

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2006/4
21 February 2006

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Timber Committee

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
European Forestry Commission

Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party On Forest
Economics And Statistics

Twenty-eighth session
Geneva, 2-4 May 2006
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**GUIDANCE OF WORK AREA 2: FOREST RESOURCES ASSESSMENT
AND INDICATORS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION**

Note by the Secretariat

The document presents an overview of the activities in work area 2, and highlights the topics to be addressed by the Working Party, as follows:

- regional Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) related work in the global context;
- regional contribution to the global FRA 2005;
- work programme of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE Region;
- Enquiry for the data collection for the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) Report, *State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*;
- Workshop on Inter Criteria and Indicators (C&I) process collaboration (Poland, June 2006)

The Working Party is invited to provide guidance for current and future activities in work area 2.

Introduction

1. The activities in work area 2 during the reporting year (April 2005 – February 2006) were mainly focused on the regional contribution to the implementation of the global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2005) and preparation for reporting to MCPFE Conference in Warsaw 2007. Work has been carried out in accordance with the guidance provided by the Working Party in 2005.

GE.06-20923

Regional contribution to the Global FRA: developments in 2005-2006

2. During the reporting period, the UNECE/FAO regional contribution to the implementation of the FRA 2005 was provided in different forms, including the following:

- (a) Encouragement of the countries to provide inputs into FRA 2005 reports and engagement of new FRA national correspondents;
- (b) Review, analysis and finalisation of the FRA 2005 country reports from countries of the region, active communication with FRA national correspondents;
- (c) Contribution to the main report, which was launched on 14 February 2006 at the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF6) in New York;
- (d) Compilation of final data tables for UNECE region and structuring the data according to the UNECE specific needs; and
- (e) Preparation for FRA 2010 (Kotka V).

3. The majority of country reports were elaborated by countries of the region, some other were prepared by the UNECE/FAO secretariat as “desk-top” documents, on the basis of the available information, mainly from TBFRA-2000.

4. The deadline for submission of the reports by FRA national correspondents was end July 2005. Afterwards, the reports were validated by national forestry authorities and published on FAO website mid-November 2005. Based on the data provided by countries, the FRA 2005 team has compiled a set of global tables on forestry variables. The global tables present information for 229 countries and territories grouped into six regions. The UNECE/FAO Geneva secretariat assembled this information for countries of the region and presented them in form of graphs.

5. The main report of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 described progress towards sustainable forest management defined and measured in terms of the extent of forest resources and their contribution to the global carbon cycle; biological diversity; forest health and vitality; and productive, protective and socio-economic functions of forests.

6. The FRA team has started already to evaluate the process of FRA 2005 reporting and is planning an Expert Meeting this year to start preparation for FRA 2010 (Kotka V).

7. The Working Party is invited to review the process and results of the Global FRA2005, especially as concerns Europe and identify issues for consideration at Kotka V.

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in UNECE Region

8. The first Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE Region was held in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2005. The Team of Specialists looked into the following: (a) regional contribution to the implementation of the global FRA 2005; (b) preparation for Criteria & Indicators reporting to MCPFE 2007 by countries of the region; (c) aspects of reviewing indicators for sustainable forest management within the Montreal Process; and (d) issues of monitoring and assessment of the social and economic aspects in forestry.

9. The main output of the team was its contribution to the elaboration of the “Enquiry for the Data Collection for the MCPFE Report, *State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”.

10. The team's next meeting will be held in Hamburg on 29-30 May 2006, in conjunction with the meeting of the MCPFE Advisory Group (31 May). The following issues are to be discussed:

- (a) FRA- and C&I- related developments in 2005-2006;
- (b) MCPFE - UNECE/FAO collaboration on the Report *State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*;
- (c) FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005 follow-up;
- (d) Cooperation with the Montreal Process and other regional C&I for SFM processes; and
- (e) Plan of action of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists for 2006-2007

Enquiry for the data collection for the MCPFE 2007 Report *State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*

11. The MCPFE has defined the UNECE/FAO as the key data provider for the majority of the pan-European criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management (SFM). An enquiry on the quantitative indicators for SFM was elaborated by the UNECE/FAO Geneva secretariat in close cooperation with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw and through a consultative process within the Team of Specialists. The next MCPFE Report, *State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*, will be based on the countries' reporting to this enquiry. Information on qualitative indicators will be collected in a separate process.

12. The enquiry was designed to fully respond to the general requirements for the elaboration of the MCPFE Report which were formulated by the MCPFE Expert Level Meetings (Warsaw, Poland). It included the reporting forms requesting data relating to the pan-European Indicators for SFM, and provided explanations for completing the statistical tables. The list of terms and definitions, which were applied for this round of the C&I reporting, and the list of Improved pan-European Indicators for SFM were also included for references. The enquiry may be downloaded at <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea2.html>.

13. The enquiry was sent in February 2006 to all the MCPFE countries (FRA national correspondents and MCPFE focal points). The deadline for the submission of country reports is 20 July 2006, so that the final information/ data for producing the MCPFE 2007 Report could be compiled by end-2006 (beginning 2007), i.e. by the time of the Warsaw Conference.

14. The UNECE/FAO secretariat in Geneva in cooperation with the MCPFE Liaison Unit in Warsaw will coordinate and support the countries in providing their reports. This coordination will include direct communication with countries (responding to interim queries, data checking and validation) as well as reviewing and commenting on the country replies to the enquiry.

15. Pilot enquiries on non-wood goods and services (NWGS) and private forest ownership have been drawn up, with the help of partners.

16. *The Working Party is invited:*

- a. to review the process of preparation for the 2007 report and provide guidance; and*
- b. to comment on the pilot enquiries on NWGS and private forest ownership*

Cooperation with the Montreal Process and other regional C&I for SFM processes

17. In response to many international calls for increased collaboration among national and international processes on criteria and indicators (C&I) a workshop is organized jointly by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the MCPFE Liaison Unit in Warsaw, the Montreal Process and the UNECE/FAO. The Inter C&I Process Collaboration Workshop will be held in Poland from 8 to 10 June 2006. Participation is by invitation sent by the organizers to a number of representatives of different C&I processes. The workshop is expected to provide a forum for an open discussion at a technical level that will take into account a variety of conditions in different regions. It will produce recommendations for the individual C&I processes. The objectives and main agenda items of the workshop are presented in Annex I.

18. The Working Party is invited to comment on the preparations for the Workshop on Inter C&I Process Collaboration to be held in Poland.

Annex 1

Workshop on Inter-C&I Process Collaboration

Bialowieza, Poland, 8-10 June 2006

Draft Programme

(as of January 2006)

- Session 1. Current initiatives, implementation issues and needs
- Session 2. The need for collaboration among the C&I processes
- Session 3. The audience for national sustainability reports
- Session 4. General model for C&I

Break out groups to address:

- (a) C&I processes collaboration goals
- (b) Areas of coordination/harmonization - future workshop agenda items
- (c) Frequency of workshops
- (d) Political commitment for such a process and financing

The goals of the workshop are:

1. Explore the ways to enhance collaboration and synergies among C&I Processes as well as other international forestry processes, such as FRA and the CPF. Potential topics to discuss include:
 - (a) National and international implementation of C&I for SFM
 - (b) National and international use of SFM reports
 - (c) Terms and definitions
 - (d) Scientific bases for application of C&I in decision-making
2. Analyze existing arrangements on C&I and initiatives on their coordination
3. Make recommendations for future collaboration.