Forests in a green economy: activities and initiatives from Germany

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Overview

• Towards a green economy: the energy change
• Facts on German forests and timber industry
• New national forest strategy
• Recycling and wood recovery
• German Country-Led initiative “Contributions of Forests to a Green economy”, 4-7 October in Bonn – contributing to Rio+20
Germany in a global context

• Globally, grain production will have to be raised by 50 % (by 2030)
• Domestic food demand in Germany is decreasing.
• Demands of German consumers on product and process quality is increasing
General political framework

- Recent pressure and decision to end use of nuclear power by 2022 affirmed political will to restructure the energy sector towards a bioeconomy.
  - German Energy concept:
    - 30% renewable energy (RE) by 2020
    - Today: 11% share of RE / 70% from biomass
  - 2050-targets:
    - 60% RE
    - 50% reduction in overall energy use
    - 30% of RE from biomass
Energy concept: Main guiding principles

• Security and continuity of supply
• Economic efficiency
• Environmental protection
Energy concept: A bundle of activities

- Examples:
- Obligatory partial use of renewables in heatings for new buildings
- New regulated tariffs for renewable energy from private sources
- Strict air quality control provisions for furnaces
- Planning Acceleration Act - securing future power production
- Network Expansion Acceleration Act - securing energy transport
Looking beyond energy: General raw material policy of Germany

- Environmental compatibility of natural resources use
- Increasing sustainability of production processes along the whole supply chain
- Strengthening consumer’s awareness, knowledge and responsibility
- Supporting transparency initiatives, certification, due care policies, FLEGT, Green Building movement etc. at all levels
Related to material use of biomass

• In view of global competition and rising prices of raw materials plus climate change demands
• Additional German objective to enhance material uses of biomass (Food and Non-Food)
• But: Priority of food use!
Securing competitiveness of German industry

- To be increased:
- Efficiency in use and in production of biomass products along the whole supply chain (cascade uses)
- Research and innovation (potential estimated as high)
- To optimize use of the limited area and biomass supply in Germany: focus on products with low market volume but high volume prices
Bio-based Economy (following Langeveld et al 2010)
Forest and wood in Germany
Forests and Wood in Germany

- Facts:
  - 11 million hectares (one third of the national territory)
  - 320 cubic metres per hectare
  - 100 mio m³ annual timber increment in accessible forests (=10 m³ per hectare).
  - Only 30% of forests owned by the state
Forest and timber industry

- Total wood consumption (2010) 108 million m³ round-wood equivalents
- Supply from German forests: 70 Mio m³
- Waste paper from domestic production 45 million m³
- 1.3 million jobs
- Annual turnover of about € 170 billion
New National Forest Strategy 2011

• Ensuring multifunctionality of German forests, i.e. balancing demands!
• Maintaining enabling conditions for non-state forest owners
• Activating the potential of wood in a green economy, improving efficiency of use
• Innovation and new products
• Targeting closed cycles, better positioning of wood in „green“ buildings
• Wood from other sources
Forests and Climate Fund

• To be established by 2013
• To be financed through part of the sales of emission certificates
• To support the adaptation of forests and supporting the role of forests and wood in mitigating climate change
Waste paper and recoverage

- **Waste paper recycling:**
  - From 60% quota (2000) to 71% (2010)
  - Germany among world leaders

- **Recovered wood:**
  - 8 mio t (2010)
  - To be further improved
  - Strengthening competitiveness with other materials: better separation of quality grades (for further material uses)
Recent initiative at global level: UN Conference „Contributions of forests to green economy“, 4-7 October in Bonn - Positioning the forestry sector in the transition process towards a green economy

- German Initiative in support of UNFF and the preparatory process of the Rio+20 conference 2012
- Supported by Finland and Austria
- 120 participants from more than 50 countries
- Forestry and green economy in a global context
Main outcomes

• Strategic document and strong message for Rio+20 preparations on the importance of forests for a green economy

• Outlining the unique opportunity that the transition to a green economy provides for attaining the full potential of forests to contribute to overcoming of today’s world challenges, such as hunger, water scarcity, employment, renewable energy, resource efficiency and low-carbon economy, climate change and biodiversity loss.
• Future actions to unleash this potential
• Inter alia:
• Mainstreaming valuation of forests into markets and policies
• Improving institutions, governance and stakeholder participation
• Implementing the concept of benefitting people
• Enhancing the role of bio/forest-based products
• http://www.forests-in-a-green-economy.de/
• Thank You for your attention!

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