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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
European Forestry Commission

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



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JOINT FAO/ECE/ILO COMMITTEE ON FOREST TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT AND TRAINING

twenty-fourth session

Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland, 12-14 September 2002

**Review of the activities in vocational training and applied ergonomics  
(subject area 3) and  
programme for 2003-2005**

**Item 7 of the provisional agenda**

Note by the secretariat

This document presents the activities in subject area 1 since the Joint Committee's twenty-third session and draws the Committee's attention to a number of points for decision (in bold, italic type).

The Joint Committee is invited to:

- review its past activities in this subject area and agree on activities for the future;
- agree on the specific points drawn to its attention.

### **3.1 Forestry workforce network (FORWORKNET)**

1. Membership now stands at more than 350 members from 65 countries. The latest 'FORWORKNET update' was published in January 2002. The layout and presentation have been substantially revised and improved following the acquisition of professional software. The print run is 1,000 copies. (ILO home page forestry: <<http://ilo.org/100secto/sectors/forest.htm>>)

#### ***Point for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to review the methods and achievements and agree on its contribution.***

### **3.2 'EDUFOREST' - the Forestry Education Network**

2. The seminar on 'Training for target groups that are hard to reach' France 1998, inter alia recommended the creation of a network of forestry training centres in Europe and outlined a structure for such a network. The idea has since been taken up by a group of seminar participants and some additional members who have launched the network under the name of 'EDUFOREST'. A bilingual homepage in English and French is available at [www.eduforest.org](http://www.eduforest.org). The group requested and obtained the endorsement of the Joint Committee (approved by the Steering Committee in 2001) and the ILO for its drive to expand membership.

#### ***Points for decision:***

- ***The Committee is invited to note the establishment of the network and to consider possibilities to increase adherence by training institutions in member countries, and to decide whether the Network's contributors should continue to be under the Joint Committee's auspices.***

### **3.3 Participation and partnerships in forestry (Team of specialists)**

3. This team was established by decision of the twenty-second session with the main mandate of clarifying the concept of participation, identifying opportunities and developing a framework for increased participatory forest management (involvement of the public), awareness of the forest and use of forest products and services by the public. Its findings are intended also as one of the Joint Committee contributions to follow-up to the Lisbon Conference and the implementation of Resolution L1.

4. Led by Mr. Miles Wenner (United Kingdom Forestry Commission) the team produced a first report on participation to the liaison unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in September 2000. The report was also introduced by the team leader at the joint session of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in Rome in October 2000. The report has been published as an ILO working paper. It has been extremely well received. Its first edition of 800 copies was out of print within six weeks of its release. It has since been reprinted. In May of this year, the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe published a summary of the report prepared by the coordinator and approved by the team.

5. The team has started work on the second part of its mandate, namely public awareness, communication and partnerships. In order to avoid duplication, it has joined forces with the Timber Committee's Forestry Communicators Network. Two workshops of 2.5 days each were organized in Portugal in March and in Scotland in May 2002. At the time of writing, results were not yet available but the team expects to report to the session. The Committee will be updated orally.

6. It should be noted that the work of the team during phase I was able to proceed so well and swiftly to a large extent thanks to the generous support by the Swiss and Flanders (Belgium) forest services who provided funding for the coordinator of the team. Funding for phase II has been far more difficult to mobilize. Funding was not available through a single or a few donors and the team leader tried to share the financial contribution among all countries represented on the team. This caused irritation in some countries.

***Points for decision:***

***The Committee is invited to:***

- *consider the results of the team; and*
- *draw lessons from the team's performance with respect to resource needs;*
- *consider extending the duration of the team's mandate.*

**3.4 Women in forestry** (seminar in Viseu, Portugal, 2-6 April 2001)

7. The seminar was attended by some 85 participants of which unfortunately only 5 were men. Unfortunately, a number of interested persons from eastern and southern Europe had to cancel their participation due to a lack of funding. The technical quality was mostly high and some of the women hold very senior positions in their organizations. The conclusions and recommendations are rich and should be useful to advance equality of opportunity in forestry. It is hoped that they will be used for the next Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe.

***Points for decision:***

- *The Committee may wish to recommend ways in which the outcome of the seminar could be disseminated more widely and fed into political processes. Delegations are invited to present to the session any gender related activities (meetings, reports, etc.) carried out in their country.*

**3.5 Public relations and environmental education in forestry** (seminar in Rütihubelbad, Switzerland, 8-12 October 2001)

8. Interest in the seminar was lively, though somewhat concentrated in German-speaking countries. About 100 participants attended. The conclusions and recommendations are a good overview of ways in which the forestry sector can relate effectively to the public. In particular, they help to clarify the nature and the roles of public relations, environmental education and participation in 'meeting the public'. It is hoped that they will be used for the next Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe.

***Points for decision:***

- *The Committee may wish to recommend ways in which the outcome of the seminar could be disseminated more widely and fed into political processes.*

**3.6 Partnerships in forestry** (seminar in Flanders, Belgium in 2002)

9. At the time of writing the seminar was well prepared with about 60 expressions of interest. Some of the speakers are senior representatives of the forest administration, industry and private owners. The Committee will update orally on the proceedings.

*Points for decision:*

- *The Committee is invited to take note of the outcome of the seminar, review the conclusions and recommendations and decide on any follow-up that may be warranted.*

**3.7 Traditional forest-related knowledge**

10. Mr. Nordanstig had suggested to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session that this was a topic possible future interest. The Steering Committee requested the secretariat to contact Mr. Seeland of the Swiss Polytechnic in Zurich to explore possible approaches. The Committee will be informed orally about the results of this prospecting.

*Points for decision:*

*The Committee is invited to decide on any follow-up that may be warranted.*

**3.8 Other possible future work items**

11. Items that could be considered for future work in subject area 3 are:

- Contractors: best practices in the use of forestry entrepreneurs. Possibly in the form of a ToS reviewing a draft prepared for the ILO and reaching agreement on a final text. The substance will be presented at the session as one of the special topics.
- Small private forest owners: both economic benefits and the safety hazards in small forest holdings are sources of growing concern in a number of member countries. Safety problems are particularly acute in restituted forests in Central and Eastern Europe, but also in Sweden, Germany and Switzerland.
- Labour shortages in forestry are apparent at several levels (workers, technicians, managers) in a number of countries. The subject may warrant attention. It could be explored in cooperation with the FAO Forestry Education Officer in Rome.

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