



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 second meeting of the Team of Specialists

Hamburg / Bergedorf, Germany, 29-30 May 2006

(as approved by participants)

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 and FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC) at the joint session held in October 2004. The parent bodies endorsed the ToS objectives, mandate and terms of references. The ToS started its work in April 2005 (the inaugural meeting in Geneva). The background information on the ToS scope and agenda is available at <<http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea2.html>>.

2. The second meeting of the ToS was organised at the invitation from Professor Dr. Michael Köhl (Institute for World Forestry, University of Hamburg, Germany), and held in the premises of the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products (BFH) in Hamburg (*Bergedorf*) from 29 to 30 May 2006. The Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture (Germany) supported the meeting.

3. The Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products provided the conference room and logistical support to the meeting. Professor Michael Köhl and his colleagues from the Section World Forestry and ICP-Forests assured all necessary practical arrangements for the meeting in an exemplary way.

4. 33 experts from 18 countries and partner organizations took part in the ToS meeting, including Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America. The representatives of the UNECE/FAO, FAO, Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests (MCPFE-Liaison Unit Warsaw), European Commission - DG Environment, and DG- Joint Research Centre (Ispra), the European Environment Agency (EEA), and European Forest Institute (EFI), participated in the meeting. The list of participants is attached (*Annex I*).

5. The agenda of the ToS meeting included the overview of the “*FRA- and C&I- related developments in 2005-2006*”, issues related to the MCPFE - UNECE/FAO collaboration in

the preparation of the Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, follow-up to the “*FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005*”, including the preparation to the global FRA Expert Consultation “*Kotka-V*”, cooperation with the Montreal Process and other regional C&I for SFM processes, and the elaboration of the “*Plan of action of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists for 2006-2007*” (*Annex II*).

6. The opening, welcoming and introductory remarks were delivered by the ToS Leader Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner (*Austria*), Professor Michael Köhl (*Hamburg University*), Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO*), Mr. Alex Korotkov (*UNECE*), and Dr. Roman Michalak (*MCPFE LU Warsaw*). The speakers highlighted the main issues to be addressed by the current ToS meeting, as well as the expected outcome from the 2-day discussion. The participants were thanked for the active involvement in the ToS work and the impressive representation at the second meeting of the Team.

7. Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner, the ToS Leader, chaired the meeting. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO*) moderated the discussion related to the FRA 2005 evaluation and follow-up. Each participant introduced him / herself during the brief “round-table” presentation. The provisional agenda and timetable of the meeting (*Annex II*) were adopted with some minor adjustment, mainly in the order of the presentations.

FRA- and C&I -relating developments in 2005 - 2006

8. Following the guidance from the UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (2-4 May 2006) and the FAO European Forestry Commission (23-26 May 2006), the Team of Specialists has led its discussions and built up its recommendations on the results of global FRA 2005, recommendations of the MCPFE Expert Level meetings (ELM) and Advisory Group proposals, activities which are being implemented within the EU Forest Focus and EU COST Actions (E43, E27). It focused mainly on the issues of the collection of the C&I-related data/ information and modalities of setting up the database for the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, as well as proposals for the next round of the global FRA (FRA 2010).

9. A number of important FRA- and C&I- related events during the period 2005-2006 have had an important implication on the UNECE/FAO work in this area, and on the current and future activities of the Team of Specialists. The information about some of the most important events provided the background for the discussion at the 2nd ToS meeting.

a) *UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics and the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)*

10. The participants were informed about the recent session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (*Geneva, 2-4 May 2006*) and its guidance relating to the work of the Team of Specialists. The ToS was briefly informed about the session of the FAO European Forestry Commission, held in Zvolen, Slovakia (*23-26 May 2006*).

11. The Working Party (WP) welcomed the well-established coordination between regional and global FRA, the close cooperation between UNECE/FAO and MCPFE, and supported the active development of partnership with EU structures and institutions, including Cooperation in the field of Science and Technical research (COST) actions.

12. The Working Party reviewed the process of the preparation of the MCPFE report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, and endorsed the scope, format and modalities of the UNECE/FAO contribution to the C&I reporting to the Ministerial Conference. It was noted that the MCPFE-2007 C&I reporting would also be an important contribution to the preparation of the next round of the global forest resources assessment (FRA 2010).

13. The Working Party urged the countries, reporting on the MCPFE C&I for SFM, to provide their replies to the UNECE/FAO Enquiry on quantitative indicators not later than end-July, to allow sufficient time for processing and analysis of these data. The Working Party thanked Norway for the in-kind contribution for collecting and processing C&I data.

14. The Working Party endorsed the work of the Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring forest resources for sustainable forest management in the UNECE Region*”, including the recommendations of the first ToS meeting (Geneva, April 2005), and the agenda for 2nd ToS meeting (Hamburg, May 2006).

15. The Working Party, recognizing the complexity of the questionnaire and its importance, endorsed the preparation of the Private Forest Ownership (PFO) Enquiry based on the pilot study outcomes, and supported the study on this subject. It recommended that the PFO study, as well as the planned for the future possible Non-wood Goods and Services (NWGS) study, as a specific important contribution to the MCPFE-2007 reporting, should be compatible with the main MCPFE-2007 Enquiry for quantitative indicators.

16. The Working Party recommended that the global FRA Expert Consultation “*Kotka-V*” address the issue of the reporting burden of national correspondents. Concerns were expressed about apparent duplication of different processes. The Working Party welcomed the increased cooperation as planned at the Inter C&I Process Collaborative Workshop.

17. The Working Party re-confirmed the necessity to maintain strong regional activities in this area in order to satisfy specific regional needs (reporting on C&I for SFM, etc) and mobilising regional expertise for future global FRA rounds. It endorsed the Work Area 2 planning for 2006 – 2007.

b) MCPFE Expert Level (ELM) and Advisory Group (AG) meetings; elaboration and launch of the MCPFE/ UNECE Enquiry

18. Dr. Roman Michalak (*Poland*), the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, informed the ToS about the results of the first meeting of the MCPFE Advisory Group (Warsaw, 14-15 July 2005), latest session of the Expert Level Meeting (Warsaw, 5-6 September 2005) and the Round-table Meeting (Wroclaw, 24-25 April 2006). The date of the Ministerial Conference was still uncertain, but most probably it could be held in the last quarter of 2007. There was strong consensus within these MCPFE statutory bodies (representing countries of the region) on maintaining and strengthening the cooperation between MCPFE, UNECE and FAO, and in improving coordination and planning.

19. The first MCPFE Advisory Group meeting discussed, among other issues, the role (objectives, goals) and the audience (major clients) of the expected Report on SFM for the Ministerial Conference 2007. The “*Report on State of Forests and SFM in Europe 2007*” 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. It should be prepared in neutral manner and founded on factual basis. The Report of the first AG meeting is available at the LUW Warsaw. More specifically, the Advisory Group will address the above and other issues at the 2nd meeting to be held in Hamburg on the 31 May 2006.

20. The ELM (September 2005) confirmed that MCPFE 2007 Report should be based on the set of pan-European C&I for SFM, endorsed in Vienna in 2003 and the reporting should be “harmonized with relevant international processes (e.g. FRA)”. The meeting suggested excluding the Indicators 4.7 (*Landscape pattern*) and 6.4 (*Expenditures for services*) from this round of the 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/> and/or at <http://www.mcpfe.org/documents/minutes/arcdoc05/elm05/>

c) *FAO Global FRA 2005: evaluation, follow up, implication, lessons learned from the regional work on the project (see Item 5)*

21. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO) informed the Team of Specialists participants about the main results and findings of the FRA 2005, methodological aspects of the Assessment implementation, publication and launching of the Main Report (in English), and the process of the FRA 2005 evaluation. The more detailed evaluation will be provided after the Main Report is available in all FAO working languages. The strengthening of the FRA cooperation with other reporting mechanisms, including external ones (e.g. IPCC) or/and FAO internal (e.g. Forest Products Statistics) was noted. The follow-up to FRA 2005 and preparation for the next FRA round will be addressed at the “Kotka-V” Expert Consultation. See also paras 39-42.

d) *Montreal process FRA – and C&I- related developments (MP/ ToS informal meeting in Brisbane)*

22. Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner informed participants about the informal ToS meeting, which was organized in connection with the IUFRO World Forestry Congress in Brisbane (Australia) in August 2005. The meeting discussed issues of common interest between the ToS/ MCPFE and the Montreal Process with regard to the C&I countries’ reporting. The role of the “*Inter-C&I processes collaboration workshop*”, which will be organized by MP, MCPFE and ITTO and to be held in Bialowieza (Poland) in June 2006, was underlined.

23. Mr. Patrick D. Miles and Mr. John Mike Higgs (USA) informed ToS about the process of reviewing and revision of the set of MP indicators for SFM, and about the forthcoming meeting in Sapporo (Japan), where the new set of the MP indicators could be adopted. Prof. Erkki Tomppo (Finland) and Mr. Claude Vidal (France), the representatives of the *EU COST Action E 43” Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe*”, proposed to organise in cooperation with the MCPFE. MP, UNECE/FAO (Geneva) and USDA Forest Service, a follow-up workshop to the Bialowieza C&I processes’ discussion.

e) *EU Forest Focus follow up, Forest Observatory*

24. Mr. Ernst U. Schulte (*EC DG Environment*) informed participants about the current Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning monitoring of forests and environmental interactions in the Community (*Forest Focus*), which covers the period from 2003 to 2006, and the elaboration of a new Regulation “*LIFE+*” (*L’Instrument Financier pour l’Environnement*), which should provide specific support for developing and implementing the Community environmental policy and legislation. The Commission’s strategic programmes (2007-2010 and 2011-2013) as a whole will set out principal objectives, priority areas and type of actions. The elaboration of a multi-annual work programme relating to the forest inventory and monitoring in Europe under “*LIFE+*” will be discussed at a special meeting (01 June, Hamburg).

f) *EEA "European Forest Types" study, SEBI 2010 (Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators)*

25. Professor Marco Marchetti (*Italy*) presented to participants the study on “*European Forest Types*”, which was commissioned by EEA in 2004, and it is currently in the phase of consultation with end-users. The study come up with the formulation of the Forest Types classification, constituted of 14 classes, and including 75 forest types, which aim at covering the variety of forests all over Europe. The proposed set of forest types is expected to serve as a tool for assessing the biodiversity developments. This classification is to be tested on the ICP-Forest sample plots (I level). Some ToS meeting participants expressed the opinion that more classes/ types would be needed, e.g. for boreal forests. The question on “how the countries’ FRA- and C&I-related reporting according to the newly proposed classification of forest types may work”, and the issue of adopting this classification by National Forest Inventories (NFI), were also raised.

26. Mr. Tor-Björn Larsson (*EEA*) informed participants on the current developments of the SEBI 2010 (*Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators*), and the EEA publication “*Progress towards halting the loss of biodiversity by 2010*”. The comprehensive Report “*Environment for Europe*” is to be published in 2007. The participants underlined the importance of the “*Biodiversity partnership*” between the key stakeholders.

e) *EU COST Action E 43 developments (October 2004-April 2005)*

27. Professor Erkki Tomppo (*Finland*) presented the work of the *EU COST Action E 43” Harmonisation of National Forest Inventories in Europe*”, including the organisational aspects and substantive work of the Action’s three Working Groups (WGs), and the state-of-the-art products. The COST Action E 43 was in the midst of the allocated timeframe, and it has to accomplish its task by end-June 2008.

28. The COST Action E43 collects the information from 27 member countries through 3 Working Groups (WGs) by means of questionnaire approaches, analyzing the current situation in National Forest Inventories (NFI), and exploring ways of the harmonization in the respective specific areas. Links to other EU and wider international processes, like UNECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment process (for WG1), or COST Action E27 (for WG3) is an important element of the practical work. The WG1 builds so called “national bridges” between different definitions *via* the UNECE/ FAO “Reference definitions”, which were applied in FRA processes (as a methodology of the future harmonization). The reference definitions must be free of particular interests of individual NFIs, countries or stakeholders.

29. 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, improvement of the uncertainty estimates, *etc* are among the key issues on the COST Action E 43 agenda. The more detailed information on the activities in this area is available at <http://www.metla.fi/eu/cost/e43>. The Action's activities will be presented at the "Kotka-V" global FRA Expert Consultation (Finland, June 2006).

Cooperation in the elaboration of the MCPFE Report
"State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007"

30. The status and plans for the MCPFE and UNECE/ FAO collaboration in the preparation of the Report "State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007" was presented to participants. The Enquiry on the quantitative indicators for SFM was finalized and dispatched to countries for the implementation in February-March 2006. The countries' replies with the data/ information are expected by the end-July. A similarity of the electronic format of the Enquiry National Data Reporting Forms with the FRA-2005 reporting format might provide an opportunity for a more close cooperation with FAO in processing of the MCPFE C&I data/ information, and setting up the electronic C&I database.

31. The practical aspects of the national reporting in accordance with the MCPFE/ UNECE Enquiry were discussed in details (on a table by table basis); specific recommendations were provided with regard to the most difficult elements of the C&I reporting. The ToS provided also recommendations for the pan-European C&I database building, and the process of validation of countries' data.

32. The round table discussion was led by Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner. 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 ToS provided recommendations on how to address these issues, as well as with regard to the process of validation of countries' data, and the pan-European C&I database building. The assistance will be available and "coaching" will be provided to countries (NCs) on individual basis in addressing the most difficult aspects of reporting, also on the basis of the ToS practical advice.

33. Among the numerous challenges to respond to the detailed MCPFE-2007 Enquiry, which were noted by the National Correspondents (ToS members), were in particular, the following: difficulty to report the required information in break-down by sub-classes, species groups and to provide data on "other wooded land" (OWL); reporting on cultural & spiritual values and protected forests would also be a challenge; one of the main issues is reporting on "costs of services", and reporting on "data quality"; 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", and some others.

34. The Team of Specialists took note that the questionnaire on the pan-European qualitative indicators for SFM (legal, policy and institutional framework) will be elaborated and be sent to countries separately (specifically to the MCPFE representatives of individual

countries), provisionally during the autumn this year, taking into account the tough timetable of the MCPFE-2007 C&I reporting.

35. Mr. Matthias Wilnhammer (*Germany*) presented the questionnaire for collection of data/ information from 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 is expected to be collected on PFO in Europe (please, see the PFO questionnaire scope at << <http://www.unece.org/trade/timber/WorkArea2.html>>>), will 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 this PFO reporting with the main MCPFE-2007 Enquiry on quantitative indicators.

36. Professor Michael Köhl (*Germany*) presented the concept of a study, and the detailed draft questionnaire for the collection of data/ information from MCPFE countries on Non-wood Goods and Services (NWGS). The participants of the ToS meeting intensively discussed Prof. Köhl’s proposals and suggested modalities of this important and challenging work. Although many aspects of the elaborated NWGS questionnaire bear a lot of relevant ideas and components, it was commonly agreed that the suggested approach is too complicated to be implemented currently, and further work on this issue should be based on the results of the main MCPFE enquiry. The decision on the way forward has to be postponed until after these MCPFE-2007 results are available, and should be re-visited at the later stage. In due time, the work done so far could be converted, with some advantage, into a compilation of case studies on methods of data collection at the national and sub-national levels.

37. In practical terms, the data/ information on NWGS for this round of the pan-European C&I for SFM reporting, which is expected to be collected by means of the main MCPFE-2007 Enquiry, were considered sufficient. A possibility of launching an enquiry on the MCPFE Indicator 6.4 “*Expenditures for Services*” at a later stage was noted as well. The reporting burden on country correspondents in the region with the C&I reporting, including the main MCPFE-2007 Enquiry, PFO questionnaire, and forthcoming questionnaire on qualitative indicators, requires to adjust the timing and extent of any additional reporting requests for the nearest year, or so. A possibility to include Indicator 6.4 “*Expenditures for Services*” into the reporting structure for qualitative indicators (to be answered by MCPFE representatives) should be considered in the process of the elaboration of corresponding Enquiry.

38. With regard to the preparation of the Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, which will be based on the analysis of the data/ information to be collected from countries within the above-noted structures, the ToS suggested that this should be a joint publication of MCPFE, UNECE and FAO with the proper acknowledgements of all authors to be engaged in the Report writing. 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.

Global FRA 2005 findings and follow-up

39. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (*FAO Forestry Department*) presented to the Team of Specialists the key aspects of the global FRA 2005 implementation, its main findings and follow-up, including the preparation for the forthcoming Expert Consultation “Kotka-V”. The European regional aspects of the FRA-2005 reporting were highlighted and discussed. The FRA 2005 process has shown the crucial importance of the network of national correspondents and regional focal points, as well as the regional and sub-regional workshops to support the FRA countries’ reporting. The ToS noted that an adequate financial and logistical support for such ambitious reporting projects should be secured, and availability of sufficient resources plays the decisive role in the success of the Assessment.

40. Mrs. Mette Wilkie moderated the round table discussion focused on the lessons learned from the FRA 2005, and on the recommendations to the “Kotka-V” Expert Consultation. The list of ToS recommendations includes the practical proposals, such as defining the scope and content of FRA reporting on the user needs’ assessment/user evaluation, keeping the general format of the report similar to FRA 2005 (advantages of transparency), but exclude forecasting, streamlining with other organisations, identifying other international data providers, etc (Annex III).

41. The information provided EU DG Joint Research Centre (JRC) about the development of a new European forest map, as well as a number of case studies, which might constitute components of the MCPFE-2007 Report, could also be useful and contribute to the preparation for the next round of the global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA-2010).

42. 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 in this area. Mrs. Mette Wilkie confirmed the earlier FAO’s offer to provide the support in setting up and hosting the MCPFE C&I electronic database, and in the processing of data/ information on quantitative indicators for the MCPFE-2007 Report on SFM.

ToS cooperation with MCPFE and Montreal Processes

43. As already reported in para 22, Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner briefed the participants about the informal ToS meeting which was convened in August 2005 in Brisbane (Australia), in conjunction with the IUFRO World Forestry Congress, and which discussed issues of common interest between the ToS and the Montreal Process (MP). The ToS relations with the MP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), i.e. technical expertise exchange, were discussed, including possible contribution of the ToS to the MP review of indicators, their improvement, and on work towards further harmonization of terms and definitions. The revised set of indicators was expected to be finalized by the TAC, and recommended to the MP Working Group (the decision making body) in late 2005. The minutes of the ToS Brisbane meeting are available.

44. As stated, Mr. Patrick D. Miles and Mr. John Mike Higgs (*USA*) informed the ToS on the Montreal process C&I countries’ reporting developments, and on the forthcoming meeting, to be held in June in Sapporo (Japan), where the new set of MP Criteria and

Indicators is expected to be approved. With regard to the process of the revision of MP indicators, and cooperation on the C&I countries reporting, the ToS should work through either the MP Technical Advisory Committee (Australia), or the MP Liaison Office in Canada.

45. Mr. Roman Michalak informed briefly about the forthcoming workshop on "*Inter-C&I Process Collaboration*", to be organized in Poland (*Bialowieza*) on 8-10 June 2006. Among the issues to be addressed at the workshop is 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. It was expected that ToS Leader would be represented (and contribute) to the Bialowieza C&I workshop.

46. Mr. Claude Vidal informed the ToS about the COST Action E43 proposal to organise an international workshop on the collaboration between the MCPFE and Montreal (MP) processes in the C&I for SFM countries' reporting. The participants supported this E43 initiative, and noted that previous discussions on this subject, also within the ToS, have indicated already a lot of issues of coordination, cooperation and possibility (in the future) of some harmonization in the C&I reporting requirements... It was noted that more specifically this question could be addressed after the "*Inter-C&I Process Collaboration*" workshop, which will focus on the MP, ITTO and MCPFE processes.

Plan of Action of the Team of Specialists for 2006-2007

47. The proposed Team of Specialists' Plan of Action for 2006-2007 includes practical steps of the elaboration of the key products during the forthcoming years, including the contribution to the preparation of the MCPFE Report "*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*", and contribution to the next round of global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010).

48. The "*Plan of Action of the Team of Specialists for 2006-2007*", its practical working elements and specific activities, are defined in the discussion at the current ToS meeting. The Plan responds to the ToS objectives, which were defined by the UNECE/FAO parent bodies, taking into account the ToS future role, and includes the following activities:

- Immediate contribution to the 2nd meeting of the MCPFE Advisory Group (AG) on the preparation of the Report "*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*", Hamburg, 31 May 2006. The outcome and proposals of the current ToS meeting will be used as a basis for the AG discussion and recommendations;
- ToS representatives will participate in (and contribute to) the MP / MCPFE / ITTO "*Inter-C&I Process Collaboration*", to be held in Poland (*Bialowieza*) on 8-10 June 2006;
- Contribution to the preparation and running the Global Expert Consultation on Forest Resources Assessment "Kotka-V", to be held in Finland (*Kotka*) on 12-16 June 2006;
- To keep the ToS members, regional network of FRA national correspondents and C&I reporting institutions informed on the outcome, findings and recommendations of the "Kotka-V" Global FRA Expert Consultation, especially those relating to the ToS work;
- Follow-up to "Kotka-V", with regard to the regional FRA- and C&I- related work, including the contribution to the preparation for the next round of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA-2010);
- Support of the activities of the Global FRA Advisory Group and participation in the AG meetings in 2006-2007;

- Collection, checking, validation and processing of the MCPFE countries data/information on quantitative indicators of SFM, to be reported in response to the UNECE/FAO and MCPFE-2007 Enquiry (July - November 2006);
- Collection of data and setting up the database on the European Private Forest Ownership in the MCPFE countries (July – November 2006); engaging a consultant for further data processing, validation and writing a study on the subject;
- Setting up an electronic database of the MCPFE quantitative indicators, in cooperation with the FAO global FRA Team, and thus providing contribution to the MCPFE Advisory Group (and to Report writers/ authors) in writing the MCPFE-2007 Report on SFM (November-December 2006);
- Wide and open consultation with countries, interested institutions and other stakeholders on contents and structure of the MCPFE-2007 Report on “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe*”;
- Support to the EU COST Action E 43 initiative to organise the workshop on collaboration between the MCPFE and Montreal (MP) processes in the C&I for SFM countries’ reporting;
- Convene an interim ToS “core group” meeting at the beginning of 2007 (February-March 2007) in case of necessity an additional ToS advice on the MCPFE-2007 reporting process (if, “yes”, the exact date and place are to be defined);
- The third ToS meeting to review the FRA- and C&I –related developments, to overview in detail the process of the preparation of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007*”, contribution to the preparation of the Warsaw Ministerial Conference, and contribution to the preparation of the global FRA 2010.

49. The implementation of the above activities will be led and coordinated by the ToS Bureau (Leader and Deputy Leaders) and the UNECE/FAO secretariat, in close coordination with the MCPFE LUW, global FRA, and the MP TAC. The timetable and resources for the implementation of the above activities are the subject of specific consideration and decisions of the ToS parent and governing bodies.

Team of Specialists Leaders

50. The participants confirmed the present composition of the ToS Leading Group, which was elected at the first ToS meeting. This includes Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner (*Austria*), Leader of the Team of Specialists, Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*) and Mr. Claude Vidal (*France*), Deputy Leaders of the Team. The UNECE/ FAO secretariat, and the ToS members extended their gratitude to for the ToS Leader and Deputy Leaders for the work, which was done between, and in the process, of the annual Team’s meetings.

Next meeting(s) of the Team of Specialists

51. Mr. Simon Gillam (*United Kingdom*) confirmed his earlier invitation to the next (third) meeting of the Team of Specialists to be held in Edinburgh (*Scotland, UK*), tentatively in late May or early June 2007. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. The organizational details of the ToS meeting in Edinburgh, its programme and agenda will be elaborated and proposed in advance of the meeting, preferably at the beginning of the year 2007. The necessity to call for an interim ToS “core group” meeting at the beginning of 2007 will be considered specifically in consultation between the ToS Leading Group and UNECE and FAO secretariats. A possibility to organise the following (4th) ToS meeting in 2008 in Austria was provisionally indicated by Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner.

Other matters

52. The brief excursion was organized for participants to the Arboretum of the University of Hamburg and the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products in Hamburg-Bergedorf, and to the downtown and port of the city of Hamburg, which is the important centre of the international wood products trade and marketing.

53. The Team of Specialists expressed its sincere gratitude to the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, the Federal Research Centre for Forestry and Forest Products, and to the Institute for World Forestry of the University of Hamburg for the support extended to the regional FRA and C&I activity, and for the outstanding hospitality demonstrated to the participants of the ToS meeting during their stay in Germany. Special thanks were expressed to Professor Dr. Michael Köhl and to his colleagues from the Institute for World Forestry for the excellent work done in the preparation and running the ToS meeting, and thus for their important contribution to the international co-operation on FRA and Sustainable Forest Management.

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