

Second Stakeholder meeting on the Action Plan
for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy

What priorities for the Forest Sector in the transition towards a Green Economy?

organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section,
in cooperation with UNEP

26 March 2012

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Room IV

Please note that the
Room number has
been changed from
VII to IV

Guidelines for Moderators to facilitate interactive discussions during the break-out sessions

I. Background

A first stakeholder meeting was organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in May 2011. The meeting gathered numerous stakeholders active on forest-sector issues, comprising environmental NGOs, academia, research organizations, private sector and government representatives throughout the UNECE region, who reviewed and commented on the ECE/FAO Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy.

The Action Plan was then presented and discussed through a series of thematic roundtables at the “Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy” joint meeting of the Timber Committee and the European Forestry Commission in Antalya, Turkey on 10-15 October 2011.

At Orman 2011, the Committee and the Commission requested the organization of a second one-day stakeholder meeting within the framework of the Joint FAO/UNECE Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (27-29 March 2012), in order to further develop the plan and in particular, to identify actions and related actors.

Like for the first stakeholder meeting, participation on 26 March is open to all, and entirely voluntary.

The Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy aims to provide a comprehensive picture and directory of actions that are being or could be implemented at the national, regional and international levels to enhance the contribution of the forest sector to a green economy and its sustainability. Participants are reminded that the Plan is by no means negotiated language and is a living document.

The Action Plan is intended to stimulate action to improve the contribution of the forest sector of the UNECE region to the emerging green economy. In particular it is intended to:

- (a) Define the ways in which the ECE region forest sector can or could contribute to the development of a green economy, and monitor progress;
- (b) Share and promote best practices in this field, building on cooperation between all the actors in the field, at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Promote the development and implementation of policies for the forest sector which are effective in achieving society's goals, efficient in the use of resources and equitable between the various actors inside and outside the sector;

(d) Communicate the achievements of the forest sector in the ECE region, to the public, policy makers and to other sectors.

The Action Plan addresses not only green economy dimensions of the forest sector, but also specific contributions the forest sector can make to develop a broader green economy.

II. Guidance for break-out sessions

The afternoon session will consist of break out sessions during which each group will be assigned one topic.

The five topics are organized according to the same distribution of subjects as in the Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy:

(a) Sustainable consumption and production of forest products

(Moderator: Christophe Dürr)

(b) Low-carbon forest sector

(Moderator: Heikki Granholm)

(c) Green jobs in the forest sector

(Moderator: Peter Blomback)

(d) Biodiversity, and valuation of and payment for forest ecosystem services

(Moderator: Nick Bertrand)

(e) Monitoring and governance in the forest sector

(Moderator: Gerben Janse)

Due to the limited time available, the groups will focus only on actions, trying to identify priority actions and possible actors. The moderator will summarize discussions and report back in the plenary.

Organization of working groups:

Each group will be composed of one moderator who will be assisted by one secretariat member. Groups will be formed at the end of the morning session.

Each group will have at its disposal: 1 flipchart; marker pens; paper tape/blue tack; colour cards.

III. Theme questions for working groups

Each of the groups will aim for their respective topic to answer the questions/issues listed below. Answers emerging from the discussions will provide a direct input to the further development of the Action Plan.

- (1) Are activities listed in the plan clear or specific enough? Are there more activities needed? Can some activities be dropped? Moderators should ensure that themes on "investments", "education/training" are integrated in the plan.
- (2) Prioritize actions (see prioritization technique below).
- (3) Identify possible actors for priority actions. Indicate whether actions need to be initiated at international/regional and national levels. (highlighting actions to be implemented by the private sector).

Prioritizing technique:

Prior to starting prioritizing, the moderator will complete the numbering of actions to take into account possible new actions (which should be reduced to a minimum). Reformulation or deleting an action do not imply a new numbering. Only new actions should get a new number, continuing the previous list.

Each working group is requested to identify two priority actions for each objective.

To this end, the moderator will:

- (1) Ask the participants to identify their own two priorities (the most important one and the second most important one);
- (2) Collect the votes of the participants (two points for priority one and one point for priority two) and register the score on a flip chart (see table below); the two actions with the highest score should be selected as priority actions;
- (3) Organize, if there is no clear majority, for the two first actions, a second voting round, which will be focused on the three to five actions that have achieved the best scores.

Example (with 8 group members incl. moderator):

Objective	Action number	Priority 1 (2 points)	Priority 2 (1 point)	Score	Possible actor (s)
x.y	x.y.a	1	1	3	
	x.y.b	4	2	10	aaaaaaaaaaa
	x.y.c ¹				
	x.y.d				
	x.y.e	2	3	7	bbbbbbbbbb
	x.y.f		1	1	
	x.y.g	1		2	
	x.y.h ²		1	1	

The priority actions are x.y.b and x.y.e for which possible actors have been identified.

¹ The actions x.y.c and x.y.d have been deleted

² The action x.y.h has been added

Templates for registering votes, selected priority actions and possible actors will be provided to moderators.

IV. Future developments

The ECE Committee and FAO Commission bureaux suggested to present the Action Plan in Rio in June 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and use this opportunity to continue the discussions and exchanges with relevant stakeholders.

The Plan will be further considered in October 2012 by the Timber Committee, subsequently by the WPFSEM in 2013 where the last draft for the consideration of the Joint TC/EFC meeting of 2013 should be prepared.

The Action Plan will then be presented in Finland at the next joint meeting of the Committee and the Commission in 2013 for endorsement.

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