UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2014 - Monitoring SFM -

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM

1. Name:

UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management

2. Period covered:

June 2014-March 2015

3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:

Leader: Stein M. Tomter

Deputies: Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Adrian Lanz, Kari T. Korhonen

Secretary: Roman Michalak

4. Members:

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5. Countries:

Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan

6. Meetings held:

Second (22nd) meeting of the UNECE-FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-23 October 2014)

7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:

In the second meeting under the new ToR (22th meeting in total) the Team discussed the first draft of the study "Progress made towards the achievement of the global objectives on forests and SFM, and challenges for forests and the forest sector in the ECE region". The Team provided several comments to improve and develop the study. Furthermore, the Team provided input on the second draft of the UNECE/FAO/FACESMAP Forest Ownership Enquiry.

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

The next meeting of the Team is preliminary scheduled for two days during the European Forest Week 2-6 November 2015 in Engelberg, Switzerland. The meeting will discuss the results of the pilot implementation of the "System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests" (SEMAFOR) and work on the improvement of reporting on forest workforce. The Team will discuss the results of the review of the pan-European indicators for SFM and the study on global objectives on forests and SFM for UNFF11. Preliminary results and further plans for reporting on forest ownership will be reviewed by the Team as well.

9. Issues for the attention of the Secretariat and the Working Party:

The Team found several points in the draft of the study on global objectives on forests and SFM that needed further elaboration. The Team also recommended to distribute a questionnaire on essential data to countries, to ensure that the correct and most recent data were reflected in the report. During the meeting some inconsistencies were detected between the data kept in UNECE/FAO databases and national datasets. Also, the Team suggested a number of adjustments in the draft Forest Ownership Enquiry. It is foreseen that the enquiry can be launched in spring 2015. The Team is very interested to work to support UNECE/FAO secretariat and FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit in the elaboration of the current and future versions of the State of Europe's Forests report. Due to time constraints, the Team has not been directly involved in the ongoing revision of the pan-European indicators for SFM. However, representatives are taking part in the Advisory Group on updating the indicators, and national experts are invited to provide their written input to the process.

10. Comments, lessons learned:

Date: 05/03/2015