

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Resources Assessment

REPORT

of the 10th (Final) meeting of the Team of Specialists

Washington DC, USA, 15-17 September 2004

(as approved by the participants)

Introduction

1. The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) started its work in March 1995 (inaugural meeting). The Terms of Reference (ToR) and Mandate of the Team were approved by the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, adjusted in the process of the regional FRA (TBFRA-2000) implementation, and confirmed/extended until year 2004 at the 25th session of the Working Party (24-26 February 2003). Professor Dr. Michael Köhl (Germany) led the Team of Specialists during the 10-year term of the TEAM.

2. The Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission in April 2004 endorsed the recommendation of the 26th session of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party (15-17 March 2004) to convene a new Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*”, which is expected to be a successor to the present outgoing TEAM, whose Mandate and ToR expire in the year 2004.

3. The final (10th) meeting of the Team of Specialists was held in Washington DC (USA) from 15 to 17 September 2004. The meeting was organised at the invitation of the USDA Forest Service (Mr. Brad Smith) and held in the Forest Service premises (International Forestry Office). The USDA Forest Service (FS) provided conference room, financial and logistical support to the meeting. Mr. Brad Smith and his FS colleagues assured all necessary practical arrangements for the meeting in an exemplary way.

4. The experts from Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russia, USA and United Kingdom attended the meeting. The representatives of the UNECE/FAO, FAO, Montreal Process, Pan-European Ministerial Conference on Protection of Forests (MCPFE-Liaison Unit Warsaw), and the European Commission - DG Joint Research Centre participated in the meeting. The list of participants is attached (*Annex I*).

5. Ms. Ann M. Bartuska, Deputy Chief of the USDA Forest Service, who led the USA delegation at the Montreal Process, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Forest Service leadership. Ms. Bartuska underlined, in particular, the importance of the forest sustainability issues, noted the positive developments in the C&I for SFM processes, underlying their “maturity” stage, as well as the timeliness of the current ToS event.

6. The ToS leader Professor Michael Köhl, and the representative of the UNECE secretariat in the opening remarks highlighted the main issues to be addressed by the current ToS meeting, as well as the expected outcome from the discussion. The participants were invited to “stick to the mood of the TEAM” in the process of the current meeting, as well as in the future work in this area. Professor M. Köhl chaired the meeting. The participants adopted the provisional agenda and timetable of the meeting (*Annex II*) with some minor change in the timetable, namely including the presentation of the EU COST Action E43 (ENFIN) under the Item 2 of the Agenda.

FRA- relating developments since September 2003

7. Since the previous ToS meeting (*Radebeul/Dresden, Germany, 18–20 September 2003*), a number of important FRA-related events had happened, providing a serious implication on the UNECE/FAO regional FRA and C&I work. Among those events are:

- Launching the global FRA 2005 update, including training of the National Correspondents and Advisory Group meeting (Rome, November 2003), release of the key background documents (March-April 2004), regional and sub-regional FRA 2005 workshops, country reporting, etc;
- North American Forestry Commission (NAFC) work on the development of the joint (USA, Mexico and Canada) data protocols for reporting C&I data;
- Relocation of the MCPFE Liaison Unit to Warsaw and start its functioning (*January 2004*);
- UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (*March 2004*);
- Strategic Review of the UNECE and FAO Integrated Work Programme;
- United Nations Forum on Forests UNFF-4 (Geneva, May 2004);
- Launching EU COST Action E43 (ENFIN), etc

8. The outcome, decisions, findings, and recommendations of the above events were presented to the ToS as the background for discussion of the current and future regional FRA activities. The Team of Specialists noted specifically the fruitful and mutually beneficial co-operation between the regional FRA-related work and MCPFE process, as well as the regional contribution to the global FRA 2005 process. The co-operation in reporting on C&I for SFM within the Montreal Process was one of the key issues discussed during the ToS meeting.

9. The opinion of the Team on the above developments, its proposals and recommendations to the parent bodies, especially those concerning the UNECE/FAO regional FRA- and C&I-related activities, will be helpful for the development of the future co-operation between major stakeholders.

10. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO Forestry Department) informed the Team of Specialists about the FRA 2005 developments, including the major milestones in the process:

a) Training of the Global FRA National Correspondents and Advisory Group meeting

11. The participants were informed on the contents and the outcome of the training of the FRA National Correspondents (*Rome, November 2003*), which was an important step in the preparation for the Global FRA 2005 update. The details of the November 2003 training of FRA national correspondent can be found at the FAO FRA website <<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra>>.

b) Launching the Global FRA update 2005

12. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie presented to participants the requirements and timing for the implementation of the global FRA update 2005. The specific developments after launching the FRA 2005 process (March-April 2004) were overviewed. It was noted in particular, that preliminary findings of FRA 2005 were expected to be available for UNFF5 in May 2005, and the final report is scheduled for release in the latter half of 2005. The range of thematic studies (Forest Fires, Planted Forest, Forest and Water, Ownership of Forests, *etc*) will constitute an important part of the FRA 2005. It was confirmed that the possibility to report on thematic areas in the framework of country reports may not constitute an added utility for UNECE countries due to the recent C&I process reporting. However, it provides an opportunity for countries, which are not

members of the pan-European or Montreal Processes to present information on progress towards SFM. The other developments relating to the implementation of the FRA update were also reviewed. The detailed references on FRA 2005 might be found at the FAO website <<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra>>.

c) *NAFC work and developing joint (USA, Mexico and Canada) data protocols for reporting C&I data from FRA database*

13. The representatives from USA and Canada (Mr. Brad Smith, Mr. Brian Haddon and Mr. Mark Gillis) presented the information on the North-American Forestry Commission work with regard to reporting on Criteria and Indicators for SFM on the basis of the forest resources assessment datasets. The common reported framework, which is being introduced for this region, was not consistent with the national reporting frameworks. The need for harmonization of definitions was emphasized. The details at: http://www.mpci.org/home_e.html

d) *Relocation of the MCPFE Liaison Unit to Warsaw*

14. Dr. Roman Michalak (Poland), representative of the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, briefly informed the meeting on the MCPFE current plans and its working programme, including the activities being implemented by the Liaison Unit after it was moved in January 2004 to Warsaw, Poland.

15. The national reporting procedures and the MCPFE views on future C&I reporting were presented and discussed. Although the MCPFE is not a binding process in itself, its Resolutions represent commitments of signatory countries. It is expected that C&I reporting to the MCPFE 2007/08 would be wider than the previous reporting to the process. The important point is that the recently approved new set of the MCPFE indicators for Sustainable Forest Management is based on the FRA 2000 Terms and Definitions, and their compatibility with the FRA 2005 classification is not “granted”. The UNECE/FAO together with the Liaison Unit Warsaw were expected to play important role in the preparation of the MCPFE 2007/08 C&I Report. The details are on the Internet: <<<http://www.mcpfe.org/index.php?kat=11>>>.

e) *Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics*

16. The participants were informed about the latest session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics (*March 2004*), and on the outcome of the Strategic Review of the UNECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work with regard to the FRA-related aspects.

17. The Working Party confirmed the necessity to maintain strong regional FRA-related activities in order to satisfy specific regional needs, especially in the area of the “*countries’ reporting to regional fora on C&I for SFM within the MCPFE and possibly the Montreal processes, and mobilizing regional knowledge for the global FRA*”.

18. The Working Party noted in particular the important role, which had been played by the regional UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Resources Assessment, and expressed their support to the continuation of these activities. It recommended that in the process of the Strategic Review of the UNECE and FAO Integrated Work Programme a new Team of Specialists be convened, after the duration of the current regional ToS on FRA expires in the year 2004, and endorsed the proposed draft terms of reference.

19. The Working Party noted acute and urgent needs for external support and capacity building in the central and eastern European countries, specifically in the process of the global FRA 2005 implementation. The financial support would be needed, in particular, for the organisation of a possible sub-regional workshop(s) for those countries, which were not represented at the global FRA November 2003 training session. In particular, additional financial resources would be required for the Geneva secretariat for the engagement of a consultant(s) for checking, validation and processing of FRA 2005 data to be supplied by countries. In response to this Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie informed participants that FAO is organizing and funding two workshops on FRA 2005 for Eastern-South European countries and for “Russian speaking” countries later this year.

20. The Working Party endorsed the secretariat proposals for the provisional agenda of the final meeting of the regional UNECE/FAO FRA Team of Specialists to be held in the United States of America in September 2004, as well as the initial planning for the future UNECE/FAO contribution to the MCPFE and Montreal C&I for SFM processes.

21. The Working Party thanked countries of the UNECE region for the nomination of the FRA national correspondents. The FRA national correspondents, along with the FRA 2005 implementation should also be responsible for their country’s contribution to specific regional FRA-related activities.

22. The Joint Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission endorsed the recommendation of the Working Party and the Strategic Review to set up the new regional Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*”, and formulated Objectives and Mandate of the new TEAM, to be approved at the joint session of the parent bodies in October 2004.

23. The ToS meeting participants took note of the guidance and recommendations of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, and relating Strategic Review proposals, as well as the decisions of the Joint UNECE/FAO Bureaux, in particular those setting up modalities of the future regional FRA- and C&I – related activities.

f) Launching EU COST Action E43 (ENFIN)

24. Dr. Erkki Tomppo (Finland) presented to participants the European National Forest Inventory Network (ENFIN) initiative. The *EU COST Action E43 (ENFIN)* process was established in order to maximise the synergy between NFIs and other forest inventory relating programmes. Its main objective is to strengthen the cooperation between NFI organisations in European countries, and to continue harmonisation efforts started by the EU EFICS project in the 1990s.

25. The *EU COST Action E43* provides the “core funding” for the ENFIN initiative, which has a potential of being a cost-efficient and visible option for NFIs for the provision of harmonised forest statistics within Europe. ENFIN might provide linkages of the national, EU, and wider international interests, including the FAO and UNECE/FAO Forest Resources Assessment work, to ensure the long-term perspectives and interests in national forest resources data. The cooperation might also be considered between ENFIN and the global FRA process.

MCPFE and Montreal processes: common “core” indicators/variables for C&I reporting

26. Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner (Austria) presented the results of his “*Analysis of Scope, Coverage and Methodological Approaches for the Regional UNECE/FAO Work on Forest Resources Assessment in the Global FRA Context*”. This background document, together with the MCPFE and Montreal Processes key papers, provided the main input for the discussion under this item. The participants considered the list of “core” indicators, which could be “common” for the C&I reporting in the MCPFE and Montreal processes. In more detail these indicators were reviewed in the 2 working groups (see below).

27. The participants (representatives of C&I reporting countries) shared their experience and discussed issues of the C&I reporting procedures, exploring possibilities and ways of harmonisation and streamlining the countries’ C&I reporting. From the “harmonization and streamlining” point of view the participants addressed the question “What would each like to see in each other's C&I frameworks and reports?”. Mr. Roman Michalak (MCPFE) and Mr. Brad Smith (Montreal Process) presented the issues raised under this agenda item.

28. The participants considered specifically the timing and special requirements of reporting in the two C&I processes. The ToS reviewed specific indicators and shared experiences on review of indicators (e.g. what was the process used for the MCPFE review, lessons learnt, etc). The stakeholder engagement - formal processes for international stakeholders and informal for domestic ones, and the issue of “domestic applications” of C&I, were discussed.

29. The experience and potential of the regional FRA-related work, including the contribution to previous rounds of C&I reporting, also with reference to the current global FRA 2005 requirements, were addressed in the discussion. Possibility of “*adopting the 7th thematic element from the Montreal Process in the MCPFE process*” (raised earlier by the Montreal Process countries -Australia, USA), was taken for the future consideration by the MCPFE representatives. It was noted that the set of the pan-European “qualitative” indicators to some extent represents this thematic element.

Outcome of the two *ad hoc* ToS Working Groups

30. Two *ad hoc* working groups (WGs) were set up by the Team of Specialists to review and analyse specific indicators in the MCPFE and Montreal processes, and accompanying (relevant) terms and definitions in C&I reporting. The working groups addressed the issue of differences in the national, regional and global FRA definitions, aiming to come up with suggestions (conclusions) on how this problem could be solved.

31. The expected outcomes from the two WGs tasks were formulated as follows:

- (1) List of common (MP and MCPFE) indicators and their correspondence with FRA variables;
- (2) List of indicators (variables) which are different, *of which*:
- (3) List of indicators (variables) which potentially could be “harmonized”;
- (4) Comments/ suggestions on the corresponding lists of Terms and definitions
- (5) Views and recommendations for “harmonization”(streamlining) country reporting to MP and MCPFE processes;
- (6) Comments/ suggestions / recommendations on the “road map” for the MCPFE 2007/08 reporting on SFM.

32. The both WGs’ participants discovered significant differences in the background and frameworks of the two processes, their structures, as well as in the practical details in individual

Criteria and Indicators for reporting to MCPFE and MP processes. Especially this was concerned the two sets of Terms and Definitions, also in comparison with the requested reporting to the global FRA 2005 update.

33. The working groups formulated their views on possibilities of harmonisation and streamlining the countries' reporting on specific indicators, and suggested some future reporting approaches on the most "difficult" variables in the C&I processes. The outcome of the WGs might help in answering the question: how to overcome differences in the national, regional and global FRA definitions background documents (mainly the regional MCPFE C&I for SFM and global FRA 2005), and to contribute to formulating proposals for the future UNECE regional FRA-related work.

34. The WG *Rapporteurs* (Mr. Brian Haddon and Mr. Simon R. Gillam) presented at the plenary sessions the outcome and main findings of the Working Groups, as well as the experts' views on the matter (*Annex III* and *Annex IV*). This provided the input to conclusions and recommendations of the Team of Specialists (see below). The ToS conclusions and recommendations should be brought to the attention of the UNECE/FAO parent bodies and the MCPFE and Montreal Process Governing bodies, so that they might contribute to the future developments in this area.

Availability of the required C&I information at the national level

35. Dr. Michael Köhl (Germany) presented findings from the study, which was implemented under his guidance, and which covered aspects of data availability and reliability on the basis of analysis of the situation in Liechtenstein. The study analyzed the current country's capacity (and possible sources of information) for reporting on the 35 quantitative indicators for SFM from the pan-European process, which corresponded to some 200 variables (entries). The participants discussed the availability of the required C&I information at the national level. The usefulness of extending such analysis for other regions / countries was noted. The issue of the regional and national capacity building for C&I reporting (objectives, potential, limitations) was addressed as well.

Global FRA 2005: status of implementation and implications on MCPFE and Montreal Processes

36. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie (FAO, FRA Programme) provided the introduction to this item. The process of reviewing country reports were addressed specifically, as well as the timing of the preparation of FRA 2005 results for the publication. The participants considered the final validation of FRA 2005 results by countries (FRA National Correspondents) before the publication as an essential/ indispensable element of the process. The participants also welcomed the plan to reach early agreement on the variables, terms and definitions for FRA 2010.

37. Canada, Russia, UK and USA presented in detail the status and issues in the preparation of their FRA 2005 country reports. Canada informed about the "collegial" approach in the preparation of the country report (provinces and territories), and informed that the reporting was at present at the "data sources evaluation" stage. Russia supplied the first draft report and committed itself to provide the final report by the end-2004, taking into account all the comments made on the first draft. UK and USA reported that they were close to the accomplishment of their reports, and highlighted the problems, which they had with some data.

38. Other ToS participants (FRA National Correspondents) took the opportunity to address the status (and issues) in the FRA 2005 implementation, and implications of this work as well. The round-table discussion was open after the presentations. The participants noted specifically the following points: Austria, Norway and Poland were in the process of "thinking" on the contents of their reporting, and informed about their intentions to supply country reports "in time". The Czech Republic sent a comprehensive first draft of the country report, and France presented its difficulty in dealing with FRA 2005 Reporting Tables T3 and T4. Finland and Germany did not expect the delays in supplying their reports.

39. Mrs. Mette Løyche Wilkie noted the importance of the "consistency check" in FRA 2005 reporting, and informed about posting the questions/issues/ problems raised during the ToS meeting (and suggested solutions) on the FAO web list of "*Frequently asked questions*" to the FRA 2005 Tables. She also informed participants that the layout of the main FRA 2005 Report had not been finalized, as it would depend to some extent on the information received. The participants were also informed that an independent remote sensing would not be undertaken as a part of FRA 2005, but it was likely to be included as part of FRA 2010. The important role of the ToS in the implementation of the global FRA Programme was underlined.

40. Mrs. Løyche Wilkie encouraged the ToS members (FRA National Correspondents), engaged in the FRA 2005 reporting process, to make use of the electronic discussion forum available at <<http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/21994/en>>, and to post questions and comments and solicit ideas from other national correspondents. The countries were requested to submit the first (even partial) drafts of the national reports as soon as possible, in keeping with the indicative time plan developed at the NCs meeting in November 2003. The countries with the Overseas Territories (France, UK, USA) were requested to provide the forest resources information for these areas as well.

Information on UN FCCC developments

41. Dr. Roman Michalak (Poland) presented the information on the "*Common Reporting Format and IPCC Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF*", which was briefly discussed with regard to the implication of the UN FCCC developments for the C&I and FRA country reporting. Among the issues to be addressed in the process of country reporting according to the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)* and the FRA 2005 implementation is the difference in the definition of "Forest", as well as the scope, format and details of the required reporting.

42. The issue of the common reporting format has closely linked to the need of "*Harmonizing Forest-Related Definitions for Use by Various Stakeholders*", and the participants noted in this connection the FAO leading role in this process, and in particular, the forthcoming 3rd Expert Meeting on the matter to be held at the FAO headquarters in January 2005.

Future activities of the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists

43. The decision taken by the parent bodies (Bureaux of the UNECE Timber Committee and FAO European Forestry Commission, see paras 2 and 23 above) to set up a new Team of Specialists on "*Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region*" outlined the discussion on the current and future UNECE regional FRA- and C&I - related work. The participants discussed the objectives and mandate of the new team (as proposed by

Bureaux) with regard to expectations and practicalities. It was agreed, in particular, that the new team of specialists should seek to incorporate more expertise on social and economic indicators.

44. The ToS recommended, in particular, that modalities of the future team's work, as well as its main focus, should be flexibly and periodically adjusted according to latest developments in FRA and C&I for SFM. The expected output of the new team, additionally to its contribution in the elaboration of the "*Enquiry for Country reporting on the pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM*", should include its contribution/ advise to the forthcoming "*Process of reviewing the Montreal Process Indicators for SFM*", and to the review of the forest-related requirements and ways in which to reduce the reporting burden within the UNECE region.

45. The global FRA 2005 implementation, reviewing the Montreal process C&I, MCPFE work programme (Expert-Level Meeting to be held in October 2004), and in particular the preparation of the MCPFE 2007/08 C&I reporting, will define to great extent the scope and timetable of the future UNECE/FAO regional FRA- and C&I- related work, and the "operational style" of the new team. Underlying the team's role in supporting / contribution to C&I country reporting, the outgoing ToS discussed briefly expectations and practicalities in this area, stressing the importance of the sufficient resources to be allocated for this work. The above considerations of the outgoing TEAM will be invaluable for the future ToS activities.

46. The outgoing ToS advised that the first (inaugural) meeting of the new ToS on "*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*" (if setting up the team is approved by parent bodies in October 2004) should be convened in spring 2005 (most probably in Geneva). The provisional agenda of the first meeting should include among other items (1) preparation for the C&I reporting to MCPFE 2007/08, (2) aspects of reviewing Indicators for SFM within the Montreal Process, (3) developments in the FRA 2005 implementation, and (4) issues of monitoring and assessment of the socio-economic (legal-institutional) aspects in forestry.

47. The IUFRO World Forestry Congress, to be held in Brisbane (Australia) in August 2005, would be another opportunity for the new Team of Specialists (or its "core group") to meet and to discuss the most urgent issues. The secretariat in Geneva, in cooperation with the new ToS members will explore possibility (and necessity) of that meeting in due time. The proposal of the hosts (Mr. Brad Smith) of the current meeting to produce a CD with presentations delivered during the ToS meeting, including some supporting material, and to distribute it to the participants, was welcomed by participants.

Conclusions and recommendations of the ToS Meeting

48. The results of discussions at plenary and in two *ad hoc* working groups (conclusions and recommendations), as well as other findings of the Team of Specialists are expected to provide a useful contribution for the decision making on strategy and modalities of the UNECE/FAO regional FRA- and C&I- related work in the context of the global FRA. They could be summarised as follows:

- The ToS confirmed once again the strong need for the UNECE/FAO regional FRA- and C&I - related work, which should be done in coordination with the Global Forest Resource Assessment Programme. The MCPFE and Montreal processes, EU "Forest Focus", EUROSTAT, ENFIN, other current and potential partners in the region, all need comprehensive and reliable FRA data;

- The participants strongly supported the recommendation of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party, and the decision of the Bureaux of parent bodies to set up a Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*”. The main focus of the new team should be on the reporting on C&I for SFM by MCPFE and Montreal process countries, support the regional contribution to the global FRA and contribute to the institutional cooperation on monitoring of forests. The new team of specialists should seek to incorporate more expertise on social and economic indicators;
- Participants noted the important role, which the UNECE regional FRA should play in the preparation for the C&I reporting to the pan-European Ministerial Conference 2007/08. In particular, the participants formulated the following proposals for the consideration by the forthcoming MCPFE Expert-Level Meeting (October 2004):
 - “The UNECE/FAO in close cooperation with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw, and with the support from the new Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region*” (to be established in October 2004), should play the key role in the preparation of the MCPFE 2007/08 Report on C&I for SFM;
 - The newly approved (2003) set of the MCPFE indicators for SFM (*indicators, specifications, terms and definitions, etc*) should be used as the basis for the C&I for SFM Report to the Warsaw Ministerial Conference, with possible “incorporation” of FRA 2005 structures (*classifications, definitions, reporting format*) into the current MCPFE C&I background to the extent possible;
 - The preparation of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007/08*” (the title suggested in the background paper by Dr. Ewald Rametsteiner) should be supported by sufficient financial and man-power resources, and implemented in coordination with the global FRA Programme and EU “Forest Focus” Regulation. Funding of the Report preparation and publishing shall be provided from a wide range of sources” (subject for discussion and confirmation by the ELM in October 2004); Further UNECE/FAO proposals on the matter have to be considered by the MCPFE Expert Level Meeting;
- It would be helpful if the MCPFE countries be informed about the background, scope and format of the required reporting on C&I for SFM well in advance of the reporting itself, so that to prepare NFI and national forest resources assessment structures; The contents, scope & definitions for the next MCPFE C&I reporting should be compatible to extent possible (in compliance) with the global FRA reporting, so that not to duplicate the work of National Correspondents in providing data;
- It was advised that the UNECE/FAO Secretariat and MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw should be supported in the preparation and implementation of this work by the new Team of Specialists (to be approved in October 2004) on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for Sustainable Forest Management in the UNECE region*”;
- The participants considered it helpful to set up an *ad hoc* MCPFE Scientific Advisory Group for the preparation and implementation of the MCPFE C&I reporting (limited number of participants, supposed to be the core group of the new ToS, and potential authors of corresponding Chapters of the MCPFE 2007/ 08 Report);
- The ToS recommended to the UNECE/FAO secretariat to elaborate together with the MCPFE Liaison Unit Warsaw a “*Road Map*” (including a detailed timetable...) for the preparation of the MCPFE Report “*State of Forests and Sustainable Forest Management in Europe 2007/08*”, taking into account the specifics of the global FRA update 2005;

- The FRA-2000 terms and definitions, as the result of an intensive and transparent negotiation process to which participating countries and national correspondents /experts could contribute significantly, should provide the basis for the MCPFE 2007/08 C&I reporting, while the FRA 2005 classifications and definitions should be adopted where it would be possible;
- The FRA-2000 definitions formed the base for the set indicators endorsed by the 4th MCPFE Conference held in Vienna in April 2003. The global FRA 2005 scope and structures and the reporting needs for the MCPFE are not directly compatible; The incorporation of the new terms and definitions into the national information systems might be a process of many years, and would do not facilitate the 2007/2008 round of the C&I reporting;
- A detailed questionnaire (enquiry) would be needed to collect the national C&I information for reporting at the regional level additionally to what is to be reported in the process of the global FRA 2005. Such an enquiry should be launched soon after the background for the C&I reporting (scope and contents, T&D, etc) are defined at the political level; This questionnaire would be an excellent contribution to a first stage of the MCPFE 2007/08 preparatory work;
- The collection of the regional FRA data / information should be in full compliance with the requirements for reporting on C&I for SFM in the UNECE region (i.e. MCPFE and Montreal processes); The above reporting requirements should be brought in line with the future FRA 2010 process;
- The newly proposed UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on “*Monitoring Forest Resources for SFM in the UNECE region*” should provide an “*advise on supplying data at international or regional level*”; The objectives and mandate of the new ToS, as proposed by the JWP and Bureaux are well balanced, but the participants recommended to include in the ToS mandate (“*Expected Major Output*”), additionally to the elaboration of the MCPFE C&I Enquiry, the “*support/ advise and contribution to the reviewing of the current set of C&I for SFM within the Montreal Process*”; This would respond more closely to current global FRA strategy and developments, and requirements from MCPFE and Montreal processes.

Other matters

49. The excursion was organized for participants to the National Mall and the National Capitol Region Headquarters park areas, where the Park Service demonstrated the equipment and advanced techniques for measurements of trees. The Park Service specialists provided the information on the preparation of the Memorial Parks Urban Forest Management Programmes. This demonstration was followed by the trip to Urban Tree House in Anacostia (near Washington DC), where the development of the ground for the “close-to-nature” learning / training for children was presented.

50. A special interest of participants was raised to the lecture delivered by editors of the national-wide magazine for children and students “*Natural Inquirer*” (USA). One of the latest issues of the magazine (in processing) should totally be based on the TBFRA-2000 information, including the presentation of relating terms and definitions. The good references were provided to the UNECE, FAO and USDA Forest Service. In perspective, there were plans to publish an issue of the “*Natural Inquirer*” on the basis of the global FRA 2005 information.

51. The informative and touching overview of the World War II Memorial constituted an important part of the excursion. The excursion followed by the Reception (U.S. Capitol Hill area, Constitution Ave., near 17th) offered by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the North American Society of Foresters (NASF), where participants had an opportunity to discuss issues of common interest with the leading specialists of this world-widely known organisations. The ToS Leader Professor Dr. Michael Köhl, on behalf of the TEAM, heartily thanked the organizers of the Reception for their hospitality.

52. On the occasion of the successful accomplishment of the 10-year term of activities of the Team of Specialists, and of its final meeting, members of the TEAM and those colleagues who supported the ToS activities at its different stages, were awarded by the memorial UNECE and FAO Certificates. Special thanks were expressed to the Leader of the TEAM Professor Dr. Michael Köhl, Deputy Leader Dr. Roman Michalak, and to the Core Group of Colleagues – Member of the TEAM, for their invaluable contribution to “improving knowledge and understanding of the world’s forests”.

53. The members of the Team of Specialists expressed their sincere gratitude to the USDA Forest Service and, in particular, to the Forest Inventory and Analysis colleagues for their support of the UNECE/FAO regional FRA- and C&I- related activities, and for the outstanding hospitality demonstrated during their stay in Washington DC.

54. The participants thanked cordially Mr. Brad Smith, Mr. John Vissage and other colleagues who represented the USDA Forest Service at the final ToS meeting, for the excellent work done during the preparatory stage, efficient and smooth running the event, open and friendly atmosphere in which the meeting was conducted, and outstanding hospitality. All the 10-year TEAM’s efforts, including the final ToS meeting, provided an important contribution to the international co-operation in the area of the Forest Resources Assessments and C&I for Sustainable Forest Management.

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