux, with the support from MCPFE, and which is expected to be organised in the autumn 2008;
- Contribution to the preparation and running the Global FRA-2010; Follow-up to Global FRA Advisory Group recommendations with regard to the regional FRA- related work, especially regarding the preparation and implementation of the next round of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA-2010);
- Support of activities of the Global FRA Advisory Group in the future and participation in the AG meetings to be held in 2008;
- Contribution to the global meeting of FRA National Correspondents provisionally scheduled for March 2008, and to the FRA-2010 regional and sub-regional workshops, to be organized in April – December 2008;

- Finalising the database on the European Private Forest Ownership (PFO) in the MCPFE countries (July – December 2007) and contribution to the preparation of the PFO study;
- Maintenance of the electronic database of the MCPFE quantitative indicators, in cooperation with the FAO global FRA Team, and thus providing contribution to the Report writers/ authors in writing the MCPFE-2007 Report on SFM (June-November 2007), and MCPFE-2007 follow-up;
- Support to the EU COST Action E 43 work on “*Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe*”, thus facilitating the C&I for SFM countries’ reporting;
- To provide necessary support to technical and scientific workshops on C&I reporting aspects which are considered by the Montreal Process, and to the EU COST Action E 43 scientific workshop, in case of the agreement between E 43, MP and MCPFE on the matter;
- To establish contact with the EUROSTAT services responsible for the EAF and IEEAF forest reporting systems, in order to take necessary steps to harmonise the concepts, terms and definitions with the FRA terms and definitions;
- If necessary, to convene an interim ToS “core group” meeting at the beginning of 2008 to discuss the regional contribution to the global FRA-2010 implementation, and MCPFE-2007 follow-up, and providing an additional ToS advice;
- The fourth ToS meeting has to review the FRA- and C&I –related developments, to overview in detail and to learn lessons from C&I reporting to MCPFE-2007 on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, and the global FRA-2010 implementation.

96. The carrying out the above activities will be coordinated by the ToS Leader and Deputy Leaders and the UNECE/FAO secretariat, in close collaboration with the MCPFE LUW, global FRA and TAC of the Montreal Process. The timetable and resources for the implementation of above activities should be the subject of specific consideration and decisions of the ToS parent and governing bodies.

Next meeting of the Team of Specialists

97. Mr. Johannes Hangler (*Austria*), on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, and the ToS Leader Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner, invited the next (4th) meeting of the Team of Specialists to be held in Austria, tentatively in the period of late May or early June 2008. The participants accepted the invitation with gratitude. The organizational details of the ToS meeting in Austria, its programme and agenda will be elaborated and proposed in advance of the meeting, at the beginning of the year 2008.

Other matters and closing the 3rd ToS meeting (Items 10 & 11)

98. The UK Forestry Commission structure, governance, functions and work procedures, including the Commission conservancies, agencies and forest enterprises were presented by Mr. Simon Gillam during the lunchtime. The presentation of organisations hosting the ToS meetings is a long-standing tradition, it is always well-accepted by participants and should be maintained in the future, as a useful element of the meetings’ programme.

99. The guided walk was organized for interested participants to the city centre of Edinburgh in advance of the meeting (on Sunday afternoon). The excursion included visiting the Scottish Parliament and other historical places of the city and country.

100. The Team of Specialists expressed its sincere gratitude to the UK Forestry Commission for supporting the UNECE/FAO regional FRA and C&I activities, and thus providing the important contribution to the international co-operation on Sustainable Forest Management in the region. All the facilities provided by the Forestry Commission for the ToS meeting, including the conference room, logistical, financial and secretariat support were of the high quality and very helpful. The participants of the meeting highly appreciated the outstanding hospitality extended to them during their stay in Edinburgh. Special thanks were expressed to the Deputy Leader of the Team of Specialists Mr. Simon Gillam and to his colleagues from the Forestry Commission, who did the excellent work in the preparation and running the ToS meeting, and assured all necessary arrangements in an exemplary way.

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