



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

TIM/1998/4
5 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

TIMBER COMMITTEE
Fifty-sixth session
28 September - 1 October 1998

**SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION:
FOLLOW-UP TO THE LISBON MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE;
FOLLOW-UP TO CSD/IPF AND CONTRIBUTION TO IFF**

(Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda)

Note by the secretariat

The present note sets out proposals for new work in sustainable forest management. The Committee and the Commission are invited to discuss these proposals, and any others which may emerge from the discussion, assign priorities and agree on any changes to the work programme taking into account the availability of resources.

Introduction

1. At their joint session in 1993, the UN/ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission agreed to give highest priority to supporting the achievement of sustainable forest management in the region, and notably to support the UNCED process at the global level, and the pan-European process for the protection of forest in Europe at the regional level. The present document will report on ECE/FAO activities in this area since autumn 1997, as well as on developments at the regional and global level. On this basis it will present some proposals for new or modified activities for the Committee and the Commission. The two bodies are invited to consider what their role should be, discuss and approve any modifications they consider desirable and approve any appropriate modifications to the work programme (draft in TIM/1998/5, EFC/98/7).

2. In 1998, the Committee and the Commission are meeting separately, although at a rather short interval from each other. Almost all activities are carried out jointly and there is a single, integrated programme. It is clearly not desirable that the EFC, which meets after the Timber Committee, be expected simply to endorse the latter's decisions. It is proposed therefore that the EFC be informed orally of the Committee's discussions, and that any decisions by the Committee be considered provisional until after the EFC session. If any difficulties were to arise in reconciling the results of the two meetings, this would be referred to the respective bureaux for resolution.

Recent activities

3. The whole core programme of the Committee and the Commission, defined as "monitoring and analysis of sustainable development of the forest and forest products sector in the region", represents an important, indeed unique, contribution to the achieving sustainable forest management. Indeed, without the information and analysis provided on a regular basis by ECE/FAO and its partner organisations, it would not be possible to have a coherent international discussion of forest sector policy issues at all. The activities over the last year which have been more specifically directed to the global and regional processes may be outlined as follows:

- (a) The Temperate and Boreal forest Resource Assessment 2000: IPF stressed the importance of the global Forest Resource Assessment, and ECE/FAO provided interim data from TBFRA 2000 as quantitative indicators of sustainable forest management in Europe for the Lisbon Ministerial Conference. This information was, with the national reports, the core of the reporting on implementation of the resolutions H1 and H2.

- (b) A team of specialists under the auspices of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training prepared a report on the socio-economic aspects of forestry, published by ILO with the title "People, Forests and Sustainability". This served as a basis for the drafting of the resolution L1. The contribution of the team led by Mr. P. Mühlemann (Switzerland) is recognised in the resolution.
- (c) The secretariat acted as international coordinator for resolution H3 on forestry assistance to countries in transition. A data base has been prepared and distributed, and a report was prepared for the Lisbon Conference.
- (d) The interim results of the TBFRA 2000 will also be presented orally to the IFF meeting in Geneva.
- (e) The discussion of the state of forestry in the region at the EFC session will be based on the national reports to the Lisbon Conference. It will attempt to identify the main issues and themes, emerging from the reports.

Future ECE/FAO activities in support of sustainable forest management in the region

4. The secretariat wishes to propose a number of ways in which ECE/FAO should maintain and enhance its contribution to sustainable forest management in the region. Some of these represent more or less "business as usual" and can be undertaken without any extra resources. Others however could have significant consequences from the resource point of view (both for the secretariat and for member countries). The Committee and the Commission are invited to consider what changes to the programme approved in 1997 are necessary, and how they should be implemented.

Continuation or strengthening of existing activities

5. Many of the activities are already in line with the broad directions laid down at the global or regional political level. In particular:

- the TBFRA 2000 should be completed on time and with the best possible quality, and made available in a variety of user-friendly formats, including on the website, in addition to the conventional paper version, which will remain the "core" of the study;

- The *Timber Bulletin* and the market analysis activities should also be continued, with a special effort to make them more user-friendly. In this context the user survey being carried out in summer 1998 should indicate directions for improvement;
- The analysis of the sector outlook, which has been given lower priority since the issue of ETTS V should be taken up again and reflection for the next ETTS study should be started, notably by a meeting of the ETTS V core team. Recruitment is under way of a staff member who will be responsible for this aspect of the work;
- ECE/FAO should continue to maintain the data base on forestry assistance to countries in transition (H3 database).

European programme of work for forests

6. In Lisbon, the ministers responsible for forestry committed themselves to "develop a programme of work to implement the decisions of this Conference...in collaboration with international bodies and organisations, in particular FAO European Forestry Commission, UN/ECE Timber Committee...". When the lead countries initiate this work, the secretariat, in close consultation with the bureaux, will participate actively. Efforts will also be made to strengthen the informal co-operation between organisations which has been developed in recent years (e.g. through the Intersecretariat Working Group on forest statistics).

Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training

7. The Joint Committee made a significant contribution to preparing the Lisbon conference, and has unique expertise in some of the areas identified as deserving further work. In TIM/EFC/WP.1/1998/2/Add.1, the Joint Committee was invited to reflect what further contribution it might make. The results of the Joint Committee's session, which takes place a few weeks before those of the Committee and the Commission, will be reported orally to their meetings.

Possible new activities

8. On the basis of a detailed comparison of the final IPF report (E/CN.17/1997/12) and the resolutions approved at Lisbon, the secretariat, in consultation with the bureaux, has identified a number of activities which appear to be in accordance with the priorities and strategic directions laid down by the IPF and forest ministers and which are in areas where ECE/FAO has a comparative advantage. These are as follows:

- Trade and environment issues in the forest sector;
- The role of European forest ecosystems in mitigation of climate change;
- The role and responsibility of European private forest owners;
- The forest sector and society: dialogue, communication, participation, confrontation and dispute settlement;
- Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials;
- The role of women in the European forest sector.

Suggestions as to how these topics might be addressed, and possible partners are set out in the annex, as well as references to the texts, possible timetables and other remarks.

9. Although all the above suggestions appear individually useful and possible, it is clearly unrealistic, with the resources available to the secretariat, to attempt all, or even most of them. Depending on the methods and timescale chosen, the secretariat considers that three out of the six proposals would be the absolute maximum if quality standards are to be maintained. Even then, some contribution from countries, such as hosting meetings or participating in teams of specialists would be necessary.

10. The Committee and the Commission are invited to discuss these proposals, and any others which may emerge from the discussion, assign priorities and agree on any changes to the work programme.

Annex 1
Proposals for new activities by ECE/FAO

Several points should be noted:

- all appear feasible within the present mandate and work methods of ECE/FAO, and based on the organisation's comparative advantage;
- so far, no operational measures or exploratory discussions with possible partners (even when they are mentioned) have been undertaken, pending the preliminary indications of the bureaux' preferences.

Note: "IPF" refers to the final report of the IPF. "LGD", "L1" and "L2" refer respectively to the General Declaration and the resolutions of the Lisbon Ministerial Conference.

Title: Trade and environment issues in the forest and forest products sector
Type of activity: High level seminar, with participation from academics and policy makers, not only from forest sector but also from trade and environment circles, with the intention of improving dialogue between sectors
Possible methods: Seminar, prepared by team of specialists.
Possible partners: WTO, ECE Environment and Trade Divisions, EU, WWF...
Time frame: Seminar in 2000
References: IPF Part IV

Title: The role of European forest ecosystems in mitigation of climate change
Type of activity: Synthesis study (country-by-country data on carbon stocks and flows, in woody biomass, forest ecosystems - soils - and forest products production, trade, consumption and recycling), possibly an identification of possible mitigation strategies, possibly a seminar/workshop to consider the results
Possible methods: Careful use of TBFRA and ETTS V data by qualified scientists, with possible policy input at a later stage, formation of a team.
Possible partners: FCCC, scientific community
Time frame: 1999 (implement fast to be input into post Kyoto discussion)
References: LGD 2 IV

Title: The role and responsibility of European private forest owners
Type of activity: Seminar/special topic
Possible methods: Topics: viewpoints of main actors (private forest owners, government, NGOs), regulatory framework, economic framework, social framework, mechanisms for communication, consultation and participation, private forest owners in CITS.
Possible partners: EU, owners' associations, FAO
Time frame: 2000 +
References: L1 *passim* especially II 1,2,3,7,9,10

Title: The forest sector and society: dialogue, communication, participation, confrontation and dispute settlement

Type of activity: Team and/or seminar

Possible methods: identification of issues, policy and research needs, case studies

Possible partners: academic community (e.g. sociologists), PR experts, and policy makers. Possibility for co-operation/merger with Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on environmental education in forestry, although, in the secretariat's conception the issue of "the forest sector and society" would be considerably wider than environmental education, but would address more fundamental questions of public participation in decision making (at what level?).

Time frame: ?

References: L1 II 1,2

Title: Strategies to stimulate and promote the sound use of wood and other forest based products as environmentally friendly and renewable materials.

Type of activity: Seminar

Possible methods: Preparation by team. Possible topics: broad strategic directions (explanation, promotion, consultation), target audiences, methods (e.g. life-cycle studies), examples of success and failure.

Possible partners: PR team, researchers (on life cycle), NGOs. It is important to bring every one together and not encourage the converted to preach to each other.

Time frame: 2000

References: L1 II 8, IPF Part IV para. 131

Title: Role of women in European forest sector

Type of activity: Team of experts, leading to a seminar

Possible methods: Preparation by team on the basis of networking, exchange of experience, pilot studies, leading to a more general synthesis

Possible partners: ILO, FAO Rome, national women foresters groups, forest owners' associations

Time frame: 2000

References: L1 II 4,5, ECE Plan of Action ("mainstreaming the gender perspective")

Note: Ms. I. Faugère, working as an intern in the Timber Section, has prepared a list of the main issues and questions, which could serve as a preliminary outline for a seminar, or for a team's work. This outline is reproduced in annex 2, as an introduction to a topic which has been little discussed at the international level previously, except in a very few countries.

Annex 2
Possible topics on the role of women in European forestry

Unlike most of the other topics proposed, the question of the role of women in European forestry has been little developed at the national or international level, and there is little common understanding of what are the main issues included under this rather vague heading. The secretariat therefore profited from an internship by Ms. I. Faugère in July and September 1998 to identify as a basis for discussion, some major topics which could be the subject of future work, either at the national or international level.

The topics below have been identified starting from broad, high level conferences, notably UNCED, the Beijing Conference on Women and the World Forestry Congress in Antalya, and interviews with a wide range of people with some interest in the topic. There is very little written material outside the Nordic countries¹.

It is quite likely that after further discussion and perhaps research this initial list will be modified, perhaps profoundly.

1. National (macro) level

- 1.1 National forest policies and their implementation (is there any consideration of gender issues?)
- 1.2 National judicial system, notably as regards property law, marriage, inheritance
- 1.3 National education policies and programmes (initiation to the environment and to forests, education of women in sectors traditionally "reserved " for men, type of training available, PR campaigns)
- 1.4 Labour market conditions (unemployment and vacancy levels, by branch or occupational group)
- 1.5 Environment protection policies

2. Intermediate level

- 2.1 Influence of local and regional bodies (powers, their conception of their role, action undertaken on gender issues)
- 2.2 Networks, associations, cooperatives

3. Personal (micro) level

The following questions should be broken down by forest ownership (managed or not managed, large or small) enterprises (by size and by sector of activity). Public administrations also play an important role. The family dimension is also important.

- 3.1 Who are the women in European forestry?
 - number, age
 - role (owner, managers, employees, spouses, "inactive", students ..)
 - background (how did they become involved: personal choice, inheritance,

1

Most of the work on women in forestry concentrates on conditions in developing countries and is not easily transferable to European conditions.

marriage, chancel?)

- education/training (school, university, family and friends, self-taught, extension courses)
- knowledge of forest/sustainable development issues

3.2 What do they do?

- exact tasks, (manual work, book-keeping, rural tourism and other not strictly forest linked activities, PR, etc. etc.)
- hierarchical position,
- sectors (forestry, industry, administration etc.)

3.3 How do they do it?

- how was their role defined?
- what is their real influence?
- recent changes, specialisation

3.4 Difficulties encountered

- salary/promotion,
- participation in decision making,
- social difficulties

3.5 What are their plans and wishes (professional and personal)

- career plans
- strategic directions of their enterprise
- mode of transmission of forest property or of family businesses

3.6 What are their consumption patterns?

- criteria for choice
- attitude to forest products (seen as environmentally friendly?)
- attitude to certified forest products.

Remarks:

- in many areas, there will be an acute shortage of quantified data: this should not prevent a discussion of the issues.
- emphasis should be put on the extra dimension which women can bring to the European forest sector.