

**First (21st) meeting of the “UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on
monitoring sustainable forest management”**
(Selçuk-İzmir, Turkey, 13-15 May 2014)

Meeting Report

Item 1: Opening, welcome and adoption of the agenda.

The meeting was chaired by Kari T. KORHONEN, Finland (Leader of the Team) Johannes HANGLER, Austria (Deputy Leader).

Opening and Welcome by: Salih AYAZ, Turkey, Örjan JONSSON, FAO and Roman MICHALAK, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section.

Roundtable: Introduction of Participants (List of Participants attached - Annex I). 30 experts from 13 countries and partner organizations took part in the ToS meeting. The represented countries were Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. The representatives from FAO, DG-Joint Research Centre (Ispra), European Environment Agency, FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid and UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section participated in the meeting.

The Agenda (see Annex II) was adopted. Minutes were noted by the Secretariat (Roman MICHALAK and Sebastian GLASENAPP).

Item 2: Overview on the progress of work and developments since the last session of the Team (October 2013)

1. Presentation: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment and Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire, by Örjan JONSSON.

Örjan JONSSON updated the panel on the FRA 2015 reporting process, deadlines and publications. The status of the country reporting, in particular for Europe, was mentioned. Furthermore Örjan JONSSON presented the next steps of the FRA 2015 reporting process. The evaluation process is currently ongoing. The final data set is expected to be compiled in August 2014. It is planned to present the outputs of FRA 2015 translated into 6 official UN languages at the World Forestry Congress in September 2015.

2. Presentation: Joint FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO reporting on pan-European quantitative indicators, by Roman MICHALAK

Roman MICHALAK presented an update on the Joint FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO reporting process, which is carried out in parallel to the Global Collaborative Reporting. Furthermore the process of the pan-European data collection was highlighted. Data are obtained from national

correspondents, international data providers and research networks. Roman MICHALAK also gave a brief overview on the schedule for the reporting.

In response to questions regarding preparation of the next State of Europe's Forest report, Myriam MARTIN VALLEJO (FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Madrid) confirmed that the Liaison Unit Madrid is in charge of the production of this publication.

3. Presentation: Recent developments at DG JRC, by Jesus SAN MIGUEL

Jesus SAN MIGUEL presented the Forestry Activities at the European Commission Joint Research Centre and in particular at the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES). The organizational structure of the IES and its main objectives were explained. Furthermore the collaboration of IES with other stakeholders and the three EU Forest Strategy Priority Areas (coordination and communication, contributing to major societal objectives and improving the knowledge base) were mentioned. Jesus SAN MIGUEL pointed out the role of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE) in the context of integrated sustainable forest management and highlighted certain focus areas of the FISE. Finally additional initiatives of the European Commission supporting the EU Forest Strategy were presented.

4. Presentation: Overview of current work related to forests at: European Environment Agency, by Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK:

Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK presented the current forest-related projects and activities at the European Environment Agency (EEA). In particular the organizational framework, strategy and multi-annual work plan were presented. Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK pointed out the role of the forests across the EEA and gave an overview over related activities of the agency, including the High resolution Layer forest (COPERNICUS), Nature Directive reporting 2012 as well as Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES).

Item 3: Presentation of the ECE/FAO Integrated Programme of Work 2014-2017, related documents and guidelines, including Terms of Reference for the Team

Introduction: Presentation by Roman MICHALAK

Roman MICHALAK presented the ECE/FAO Integrated Program of Work (IPoW), including the organizational framework and the goals/objectives. Roman MICHALAK pointed out the contribution of the Teams of Specialists (ToS) to the work of ECE/FAO. Furthermore, the Guidelines for the ToS and the targets and methods applied for the work of the ToS on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) were highlighted. Starting the group work the ToS was asked to develop an H-Form to review the work of the Team in the past and provide recommendations for the future work of the ToS on Monitoring SFM.

Methodology: The Team of Specialists was divided into 3 working groups, which were moderated by Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK, Johannes HANGLER and Adrian LANZ. Each group was asked to develop an H-Form on the Question: "How satisfied are you with the work of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring SFM?"

Outcome:

The outcome of the discussion on the evaluation and the work plan for the Team for 2014-2017 is attached to this report in Annex III.

Members of the Team discussed a procedure for inviting new (not nationally nominated) members of the Team. The Team is open for new membership; high class specialists on areas relevant to the work of the Team are welcomed to the group. The members agreed that possible applications or recommendations will be considered and decided by the Team leader and deputy leaders.

Item 4: Review of the draft questionnaire on forest ownership in the UNECE region

Introduction: Presentation by Roman MICHALAK

Roman MICHALAK introduced the participants into the topic of the forest ownership in the UNECE region. The presentation covered the availability of data sources on forest ownership issues. The FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, the reporting on pan-European Criteria and Indicators for SFM and the Enquiry on Private Forest Ownership in Europe (2006-2007) were mentioned. Furthermore, information on characteristics and the distribution of private and public forests in Europe, based on the outcome of the private forest ownership study (published 2010) conducted by UNECE/FAO was presented. The presentation included information about the fragmentation of the forests and the contribution of private forests to the wood production in Europe. Finally the plans for a resumption of work on forest ownership within UNECE region were highlighted. Basing on the previous forest ownership questionnaire from 2006, a new questionnaire on forest ownership in the UNECE region will be developed within the cooperation project of UNECE/FAO and COST Action FACESMAP. It was pointed out that the first draft of the new questionnaire has been developed and the Team of Specialists was asked to do the first review.

Methodology: The participants of the Team of Specialists were divided into 3 working groups which were moderated by Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK, Friedrich SCHMITZ and Mati VALGEPEA. Each working group was asked to review the forest ownership questionnaire and present their comments and recommendations.

Outcome:

- 1) The participants of the meeting positively noted the compatibility of the questionnaire with the previous questionnaire from 2006. However, it was strongly doubted that the deadline for the finalization of the questionnaire will be met by the end of May 2014. It was recommended to extend the deadline.
- 2) It was claimed to better support the stakeholders in gathering the data. The participants recommended the use of already existing data (i.e. 2006-2007 study) as well as most recent ones. Furthermore it was noted the insufficient support from organizations of forest owners to the recent data collection process at the national level.
- 3) It was recommended to split the enquiry into two parts (qualitative and quantitative) and to distribute them between the COST Action FACESMAP focal points and UNECE/FAO correspondents.

Furthermore the status of reported information (official data vs. expert opinion) should be made visible.

4) Regarding the “Terms and definitions: Managed Area of Forest/Other Wooded Land” the expression: “managed in accordance with [...] an informal plan applied regularly [...]” rose concerns. The difference between formally/informally and regularly/irregular needs to be better explained.

5) Regarding Table 1A it was recommended to define new categories. The categories should be mutually exclusive and adding up to the total. It was recommended to add a category of total and unknown as well as a row for public forests to include the NUTS-level and describe national and subnational forest area. The category: “other” should be added under 1.1.4 to cover forest area that doesn’t correspond to the categories listed above. Furthermore it was noted that in some countries there is no information available for the categories 1.2.2.1 to 1.2.2.3.

6) Regarding Table 1B it was difficult to clarify if the question refers to operators or managers of the forest and it was asked to better define “management”. It was proposed to present a list of management systems and ask the countries to select these that apply best for them. Furthermore the participants pointed out the similarity to Question 5. Due to this similarity it was proposed to leave out Table 1B and focus on Question 5 only.

7) It was concerned that Table 2 might be redundant as it is covered in the pan-European reporting. Difficulties appeared in defining the category “forest holding”. It was asked to distinguish between holdings and holders. Once the table is maintained it was recommended to leave other wooded land (OWL) out of Table 2 and to keep micro holdings inside. Due to the high variety on arrangements for the organization of forest holdings (e.g. collective, mixed, community) it was recommended to develop a list of possible options, which could be selected by national correspondents.

8) Regarding Table 3 it was recommended to ensure consistency with Table 1A. Furthermore it was recommended to distinguish between Forests and Forest Available for Wood Supply (FAWS). General data about international and/or national certification should be obtained from FRA and pre-filled in the questionnaire. It was also recommended to total the sub-categories.

9) Regarding Table 4 the participants recommended to report on total roundwood only and delete fuelwood because of the low availability and quality of data. Regarding the share in GDP the secretariat was asked to prefill nominal values into the questionnaire if the values make sense i.e. they are not too small. Furthermore it was proposed to move the NWFP to the qualitative part (questions) of the questionnaire.

10) Regarding Table 5 the participants were concerned about the data availability. Most countries won’t be able to deliver data about the age and sex of their owners. Furthermore it was proposed to minimize the number of age classes (i.e. two classes only).

11) Regarding Table 6 the participants were concerned about the data availability. For Table 6 a) there might be the chance to obtain data. For Table 6 b) and c) it is unrealistic to obtain data. It was recommended to redefine the table as a supplementary table on forest ownership. Furthermore overlaps among the categories were noted. It was recommended to remove the overlaps or to open them for interpretation by the countries.

12) It was recommended to improve the presentation of the Specific Questions in using yes/no-questions and structuring them within a table. Question 1 was meant to be redundant (as it is

covered by existing reporting. Furthermore the period of three decades needs to be better explained. Question 2 was considered not to be clear. Furthermore the “protection of the public forest” should be included in this question. Question 3 was found as relevant except to Nordic countries. The participants agreed with the provided comments for Question 5. Regarding Question 7 it was unclear if figures were requested for answering the question. In Question 8 the expressions “illegal logging” and “challenge” need to be defined.

Item 5: Sustainable Development Goals; discussion on a proposal for forest related indicators

Introduction: Presentation by Sebastian GLASENAPP

Sebastian GLASENAPP gave an introduction on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The overall context of the SDGs within the Millennium Development Goals, the role of the forest and the connection with goals, targets and indicators was explained. Furthermore the status of the current process of the development of SDGs and the weak recognition of the forest was mentioned. Finally the involvement of the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section that aims for a promotion of the forest within the SDGs was presented.

For the group work the methodology and the working material was delivered and explained. The objective was to develop up to two indicators per target with the support of the previously distributed compilation of indicators and the checklist for indicators. The targets derived from the results of the Workshop on SDGs that was conducted in Geneva in January 2014. These results include three goals and ten corresponding targets.

Methodology: The participants of the Team of Specialists were divided into 3 working groups which were moderated by Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK, Adrian LANZ and Mati VALGEPEA. Each Working group was working on a specific goal. The participants were asked to develop one to two indicators for each target of the considered goal.

Outcome:

The development of global, forest related indicators for the targets of the SDGs appeared to be challenging. It was not easy for the participants to find indicators that are valid for the forest within a global scope. However, the approach to work on the SDGs was appreciated by the participants. It was recommended to schedule more time for the development of new indicators.

As shown below, basing on the provided compilation of indicators, proposals for new indicators were made:

Goal 1: Social and cultural benefits from forests and trees improved

Target 1: Income and employment from forests and trees in rural areas increased

- a) Forest revenue
- b) Forest employment

Target 2: Rights, tenure and governance of forests strengthened

- a) Forest area under defined ownership

b) Forest area regularly monitored

Target 3: Food security and nutrition contribution of forests and trees enhanced

a) Forest area with access secured to products and services

Goal 2: Resilience and ecosystem benefits of forests enhanced

Target 4: Forest resources quantity increased and/or quality improved

a) Forest and Other Wooded Land (OWL)

b) Biomass/Growing stock in Forest, OWL and Trees outside Forest (ToF)

Target 5: Biodiversity of forests conserved and improved

a) - no proposal -

Target 6: Water quantity and quality contribution of forests enhanced

a) - no proposal -

Target 7: Climate resilience and mitigation contribution of forests strengthened

a) - no proposal -

Goal 3: Green economy contribution of forests and trees increased

Target 8: Energy from forest resources increased, safe and sustainable

a) - no proposal -

Target 9: Efficiency of forest resource use increased

a) Recovery rate for paper and wood products

Target 10: Investment in, and use of, products from sustainably managed forests increased

a) Forest sector contribution to GDP

Item 6: Election of the Team leader and vice-leaders

The ToS members unanimously accepted the new leader and deputy leaders of the team. Stein M. TOMTER (Norway) was elected as the new team leader, while Annemarie BASTRUP-BIRK (European Environment Agency), Kari T. KORHONEN (Finland) and Adrian LANZ (Switzerland) were elected as the deputy leaders of the new Team.

The ToS members thanked the declining leader Kari T. KORHONEN (Finland) and deputy leaders: Johannes HANGLER (Austria), Andrius KULIEŠIS (Lithuania) and Brad SMITH (USA) for their work and expressed the gratitude for their leadership and contribution to the activities of the Team.

The Team appreciated a kind offer by Brad SMITH (USA) to serve, in addition to his regular membership, as a contact person between the Team and the Montreal Process. Communication with the FOREST EUROPE will be ensured through an expert(s) designated by the Liaison Unit.

Item 7: Exchange of information on future meetings and activities; other matters

The secretariat informed the ToS members that the next meeting of the Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, with the participation of national correspondents, is planned for October 2014, most likely the meeting will be organized in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting will focus on the review of the first draft of the study on forests and Global Objectives on Forests in the ECE region and the subsequent draft of forest ownership questionnaire.

Item 8: Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed by thanking the participants of the meeting for their valuable input; the excellent work of the co-chairs and moderators of the working groups.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Turkish General Forestry Directorate for inviting the Team to Turkey. Particular gratefulness was addressed to Mr. Mithat KOÇ and Mr. Salih AYAZ and their colleagues from the General Forestry Directorate for their exemplary work and impressive organization of the whole event. The ToS members warmly thanked the hosts for the exceptional hospitality they received during their stay in Turkey

The field excursion to the forests and historical places around Izmir arranged by the organizers on 15 May 2014 was highly appreciated by the participants. The trip helped to learn about status, inventory and management of forest in the Mediterranean region.