



Joint Session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

Antalya, Turkey – 10-14 October 2011



Review of the Mandate and Modus Operandi of the EFC Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds



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Background

- 1952: creation of the Working Party by the EFC
- 1970: current ToR and modus operandi
- 2010: launch of a review of the mandate and modus operandi of the Working Party
 - 25 February 2010: joint Bureaux meeting EFC/TC
 - April 2010: 27th session of the Working Party
 - April 2010: 35th session of EFC
 - March 2011: start of the review



Main review questions

- Institutional affiliation of focal points
- Mandate and topics
- Structure and governance
- Financing
- Synergies and collaboration with relevant organizations and institutional mechanisms
- Expectations by the member countries from the WP



Methodology I

- Questionnaires to member countries
- In-depth review
 - Visits to countries (Switzerland, Turkey)
 - Phone interviews (Norway, France)
- Assessment of the “institutional landscape”
 - Desk review
 - Meetings with partner organizations
 - Phone interviews



Methodology II

- Mid-term consultations
 - Joint meeting of the TC/EFC Bureaux (May 2011)
 - Steering Committee meeting of the WP (June 2011)
 - 28th Working Party Session (September 2011)
 - **36th EFC Session, 69th TC Session (October 2011)**



Main findings I

- High appreciation for the relevance and activities of the Working Party, technical orientation
- The link between science and application is considered very relevant
- Integrated and landscape approach is appreciated
- Different needs and priorities across the EFC region
- Diversity of institutional affiliation of the focal points
- No budget allocation, no work plan



Main findings II

- Important topics: forests and water, DRM, climate change, payment for ecosystem services, multipurpose management of forests
- Complex institutional landscape and partnerships: UNECE Water Convention, Association on Headwater Control, FOREST EUROPE, Alpine Convention, Carpathian Convention, Mountain Partnership, UNCCD, EU, IUFRO, INTERPRAEVENT, PLANALP, INTERREG, etc.



28th session of the WP: 13-15 September 2011 in Kastamonu: discussion of the review and its preliminary results



Key recommendations I

- Work of WP much appreciated by the countries
- Because of its importance WP needs to be strengthened
- More structured and output-oriented working modality
- Thematic (regional) Working Groups (WG) which would operate under the umbrella of the WP.
 - flexibility to respond to countries needs and priorities
- Each WG would have leading country(ies)
- ToRs, work plan and budget
- Fundraising in the responsibility of each WG



Key recommendations II

- Strengthened Steering Committee
- Possibility to participate in several WGs
- Two WGs already identified: forests and water (Finland, Switzerland, Turkey) and DRM (Austria, France)



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Key recommendations III

- Climate change as a cross-cutting theme
- Stronger role of the Secretariat as “facilitator”
- Increased mandate of the secretariat: foresee staff secondments
- Continue with sessions on a biennial basis



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Thank you for your attention!



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