

**Fifth (19th) meeting of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on
“Monitoring sustainable forest management”**

*(United Nations, Geneva, 21-22 February 2013)
Room XXVII, Palais des Nations*

Meeting report

Item 1: Opening and welcome. Adoption of the Agenda

1. Mr. Kari Korhonen, the Leader of the Team opened the meeting, welcomed participants and thanked them for coming to Geneva. The agenda of the ToS meeting was adopted as proposed by the secretariat (Annex I). The list of participants is attached to this report (Annex II).

Item 2: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire (CFRQ) 2015 – brief presentation of the questionnaire and the process

2. Mr. Roman Michalak, on behalf of Mr Kenneth MacDicken, FRA Leader (FAO Rome), presented an overview of the major features and the preparatory process for FRA and CFRQ 2015. He explained that the global reporting on forests resources 2015 consists of two major components. Similarly to the previous cycles, for the first component national correspondents from all countries and territories will be asked to report on their forests through national questionnaires. The first component will be complemented by a second one - the remote sensing survey, which will provide information about forest cover changes in the 1990-2000-2005-2010 periods.

3. National reporting for the global reporting consists of two parts. The first one is CFRQ, which is a joint questionnaire developed by FAO, ITTO, Observatoire des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale of COMIFAC, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, Forest Europe and the Montréal Process. The second part of the global reporting is the supplementary questionnaire, which includes information requested by FAO.

4. The global reporting is organised around 20 major questions. Their content was adjusted to better respond to users' needs, identified through reviews and debates with stakeholders. While the overall extent of the reporting was reduced compared to the previous edition of FRA, the new questionnaire is more focused on several issues, where more precise information is sought. In order to facilitate data management process FAO developed the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS). FRIMS includes online data entry system (optional), which is an alternative to completing the Word document.

5. The deadline for the final reports is 31 December 2013. The preparatory process for national correspondents includes the “Global Meeting in Preparation for the Global FRA 2015 and the CFRQ”, which will be organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on 6-10 May 2013. ECE/FAO will be coordinating and assisting the reporting process from 55 countries of Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia. This support will be provided through the sub-regional reviewers who will assist countries in preparation of their national reports. Further guidance and discussion of the draft national reports will be done at a regional FRA workshop, which will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 16-17 October 2013.

Item 3: FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO reporting on pan-European quantitative indicators, review of the questionnaire and discussion on the method for the SFM assessment:

a) Introduction to the topic

6. Mr. Roman Michalak informed the meeting that as a follow up to the decisions of Forest Europe and UNECE/FAO, it is planned that data on pan-European indicators on SFM will be collected together with the global reporting. This means that, the regional data will be collected in a coordinated way with the global one. It is expected that the joint data collection process should lead to a significant reduction of burden and reduce cost of the national reporting. At the same time, consistency between regional and global data should improve, thus increasing the visibility and relevance of the collected information. National reporting from the pan-European region will cover 28 of 35 Forest Europe indicators. The role of the Team is instrumental in developing a new questionnaire for 2015 reporting. The two years needed for data analysis and writing of the report was criticised to be too long.

Tentative Timetable for the Quantitative Indicators:

First draft enquiry ready	End of March 2013
Comments collected, final draft Draft to be discussed at correspondents' meeting	Final draft end April 2013 Meeting of NCs' May, 2013, Thailand
Release of the enquiry	June
First reporting version from countries	End of September 2013
Regional workshop for national correspondents	October 2013 Geneva
Deadline for reporting	End of 2013

7. Mr. Kari Korhonen and Mr. Roman Michalak provided participants with information about the goals and method of the review of the pan-European questionnaire on quantitative indicators. The review would be done through four thematic groups covering all criteria on SFM. The main basis for the review would be the version of the questionnaire prepared for the Forest Europe/UNECE/FAO report, State of Europe's Forests 2011 (SoEF2011) with proposals for modifications formulated in the course of SoEF2011 assessment. Further modifications were introduced in a result of the consultation process that preceded the meeting of the Team. The groups were asked to focus their work on the scope of the questionnaire, terms and classifications; while review of definitions would be done later on.

8. Due to the complementary character of the pan-European and global reporting, and intended application of the pan-European questionnaire back to back with the global one, the Team's members were asked to examine interlinks between these two questionnaires. Wherever possible the pan-European questionnaire should clearly identify overlapping parts, and avoid ambiguity when compared with its global counterpart. The questionnaire will address the corresponding areas with the global reporting, ensuring consistency of classifications and definitions wherever possible.

9. Mr. Kit Prins updated the Team with the results of work on the method of the reporting on sustainability of forest management (SFM assessment), done by the ToS thematic group dedicated to this issue. The method was developed through two meetings of the group, and was discussed by the Advisory Group on the preparation of the next State of Europe's Forests, held in November 2012 in Geneva.

10. Several developments were introduced as a result of this participatory consultation process. The method is now seen as an interactive tool for reporting and communicating with countries, significantly extending the role and responsibilities of national correspondents. Furthermore, parameters have been put into three categories (assessment, context and background) to make the assessment more meaningful and to address the dynamic aspects of sustainable forest management. The participants were asked to review the presented version of the method in the course of group work, in parallel to the work on development on the new pan-European questionnaire.

b) Group work on the draft questionnaire and the modalities for the assessment.

11. The development of the new pan-European questionnaire on quantitative indicators and the review of the method for assessing sustainable forest management was carried out by the four thematic sub-groups:

- a. Forest resources, Carbon and Forest Health + Forest Damage (C1+C2)
- b. Productive functions + availability for wood supply (C3)
- c. Biodiversity and Protective functions (C4+C5)
- d. Socio-economic indicators (C6)

Messrs Simon Gillam, Johannes Hangler, Kari Korhonen, Andrius Kuliesis, Jan Oldenburger, Jari Parviainen, Andreas Schuck and Stein Tomter assisted by the secretariat, moderated work of the groups.

c) Plenary discussion and ToS recommendations

12. The moderators presented results of the group work to the meeting for the joint discussion and formulation the guidance for the future work on both documents. The final, specific recommendations for the pan-European questionnaire on quantitative indicators and the method for assessing sustainable forest management are formulated in the form of separate documents (Annex 3) available at <http://www.unece.org/forests/tos-sfm-2013.html>.

Item 4: Plans for future activities of the ToS. Other matters.

a) Discussion of the proposal for the new Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists for the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017

13. Mr. Dominique Reeb, Deputy Chief of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section briefed the members of the Team on the work on the Integrated Programme of Work 2014-17 for the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission that include preparation of terms of references for continued and new teams of specialists. Mr Reeb also informed the participants about the preparation of the ECE/FAO guidelines for teams of specialists for the next period.

14. Secretariat presented the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM for the period 2014-2015. The document was prepared according to the new template, mandatory for all teams, the contents are based on a consultation process carried out before the meeting of the Team. After discussing the draft, the Team recommended passing the proposed ToR to the ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics, Statistics and Management, with understanding that the final version of the ToR will depend on the agreed scope of the new Integrated Programme of Work.

b) Forthcoming activities and actions of the Team

15. In addition to the plans for continuation of work on the questionnaire on quantitative pan-European indicators (see item 12), taking into account the duration of the current ToR, the Team recommended having

another meeting of ToS in 2013. The next meeting should be dedicated to the reporting on indicators facilitated through International Data Providers and preferably organised back to back the meeting for FRA National Correspondents, which will be held in October 2013 in Geneva.

c) Introduction of the forest information billboard “Info about info”

16. Ms. Elina Warsta informed the members of the Team about the concept and a process for preparation and dissemination of the Forest Information Billboard. The newsletter is being prepared as a follow up to the recommendation given by the Team at its 4th meeting, held in Saint Petersburg. The Billboard, which is developed to share information about forest related reporting initiatives among organizations and countries, will be prepared on a quarterly basis, the release of the first edition is planned for 21 March 2013 – the International Day of Forests. The members of the Team were encouraged to contribute to the next and subsequent editions of the newsletter. More information about the Billboard is available on: <http://www.unece.org/forests-welcome/about-us/forest-information-billboard>.

Item 5: Closure of the ToS meeting

17. The meeting was closed at 16:00 on 22 February 2013.

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Provisional Agenda

1. Opening and welcome. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire 2015 – brief presentation of the questionnaire and the process
3. FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO reporting on pan-European quantitative indicators, review of the questionnaire and discussion on the method for the SFM assessment:
 - a. Introduction to the topic
 - b. Group work on the draft questionnaire and the modalities for the assessment
 - c. Plenary discussion and ToS recommendations
4. Plans for future activities of the ToS. Other matters.
 - a. Discussion of the proposal for the new Terms of Reference of the Team of Specialists for the Joint Programme of Work 2014-2017
 - b. Forthcoming activities and actions of the Team
 - c. Introduction of the forest information billboard “Info about info”
5. Closure of the ToS meeting

Meeting hours:	Thursday, 21 February 2013	10.00 – 13.00:	Items 1, 2 and 3a, b
		15.00 – 18.00:	Item 3b (cont.)
	Friday, 22 February 2013	09.30 – 12.30:	Item 3c
		14.30 – 17.30:	Items 3c (cont.), 4 and 5

Venue: Room XXVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

List of Participants

1	HANGLER	Johannes	Austria
2	BOBEVA	Albena	Bulgaria
3	KORHONEN	Kari T.	Finland
4	PARVIAINEN	Jari	Finland
5	VIDAL	Claude	France
6	KOEHL	Michael	Germany
7	SCHMITZ	Friedrich	Germany
8	KULIESIS	Andrius	Lithuania
9	TOMTER	Stein Michael	Norway
10	JABLONSKI	Marek	Poland
11	FILIPCHUK	Andrey	Russian Federation
12	MORAVCIK	Martin	Slovakia
13	BRAENDLI	Urs-Beat	Switzerland
14	LANZ	Adrian	Switzerland
15	OLDENBURGER	Jan	The Netherlands
16	DEMIRICI	Mehmet	Turkey
17	WOLF- CROWTHER	Marilise	European Commission, ES
18	SAN MIGUEL AYANZ	Jesus	European Commission, JRC
19	WOLFSLEHNER	Bernhard	European Forest Institute
20	SCHUCK	Andreas	European Forest Institute
21	GILLAM	Simon	expert
22	KOROTKOV	Alexander	expert
23	PRINS	Kit	expert
24	MARTIN	Myriam	Forest Europe, LUM
25	MICHALAK	Roman	UNECE/FAO
26	McCUSKER	Alexander	UNECE/FAO
27	WARSTA	Elina	UNECE/FAO
28	FONSECA	Matthew	UNECE/FAO