



First meeting of the Expert Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

6–7 September 2017, Bratislava, Slovakia

Draft Annotated Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Main **objectives and expected outcomes** of the Expert Group
4. Exchange of **information on adaptation measures** in Sustainable Forest Management
5. Discussion and preparation of a **survey on the current status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region**
6. Outline of **two workshops addressing forest protection and agroforestry strategies**, respectively, both to be held in 2018
7. Further steps and **organization of work, communication tools**
8. Any other business
9. Conclusions and closure of the meeting

Documentation: Background document – description of the Expert Group
http://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Background_EG_adaptation.pdf

Other related documents:

FOREST EUROPE Work Programme 2016-2020
<http://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/FE-Work-Programme-2016-2020-updated-links.pdf>

Ministerial commitments, broader linkages and reading of interest
<http://foresteurope.org/themes/?sfm=themes/sfm-policies-tools/#1470732367552-ec624f5c-1d80>

Meeting hours: Wednesday, 6 September 2017, 09.00 – 17.30
Thursday, 7 September 2017, 09.00 – 13.00

Venue: Mercure Bratislava Centrum Hotel, Zabotova 2, Bratislava

Reception: Wednesday, 6 September 2017 at 19.00

Field trip: Thursday, 7 September 2017, 13.30 – 17.30

ANNOTATIONS

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Main objectives and expected outcomes of the Expert Group

The implementation of Madrid Ministerial Resolution 2 “Protection of forests in a changing environment“ through the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme 2016–2020 focuses on integrating climate change adaptation considerations into Sustainable Forest Management. It aims at strengthening the resilience of forests and enhancing their protection against natural hazards and human induced threats associated with climate.

An Expert Group has been established to exchange experience, share examples and assess the current state of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region. The outcomes will be published in a publication covering the existing knowledge base and work done to date in signatories and by international observer organizations, and identifying policy relevant options and recommendations. Two technical Workshops will underpin the implementation efforts that will feed into the Eighth Ministerial Conference, to be held in Bratislava in 2020.

The Expert Group is invited to provide feedback on its objectives, expected outcomes and mode of operation as described in the Background document.

http://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Background_EG_adaptation.pdf

4. Exchange of information on adaptation measures in Sustainable Forest Management

Using a simple standardized template, each member of the Expert Group will introduce their work relevant to climate change including existing strategies/policies on adaptation, examples of adaptation measures already undertaken, and key challenges in the signatories.

This will be followed by a round of sharing information about work already carried out by international organizations (FAO, EFI, EUSTAFOR, EUFORGEN, IUFRO, Carpathian Convention and others), including projects, networks, existing datasets and regional initiatives such as the European Union’s EIP-AGRI recent Focus Group on new practices and tools for adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

5. Survey on the current status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region

In line with the Work Programme adopted by FOREST EUROPE for the period 2016—2020, the Expert Group is expected to develop a questionnaire survey on the current status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region.

Prior to the Madrid Resolution 2, adaptation to climate change had been addressed in two ministerial commitments namely at the Ministerial Conferences in Helsinki and Vienna. In addition, several other Resolutions partially or indirectly also covered this area. These political commitments provide the entry point for the assessment of the state of implementation of climate change adaptation measures in signatories.

The Expert Group is invited to discuss and agree on elements for the survey, looking at examples from other analyses (e.g., IUFRO) and using expert opinion to develop questions.

6. Outline of two workshops addressing forest protection and agroforestry strategies, respectively, both to be held in 2018

In line with the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme, two workshops planned for 2018 serve to underpin implementation efforts at regional level. The first Workshop will be organized by FOREST EUROPE in collaboration with partner organizations in spring 2018, to share expertise and experience on protection of forests against current and future natural hazards and human induced threats especially those of transboundary character, e.g. drought, forest fires, storms, floods, avalanches, invasive pests, diseases and alien species.

The second Workshop (to be held in autumn 2018) will assess the current knowledge and make recommendations for further work on agroforestry strategies for promoting adaptation to climate change and combating land degradation, desertification.

The Expert Group is invited to provide guidance by discussing objectives, contents, expected outcomes and organizational aspects of both workshops.

7. Further steps and organization of work, communication tools

Experts may wish to exchange views and agree on further steps, time schedule and work modalities. Secretariat will present available internal communication tools (forum, document sharing portal) and broader awareness raising needs and approaches.

8. Any other business

The Expert Group may wish to exchange information on upcoming relevant events and any other matters.

9. Conclusions and closure of the meeting

A **field trip** will be organized in the **afternoon of Thursday 7 September**. Bus with participants who wish to join the excursion will be leaving directly from the hotel at 13.30. The field trip will lead to pine ecosystems on sands in Záhorie, about 40 minutes drive from Bratislava. Scots pine was planted artificially in the natural desert-like, often saline areas north-east of Bratislava about 150 years ago. They now provide a very unique ecosystem with rare species of plants and insects. Participants will see technologies for pine natural regeneration and planting in sand dunes. Return at the hotel (central train station) is expected by 17.30.

Day 1: Wednesday 6 September 2017	
09.00–09.10	Welcome and opening of the meeting (Agenda Item 1)
09.10–09.15	Adoption of the agenda (Agenda Item 2)
09.15–10.00	Main objectives and expected outcomes of the Expert Group (Agenda Item 3)
10.00–10.30	Exchange of information on adaptation measures in Sustainable Forest Management (Agenda Item 4) Getting to know each other: presenting work of Experts: adaptation strategies and policies, examples of adaptation measures, challenges
10.30–11.00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11.00–13.00	Exchange of information on adaptation measures in Sustainable Forest Management (Agenda Item 4) continued Getting to know each other: presenting work of Experts: adaptation strategies and policies, examples of adaptation measures, challenges Discussion: sharing information on existing initiatives
13.00–14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14.00–15.30	Survey on the current status of implementation of adaptation measures in the pan-European region (Agenda Item 5) Introduction and Discussion in break-out groups
15.30–16.00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
16.00–17.30	Discussion in break-out groups continued, reporting from the break-out sessions
19.00	<i>Reception</i>
Day 2: Thursday 7 September 2017	
9.00–09.30	Summary of Day 1, logistics
09.30–10.30	Outline of two workshops addressing forest protection and agroforestry strategies, respectively, both to be held in 2018 (Agenda Item 6) Introduction and Discussion in break-out groups
10.30–11.00	<i>Coffee/tea break</i>
11.00–11.30	Reporting from the break-out sessions
11.30–12.00	Further steps and organization of work, communication tools (Agenda Item 7)
12.00–12.30	Any other business (Agenda Item 8)
12.30–12.45	Conclusions and closure of the meeting (Agenda Item 9)

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