



Workshop

Forests and Sustainable Development Goals: a regional view – Part II

16 June 2014, room VII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland



FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION

1. Introduction

The ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission at their joint meeting in Rovaniemi, Finland (9-13 December 2013), discussed how to include forests in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The meeting stressed the importance to reflect properly the role of forests in sustainable development, although not all countries were yet in a position to state how they would like to have forests treated in the SDGs. Recognizing the high interest in the issue and the need to continue discussions and exchanges on the topic among experts and to encourage their involvement in the debate, the Committee and the Commission requested that the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section organizes a workshop dedicated to this issue.

The workshop was organized in Geneva on 22-23 January 2014. Participants from the UNECE region exchanged views and developed ideas on how to include strategically forests in the SDGs. The outcome, including the proposal for the forest related thematic targets, was presented to the 8th session of the Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG) on 3 February 2014 in New York and is available on the section's webpages at <http://www.unece.org/sdg-workshop.html>.

At the workshop in Geneva (22-23 January 2014) experts underscored the dynamic character of the OWG process. Experts recommended continuing this work in order to contribute to the evolving OWG process. In particular, the workshop suggested refining targets and to identify and develop measurable indicators.

In light of the above and further to a request by the COFFI-EFC joint bureaux, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section is organizing a second workshop on "Forests and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG): a regional view – Part II" to continue the work initiated in January. The workshop will be held on 16 June 2014, back-to-back with the 36th Session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on the Forest Statistics, Economics and Management.

2. Audience

Participants from Governments, academia, IGOs, NGOs dealing with the forest sector as well as related sectors are invited to participate in the workshop.



FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION

3. Intended Outcome

The intended outcome of the workshop will be a set of updated targets as well as corresponding indicators that will be forwarded to the UNECE and FAO Working Party and will be available for countries to be used in their participation in the OWG, as appropriate.

4. Methodology

In the previous expert workshop 10 targets related to forest sector were identified:

- I. Social and cultural benefits from forests and trees are improved**
 1. Income and employment from forests and trees in rural areas increased
 2. Rights, tenure and governance of forests strengthened
 3. Food security and nutrition contribution of forests and trees enhanced
- II. Resilience and ecosystem benefits of forests are enhanced**
 4. Forest resources quantity increased and/or quality improved
 5. Biodiversity of forests conserved and improved
 6. Water quantity and quality contribution of forests enhanced
 7. Climate resilience and mitigation contribution of forests strengthened
- III. Green economy contribution of forests and trees is increased**
 8. Energy from forest resources increased, safe and sustainable
 9. Efficiency of forest resource use increased
 10. Investment in, and use of, products from sustainably managed forests increased

Based on current progress in the OWG process and results of the previous expert workshop (22-23 January 2014) participants will review the proposed targets above, identify these relevant to the forest sector and develop relevant forest-related indicators. Future indicators will take into account as much as possible existing indicators from the forest and other sectors.

5. Reference/Background Information

For more information please consider the results of the previous workshop (22-23 January 2014) and updates provided on the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section website (<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=35313>). Information about result and process of the Open Working Group on SDGs are available on. <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>.

6. Provisional agenda



FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION

1. Introduction
2. Presentation of background information related the work on SDGs:
 - a. Results and expectations of the Open Working Group on SDGs
 - b. Outcome of the first workshop on Forests and SDGs
 - c. Outcome of the work of the ToS on Monitoring SFM
3. Revision of the targets formulated by OWG (as of 16 June 2014), development of relevant indicators related to forest sector
 - a. Work in thematic groups
 - b. Plenary discussion of the workgroups proposals
4. Plans and recommendations for communicating the outcome of the workshop to the OWG process and beyond
5. Conclusions

7. Tentative timetable

Monday, 16 June 2014

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| 10:00-13:00 | Item 1 Introduction |
| | Item 2 (a, b, c) Background presentations |
| | Item 3 (a) Revision of targets/ development of indicators in work groups |
| 15:00-18:00 | Item 3 (b) Revision of targets/ development of indicators in plenary |
| | Item 4 Plans and recommendations |
| | Item 5 Conclusions |

8. Working languages

The workshop will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation to French and Russian