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REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)

Recommendations of the Debe Workshop on Countries in Transition

Note by the secretariat

The present document contains the extraction from the Proceedings of the International Workshop “*Forest and Forestry in Central and Eastern European Countries – The Transition Process and Challenges Ahead*”. The workshop was organised in co-operation between UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Countries in Transition and the MCPFE Liaison Unit Vienna and took place in Debe (Warsaw), Poland in September 2001.

Recommendations of the workshop for the MCPFE

I. GENERAL

- Provide forum to exchange views and experiences and to monitor progress made
- Highlight issues and priorities, including the balance of private and public interest in forests
- Provide link between global and national/regional levels
- Initiate national consultation processes to achieve integrated views of countries on issues and future needs prior to Fourth Ministerial Conference

II. POLICY FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Recognise cross-sectoral nature of sustainable forest management and contribute to integration of sectoral policies
- Reinforce political commitment to promote transparency, multi-stakeholder co-operation and public participation
- Promote national forest programmes
- Reinforce implementation of existing MCPFE resolutions and international commitments

III. ECONOMIC ASPECTS

- Promote review of fiscal systems and re-investment of forest revenues
- Enhance linkage of forestry with other forest sectors and support integration into international markets

IV. SOCIAL ASPECTS

- Enhance human resource development and capacity building, health and safety
- Enhance communication with the public

V. ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS

- Identify urgent needs in the protection of ecological values in regions of acute stresses (war, forest destruction, erosion, ...)
- Consider implications of privatisation and restitution of areas rich in biodiversity
- Identify mechanisms for sustained long-term financing of ecological functions, including innovative mechanisms

Annex I

**FINDINGS OF WORKING GROUP 1 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Chair: Mr. Arvids Ozols (Latvia)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ewald Rametsteiner (Liaison Unit Vienna)

Topics:

1. Transition process
2. Policy formulation
3. Policy implementation and instruments
4. Market and economic aspects
5. Social aspects

1. Transition process

Challenges Identified

- Role of government in privatisation / restitution
- Institutional and political reforms
- Reform of state forest administration
- Adaptation of legislation, including duties between national and local levels
- Unbalanced (industry) structures in forest sector

Lessons Learned

- Internal initiation, build up of expertise and lead, subsequent external support
- Co-ordination with other sectors, environmental protection policy, national situation
- Change in the right direction is possible
- Transition processes of countries and their forest sector have different scope and speed
- Participatory approach is key
- Real political will is necessary
- There is no single model that fits all countries
- Use experience made in other sectors and regions/countries
- Different importance of forest sector influences process
- Insufficient communication and information creates problems

2. Policy formulation

Challenges Identified

- Rights and duties of public and private owners
- Participation, conflict resolution, but low public interest
- Formulation and implementation of national forest programmes
- Deforestation and afforestation issues
- Cross-sectoral activities and issues

Lessons Learned

- Agricultural land changes to be faced
- Integration of forestry and rural development needed
- Reform within macro-economic framework necessary
- National forest policy is important
- Involvement of all stakeholders for policy formulation
- Communication, information and transparency
- Support of private associations
- Role of forestry for and demand of the public
- Base on local experience and international knowledge
- Follow-up instruments for revision of policies to integrate implementation experience
- Co-ordinated policies between forestry and forest industry sector

3. Policy implementation and instruments

Challenges Identified

- Law enforcement, including illegal logging and corruption
- Financing SFM
- Communication and information tools
- Institutions, including support and extension

Lessons Learned

- Adequate instruments needed to implement policies formulated
- Clear definitions of tasks and functions is key
- Criteria for evaluation of implementation and instruments
- Holistic approach and cross-sectoral linkages important
- Low level of law enforcement has to be addressed
- Economic, market and fiscal reform/adaptation is necessary to succeed
- General favourable investment climate facilitates investment in forestry
- Forest management can be economically balanced
- Low political and public attention,
- Currently mainly/only external international financial support
- Possibly financial potential exists from „Kyoto forests“
- Step by step implementation in the right order (starting from political will, formulation processes, law decision, implementation, extension)
- More transparency of public forest management needed

4. Market and economic aspects

Challenges identified

- Competitiveness of forest sectors
- Changing consumption and production patterns
- Role of forestry in rural development
- Economic viability and investment promotion
- Kyoto forests and certification
- Income creation and employment, incl. through non-wood

- Management of public forests

Lessons learned

- No excess market barriers creation / subsidising
- Develop internal resources and private structures
- Close collaboration between government and private interest groups
- Definition of appropriate relationship between public and private forest industry sector
- Efficient linkages between public and private forest industry sector
- Role of certification
- Market information
- Promotion of the use of forest products
- Consider global forest products market developments (production, consumption and market structures)
- Support innovative solutions, such as eco-tourism

5. Social aspects

Challenges identified

- Occupational safety and health
- Capacity building and human resources
- Lack of trust between stakeholders
- Public use of forests

Lessons learned

- Capacity building is an overarching issue, investment in human resources is key
- Qualified persons might become a bottleneck
- Role of recreation services
- Dialogue between stakeholders is important
- Transparency is necessary for establishing trust
- Education and information – opening up
- Stakeholders depend on each other
- Motivate public to participate policy formulation
- Lack of studies on behaviour of private forest owners

Role of MCPFE / Ministers and Recommendations

- Address rural development and the whole forest sector/cluster, not only forestry
- Promote participatory approach and national forest programmes
- Address instruments more specifically and recommend reinvestment of forestry revenues

Role of ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on CITs and Recommendations

- Collect and distribute information and experiences, including background information on policies and markets, *inter alia*, through market workshops
- Elaborate proposals for procedures for forest policy implementation, instruments for assessment and evaluation

- Link to policy processes and support networking between bodies
- Formulate recommendations/proposals for stronger role of MCPFE

Role of both MCPFE and Team of Specialists on CITs and Recommendations

- Provide forum to exchange views and experience, monitor progress made, including regional workshops
- Highlight issues and priorities, including the balance of private and public interest in forests
- Ensure wide stakeholder representation and involve private forest owner representatives in policy making
- Link more strongly with forest industry sectors, support integration into international markets
- Enhance human resource development and reinforce implementation of Lisbon Resolution
- Provide link between global, national/regional levels

Annex II

FINDINGS OF WORKING GROUP 2 – ECOLOGICAL DIMENSION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Chair: Mr. Peter Csoka (Hungary)

Rapporteur: Mr. Alexander Buck (Liaison Unit Vienna)

Major Issues / Challenges in the Future

- Restitution of areas rich in bio-diversity / Financing maintenance and/or improvement of ecological functions
- Integration of protection and management concepts
 - Need for integrated planning schemes and inter-sectoral approaches based on multi-stakeholder participation - national forest programmes
 - Need to invest in improving information base on forest biodiversity
- Need for education and communication
 - Education of new forest owners and the public
 - Communication with the public

Lessons Learned in the Transition Process

- Maintenance and improvement of ecological functions requires external funds and cannot be financed by the forest sector alone
- Cross-sectoral approach is needed
- Co-ordination between different instruments/institutions is essential
- Financial incentives should be based on strong government policies
- Compensation schemes exist in CEECs, but often proved to be too weak in practice
- Deeper involvement of stakeholders and increased transparency is needed in setting targets for SFM
- Tasks in maintaining and/or enhancing ecological functions that require additional resources need to be defined more clearly
- Innovative financial incentives (e.g. tax relief) should be considered
- Ecosystem approach is desirable, but more experience is needed in applying it on the ground

Restitution of Areas Rich in Biodiversity / Financing Maintenance and/or Improvement of Ecological Functions

Role of International Co-operation

- Identify urgent needs in the protection of ecological values in regions of acute stresses
- Analyse existing EU experiences and develop models applicable in the CEECs
- Recognise role of forest owners associations in sharing of experiences and networking
- Recognise NGOs' "catalytic" role

- Establish demonstration areas and analyse and integrate the existing model forest initiatives

Implications for the Fourth Ministerial Conference - Recommendations

- Contribute to integration of sector policies
- Consider broadly legal framework for SFM
- Foster implementation of existing international commitments through an action-oriented resolution
- Identify mechanisms for long-term financing of ecological functions

Integration of Protection and Management Concepts

Role of international co-operation

- Exchange of experiences in measuring and monitoring biodiversity
- Building capacity in forest management planning
- Launch pilot studies on appropriate management techniques
- Improve capacity of forest owners in participating in setting management targets and identifying appropriate methods

Implications for the Fourth Ministerial Conference - Recommendations

- Foster implementation of existing international commitments through an action-oriented resolution
- Contribute to currently on-going work on further improvement of forest biodiversity related pan-European indicators

Need for education and communication

Role of international co-operation

- Facilitate exchange of experiences gained in the transition process between countries, in particular among groups of countries characterised by different constraints
- Contribute to raising awareness on ecological functions and the sustained financial resources required for providing these functions

Implications for the 4th Ministerial Conference - Recommendation

- Reinforce political commitment to promote multi-stakeholder co-operation and public participation
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