



4 (d) Fostering exchanges and cooperation among regional and international organizations on forest related work relevant to the work of the Joint Forestry and Timber Section.

Synergies and collaboration on forests and wood products

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UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

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Synergies and collaboration on forests and wood products

Secretariats of European Forest Processes

Brainstorming meeting, 2.11.2022, 11-13h, UNECE Geneva

Participants: UNECE COFFI, FAO EFC, Forest Europe, European
Environmental Agency EEA, EFI Integrate Network.

Facilitated by Christoph Dürr and Keith Anderson

Strategies to achieve good collaboration

Proposal A: European Forest Alliance (EFA) – between the five secretariats

- Objective of the Alliance: exchange of information, better coordination, identify synergies, coordinate activities, propose joint activities
- informal process, but agree on work modalities (first draft provided by UNECE)
- One focal point per secretariat plus other members to be defined
- Rotating lead amongst the five organisations
- meets virtually (1-2 hours online) every 6 months, can also be open to other organizations if agreed
- Reports regularly back at the respective organizations

Strategies to achieve good collaboration

Proposal B: Mapping of the present institutional and thematic landscape of forest-related organisations in Europe

- Analysis of goals, activities, priorities, geography of organizations
- Governing structure: who will each organization be reporting to?
- Identify common goals for all or subset of organizations
- Joint messaging, products, activities? Priorities?

The Alliance should address the interests of and make proposals to member states and the organisations:

- How to respond to emerging issues proposed by member states making proposals to the alliance
- Proposals for aligning efforts
- Coordinate and pool human and financial resources
- Example: forest damage workshop in Vienna, a joint publication could have added more value
- Example: EU policies such as on forest and land-use monitoring. How to coordinate with the European Commission EC?

List of possible topics for exchange of information and need on better coordination / collaboration (not final)

1. → **forest assessment and reporting (permanent topics)**
 - Forest reporting – publications and visualized
 - Criteria and indicators for sfm
 - Communication on forests and wood products

2. → **thematic interests (some of the current topics, subject to changes)**
 - Forest disturbances and damages
 - Forest ecosystem restoration – UN decade 2021-2030
 - Valuation and payment of forest ecosystem services
 - Forests and forest products in a circular economy

3. → **emerging topics (some examples)**
 - Energy crises – sustainable biomass production
 - Urban forestry
 - Agroforestry, rural forests



Thank you!

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