

**UNECE/FAO Teams of Specialists Reporting 2015
– FOREST POLICY -**

Items for regular reporting to the JWPFSEM (length max two pages)	
1. Name :	
	Team of Specialists on Forest Policy
2. Period covered:	
	June 2014 – March 2015
3. Leader/Deputies and Secretary:	
	Leader: Ms. Marta Gaworska (Poland) Deputies: Ms. Leire Salaberria (USSE), to be elected. Secretary: Arnaud Brizay/Ekrem Yazici
4. Members: (Number only)	
	39
5. Countries: (List separated by comma)	
	Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan (20) CEPF, EUSTAFOR, EFI, FSC,EU/EC, PEFC
6. Meetings held:	
	16 – 18 September 2014, Krakow, Poland (1 st meeting since 2010)
7. Outputs and impacts achieved during last year:	
	The Team met first time under the new mandate, which extended the scope as previously it was referring only to Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). It was the first meeting since 2010, thus partly dedicated for setting the framework for future

cooperation, including the election of the leaders.

The main focus of the meeting was implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan (RAP) for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy at the national level. The Team reviewed objectives of the RAP and assessed different ways of developing policies for the forest sector in relation to a green economy. Over 60 proposals were formulated to guide the Secretariat work on forest policies. These were classified under the four work areas of the ECE/FAO integrated programme of work. The Team agreed that a priority setting exercise is required in this regard. The Team was also briefed on recent global and regional developments relevant to forest policy in the region. Press release on the results of the meeting was published at UNECE website.

Additionally, the meeting provided inputs to seventy-second session of the Committee on Forests and the Forestry which took place in Kazan, Russian Federation in 18-21 November 2014.

The Team also provides consultancy to the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook on the ongoing discussion on policy issues that need to be reflected in a future forest sector outlook study (to be strengthened).

8. Outputs and impacts expected for coming year:

The Team is setting priorities for the work plan for coming years, including the next session agenda, which is planned to take place in (June) or October – November 2015 in Czech Republic.

One of the issues will be to continue interaction and support to the implementation of the RAP through the exchange of experiences and information, giving special attention to (i) collection of reliable data and conducting benchmarking studies (ii) detailed discussions on traditional forestry issues as well as emerging ones, and (iii) exploring tailored tools for communication within and outside the forest sector as well as material to support innovation and capacity-building in the countries.

As a stocktaking exercise the Team will explore options for:

- providing information on potential impacts of the global and regional processes on forest policy (including the IAF review, post 2015 development agenda)
- organizing National Forest Policy Dialogues (with regard to the ongoing policy development as well as the RAP implementation);

The Team will also look for the ways to enhance interaction with other ToS, and particularly with the ToS on Forest Sector Outlook to support work on measurement and reporting on the role of forest sector in a green economy.

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

The Team welcomes its new members and looks forward to working with the Secretariat over the coming years. At the same time, we encourage further support and assistance from interested bodies and from the Member States to evolve the activities strengthening the network and its capacity, also for the following:

- explore ways to improve exchange of experiences and information as well as utilisation of the existing means in support of dissemination of policy related work at national and sub-national levels.
- secure resources to conduct a study (development of ToR, hiring a consultant , coordination of work)

10. Comments, lessons learned:

There is a strong representation of the organisation's stakeholders and relevant professional organisations within the Team.

Additional efforts are required to ensure balanced participation and to encourage contribution of experts from EECCA.

Date: DD/MM/YYYY